

= Craig McAllister =

Craig McAllister (born 28 June 1980) is a Scottish semi @-@ professional footballer who plays as a striker for National League South club Sutton United .

McAllister started his career with Eastleigh as a youth player . He moved to Basingstoke Town towards the end of 2001 ? 02 , making his debut in March 2002 . McAllister spent three seasons there , making 112 appearances , scoring 66 goals before moving up the national league system to Conference National club Stevenage Borough where he made six appearances , having loan spells at Eastleigh in 2004 and Gravesend & Northfleet in 2004 ? 05 . He joined Woking in 2005 , spending two full seasons there , and making over 100 appearances . He had a short spell with Grays Athletic , being sent out on loan to Rushden & Diamonds and then another short spell at Oxford United , all during the 2007 ? 08 season . After leaving Oxford in 2008 , he took a step up to the Football League for the first time in his career , signing for Exeter City . He went on to score seven goals in his first season , but was loaned out to Barnet and Rotherham United in his second and was eventually released by the club in May 2010 . McAllister then dropped back down to non @-@ League football , joining Crawley Town where he played at Old Trafford ; his team was defeated 1 ? 0 by Manchester United in their FA Cup fifth round tie . He rejected a new contract from Crawley at the end of the 2010 ? 11 season , subsequently joining Newport County .

McAllister won his first major honour in 2011 , helping Crawley Town win the Conference Premier for the first time in their history .

= = Career = =

= = = Non @-@ League = = =

Born in Glasgow , McAllister started his career in non @-@ League football at Eastleigh in 2001 . He later moved to Basingstoke Town . He made his debut in March 2002 , scoring in a 1 ? 1 draw with Hampton & Richmond Borough . He played ten games in the 2001 ? 02 season , scoring three goals . He started the 2002 ? 03 season with a goal on the opening day , as Basingstoke drew 2 ? 2 with Aylesbury United . In November , McAllister scored two hat @-@ tricks in two games , the first of which helped Basingstoke to a 3 ? 1 win over Bishops Cleeve , and the second helped his side to a 3 ? 0 win over Braintree Town . He finished 2002 ? 03 with 35 goals from 47 games . McAllister 's success continued into 2003 ? 04 , where he scored another 28 goals in 35 appearances . This success earned him a trial with Queens Park Rangers in the Football League Championship , just one level down from the Premier League .

After scoring 66 times in 112 games for Basingstoke Town , he moved to the Conference National outfit Stevenage on a bosman transfer in May 2004 . He made his debut for Stevenage as a substitute , as they beat Crawley Town , 1 ? 0 . After struggling to get in the starting line @-@ up for Stevenage , he was sent out on loan to his former club , Eastleigh , where he scored six goals in four games . In December 2004 , he was loaned out for the second time in that season , moving to Gravesend & Northfleet , where he made debut in a 1 ? 0 defeat by Hereford United . In the second minute of Gravesend 's 1 ? 1 draw with Crawley Town , he scored the first goal of this loan . He scored his second and last goal of this loan just two days later , which helped his team to a 2 ? 2 draw with Accrington Stanley , before he returned to his parent club , Stevenage , in January 2005 . At the end of 2004 ? 05 , he left Stevenage having only played 11 games in all competitions , with one goal .

Before the start of 2005 ? 06 he signed for Woking on a permanent deal . He made his debut in August 2005 , starting in a 2 ? 1 defeat by Kidderminster Harriers . McAllister finished his debut season with thirteen goals , eight of which were in the league . McAllister scored his first brace for Woking in September 2006 , as he helped his side to overcome Forest Green Rovers , 3 ? 2 , away from home . After scoring 18 goals in 2006 ? 07 , he attracted interest from several Conference sides and in May 2007 he signed for Grays Athletic . After making his debut for Grays Athletic in a 0

? 0 draw with Torquay United in August 2007 , he played only another eight times , scoring one goal against Droylsden , before being sent out on loan to league rivals Rushden & Diamonds in October . He returned from the loan in January 2008 , having only scored one goal , against Oxford United , who he then signed for on his return to Grays . Having joined Oxford on a contract until the end of the 2007 ? 08 season , McAllister made his debut for the club in a 4 ? 0 win over Altrincham ; he scored 22 minutes into the game . He made another 16 appearances , scoring one more goal , before leaving at the end of the season .

= = = Exeter City = = =

He completed a move to Football League Two side Exeter City in summer 2008 , signing for the first time for a club in the Football League . He made his first team debut in August 2008 , in a home match against Southampton , in the League Cup . Exeter lost the game 3 ? 1 . It took until December for McAllister to score his first competitive for the club , when he scored to help Exeter to a 2 ? 1 win over Lincoln City . He then scored another two goals later that month , in a 4 ? 1 win over north @-@ west club Rochdale . He added just another two goals to his tally in January 2009 , both in Exeter 's 2 ? 1 win over Dagenham & Redbridge . The remainder of the 2008 ? 09 season saw him only add two more goals , against Macclesfield Town and Darlington , both in the space of a month . After only making five appearances for Exeter in 2009 ? 10 , he joined Barnet on loan in November 2009 . McAllister , still without a goal in 2009 ? 10 , couldn 't get on the scoresheet in the three games he played for Barnet , and he returned to Exeter in January . In March , still having not played for Exeter since his return from Barnet , he signed an emergency one @-@ month loan deal at Rotherham United . He made his debut for Rotherham in their 1 ? 0 away win over Dagenham & Redbridge . After another seven games and still no goals , he returned to Exeter only to be released in May , along with eight other team @-@ mates .

= = = Return to non @-@ League = = =

Following his release from Exeter City , McAllister moved back to non @-@ League , signing for Conference Premier outfit Crawley Town on a one @-@ year contract , in June 2008 . He made his debut in August , when his side lost 1 ? 0 to Grimsby Town . Ten days later he scored his first goal in a Crawley shirt , scoring the second in a 2 ? 1 win over newly promoted Bath City . Just four days later , he scored two goals as Crawley beat Hayes & Yeading United , 3 ? 0 , away from home . In February 2011 , McAllister started in Crawley Town 's FA Cup fifth @-@ round tie against Manchester United at Old Trafford , which Crawley 1 ? 0 . At the end of the 2010 ? 11 season , after Crawley gained promotion to the Football League , McAllister was released after he rejected a new deal .

McAllister signed for Newport County in May 2011 , deciding to stay in non @-@ League football . He signed for Newport after their manager , Anthony Hudson , had earlier stated , " We are on the verge of two massive additions to the squad , who will take the club in the direction that we want to go . "

After failing to find the net in 26 games for Newport County he joined Conference rivals Luton Town on loan until the end of the 2011 ? 12 season . He scored his first goal in over a year against Ebbsfleet United on 17 April 2012 . In June 2012 McAllister rejoined Eastleigh .

= = Style of play = =

McAllister plays as a striker , he is " an explosive front man " , and is described as a " targetman " because of his height . His time at Basingstoke Town was described as " prolific " due to the number of goals he scored . While at Exeter City , manager Paul Tisdale described him as " excellent " , and said that McAllister and fellow Exeter City striker Richard Logan had a good partnership together after McAllister scored a hat @-@ trick for the reserve team .

On signing for Luton Town manager Gary Brabin described McAllister as " adaptable in any role ...

he works hard , he 's strong and he chips in with his fair share of goals . "

= = Personal life = =

After his move to Oxford United in January 2008 , he stated that the reason for the move was so that he could be closer to his family home in Southampton . On his arrival at Exeter City in July 2008 , he moved into a house with fellow Exeter forward , Ben Watson . McAllister stated that it would make a huge difference living near the training ground , instead of travelling long distances to get to training and matches .

= = Career statistics = =

As of 23 May 2012 .

= = Honours = =

Crawley Town

Conference Premier winner (1) : 2010 ? 11

Eastleigh

Conference South : 2013 @-@ 14

Sutton United

National League South : 2015 @-@ 16