

= Paul Dickov =

Paul Dickov (born 1 November 1972) is a Scottish former professional footballer and former manager of League One side Doncaster Rovers .

Dickov played as a forward from 1990 to 2011 , starting his career with Arsenal , where he won the UEFA Cup Winners Cup in 1994 , but often struggled to hold a place in the first team and spent time on loan with Luton Town and Brighton & Hove Albion before moving to Manchester City in 1996 who were then in Division One . Over six seasons at the club , Dickov experienced two promotions and two relegations , playing in three different divisions . Dickov left in 2002 to join Leicester City , where he stayed for two seasons and , in 2004 , he signed for Blackburn Rovers , and was part of the team which qualified for the UEFA Cup in 2005 ? 06 . Upon the expiry of his Blackburn contract in 2006 , he rejoined Manchester City and later went on to play for Crystal Palace , Blackpool , Leicester City , Derby County and Leeds United . He joined Oldham Athletic in 2010 as Player / Manager and later retired from the playing side of the game to concentrate on the managerial side of his position . He held the position at Oldham until he resigned in February 2013 . He became manager of Doncaster Rovers in May 2013 .

In 2000 , he made his debut for Scotland , against San Marino . In total he represented his country ten times , scoring one goal .

= = Club career = =

= = = Arsenal = = =

Born in Livingston , West Lothian , Paul started playing football around the age of nine years playing for his local under @-@ 11 team Livingston United . Paul continued to play for Livingston United each year and when he played in under @-@ 13 this is when he caught the eye of Arsenal Scout Malcolm McGregor . Dickov joined the youth ranks of Arsenal in 1989 , before being promoted to the first team in 1990 . Under George Graham chances were limited for Dickov as he struggled to break into the Arsenal team who were rich in talent with players such as Ian Wright . He helped the club win the UEFA Cup Winners ' Cup in 1994 , and beforehand he had been a member of Arsenal 's squad during its first season in the Premier League . Whilst at Highbury he spent several loan spells at both Luton Town and Brighton & Hove Albion . He left Arsenal in 1996 having made 26 appearances in all competitions , scoring seven goals .

= = = Manchester City = = =

Dickov joined Manchester City on 22 August 1996 in a transfer valued between £ 750 @, @ 000 and £ 1 million , the final signing of Alan Ball 's Manchester City management . He made his debut as a substitute against Stoke City on 24 August , a 2 ? 1 defeat which was Ball 's final match . Dickov made his first Manchester City start in the next match , in a 2 ? 1 win over Charlton Athletic . Dickov joined the club in a period of turmoil ; in his first season at Manchester City he played under five different managers (three full @-@ time appointments and two caretakers) . A regular starter under Asa Hartford , Steve Coppell and Phil Neal , he played less frequently under Frank Clark , and finished the season with five goals from 25 League starts . At the start of the 1997 ? 98 season , Dickov did not feature in the first team , but was restored to the starting line @-@ up following injuries to Uwe Rösler and Lee Bradbury . Dickov finished the season as the City 's top scorer with nine goals , but the club were relegated to the third tier of English football for the first time in their history after finishing in 22nd place .

Dickov , wearing the number 9 shirt , played a supporting role in a striking partnership with Shaun Goater in the 1998 ? 99 season , scoring 16 goals in all competitions , including a hat @-@ trick against Lincoln City . He scored an important equaliser against Wigan Athletic in the play off semi final first leg (which was also the last ever goal to be scored at Springfield Park) . The sixteenth

goal was particularly crucial , a 15 @-@ yard , top corner injury time equaliser in the final of the promotion playoffs against Gillingham . Dickov 's 95th @-@ minute goal took the game to extra time , and the Manchester team ultimately won to earn promotion to the First Division . This goal , scored past Vince Bartram , the best man at Dickov 's wedding , was voted City 's Greatest Ever Goal in a 2005 poll conducted by Manchester City .

Dickov retained his place in the first team at the start of the 1999 ? 2000 season . He started each of the first fifteen League games , despite suffering a facial injury on 26 September 1999 in which he lost a tooth . The run of starting appearances came to an end on 27 October , when he damaged knee ligaments in a match against Ipswich Town . During the subsequent absence , Manchester City signed Robert Taylor , and most of Dickov 's appearances in the second half of the season were as a substitute . One of these substitute appearances was the final match of the season , a 4 ? 1 win at Blackburn . Dickov scored the third Manchester City goal as City clinched promotion to the Premier League .

When Manchester City returned to the Premier League for the 2000 ? 01 season , it appeared that Dickov 's chances of playing would be limited as City signed former FIFA World Player of the Year George Weah and Costa Rican international Paulo Wanchope . However , Dickov earned a place in the team , his performances attracting the attention of Scotland manager Craig Brown , who called him up to the Scotland squad for the first time .

City were relegated back into the First Division for the 2001 ? 02 season and Kevin Keegan replaced Joe Royle as manager . Dickov found his first team opportunities at the club limited especially as the team had other strikers such as Paulo Wanchope , Shaun Goater and Darren Huckerby . Having fallen out of favour , on 22 February 2002 he moved to Leicester City for £ 150 @, @ 000 .

= = = Leicester City = = =

Dickov 's Leicester debut came in a 3 ? 0 defeat against Derby County . His first goals for Leicester came in his sixth appearance , when he scored both Leicester goals in a 2 ? 1 victory against Blackburn Rovers , the club 's first win for four months . However , Dickov only scored two more goals that season . Leicester finished bottom and were relegated .

He scored a career @-@ high of 20 goals in the 2002 ? 03 season as Leicester made an immediate return to the top flight , finishing runners @-@ up in Division One behind Portsmouth .

He managed to score 13 goals in the 2003 ? 04 season . Leicester were subsequently relegated to the First Division and Dickov moved to Blackburn Rovers , declining an offer of an improved contract from Leicester and exercising a contractual clause which allowed him to join a Premier League club for a nominal fee .

= = = Blackburn Rovers = = =

Dickov debuted for Blackburn Rovers as a half @-@ time substitute against West Bromwich Albion on 14 August 2004 . He scored his first goal for the club in the following match , a 3 ? 2 defeat to Southampton . Dickov was involved in the majority of matches in the 2004 ? 05 season , until a knee injury caused him to miss the last few weeks of the season . He finished the season with ten league goals . In 2005 ? 06 , Dickov found it hard to retain a regular place in the side , with manager Mark Hughes having signed forwards Craig Bellamy and Shefki Kuqi during the summer . A red card against West Ham United caused him to miss most of the first month of the season . He had a run of first team games in the autumn but starting appearances became fewer as the season progressed . He left the club in the summer of 2006 following the expiry of his contract .

= = = Return to Manchester City = = =

Dickov re @-@ joined Manchester City on 26 May 2006 , signing a two @-@ year contract . He came on as a substitute in City 's first game of the 2006 ? 07 season against Chelsea , a 3 ? 0

defeat . He then started the next three matches , including a 1 ? 0 win over his former club Arsenal .

Dickov suffered several injuries over the course of the season , including a back problem , a knee injury and a toe injury , the latter sidelining him for four months . Dickov made nine starts and seven substitute appearances in 2006 ? 07 , but failed to score a single goal . In May 2007 he announced his interest in pursuing a coaching role when he retires . He was transfer listed by Manchester City in August . He joined Crystal Palace on a three @-@ month loan on 31 August 2007 . He played his first game for the Eagles in a friendly against Crystal Palace Baltimore , Crystal Palace 's American counterparts , on Friday 7 September , playing the full 90 minutes . On 31 January 2008 , Dickov joined Blackpool managed by Simon Grayson on loan until May . Two days later he scored on his debut for Blackpool , what proved to be the winning goal in the Seasiders ' 2 ? 1 victory against Leicester City , one of his former clubs , at Bloomfield Road . He had come on as a 70th @-@ minute substitute and scored the winning goal in the 89th minute . It was his first goal since 2 January 2006 . He went on to score five goals in his first five appearances for the club , and on 4 March he was named as the Professional Footballers ' Association (PFA) ' s Fans Championship Player of the Month for February . By the end of his loan , Dickov had scored six goals in eleven appearances . He returned to Manchester City after his loan before then being released at the end of the season .

= = = Return to Leicester City = = =

An initial bid from his former club Leicester City was rejected a week earlier , and after pondering other offers from Toronto FC and Blackpool , Dickov decided to rejoin Leicester on 7 August 2008 , signing a two @-@ year contract . He made his debut in a 2 ? 0 home win over Milton Keynes Dons on 9 August 2008 , scoring his first goal in a 3 ? 2 League Cup defeat to Fulham on 27 August . He made a total of 20 league games , scoring two goals as Leicester finished the 2008 ? 09 season as League One champions . On 28 August 2009 , Dickov joined Derby County on loan until January as cover . Due to an injury crisis Dickov found himself playing regularly at Derby , where his dogged style won over the support of the Derby fans . Dickov scored his first goal for Derby against Queens Park Rangers on 24 October 2009 . After his loan spell at Derby ended , Dickov returned to Leicester in January 2010 . He was released from his contract by Leicester on 1 February 2010 to find a new club .

= = = Leeds United = = =

On 3 March 2010 Dickov signed for Leeds United until the end of the season . It was initially thought that MLS side Toronto had beaten Leeds to Dickov 's signature , however United eventually won the race for the Scot . Leeds also had to receive special dispensation from FIFA to sign Dickov due to the fact he had already played for two clubs this season , the maximum permitted . Dickov was named on Leeds ' bench against Brentford and made his debut for Leeds when he came on as a late substitute . Made his impact as a Leeds player by getting booked immediately , scrapping with Brentford winger Ryan Dickson before the ball had come into play .

Dickov made his first start for Leeds in a defeat against Millwall , after replacing the injured Jermaine Beckford in the starting line @-@ up . At the end of the 2009 ? 10 season Leeds finished second thus earning promotion to the Championship . Dickov 's contract wasn 't renewed after promotion .

= = International career = =

Dickov played in Scotland 's run in the 1989 FIFA U @-@ 16 World Championship , where he scored in the final , but went on to miss in the penalty shoot @-@ out as Scotland lost to Saudi Arabia . He made his senior international debut on 7 October 2000 , coming on as a substitute in a World Cup qualifier against San Marino . He made two further substitute appearances that year , against Croatia and Australia . Limited first @-@ team opportunities at club level then meant Dickov

was not selected for international duty for another two years . Good form at Leicester earned him a recall in September 2002 . He made his first international start against the Faroe Islands . However , playing out of position on the wing , he was substituted at half @-@ time as the faltering Scotland team drew 2 ? 2 against a nation 62 places lower in the world rankings . In the return fixture a year later , Dickov scored his first international goal in a 3 ? 1 win . His last cap came in a 1 ? 0 defeat against Norway in October 2004 . In total , Dickov earned ten Scotland caps and scored one goal .

= = Management career = =

= = = Oldham Athletic = = =

On 9 June 2010 , Dickov agreed a one @-@ year rolling contract with Oldham Athletic to become player @-@ manager following the departure of previous manager Dave Penney . It was Dickov 's first attempt at managing and expected to be his last club as a player . His first competitive game as Oldham manager ended in a 2 ? 1 victory at rivals Tranmere with Dale Stephens scoring both goals , Dickov also praised the travelling army of Oldham Fans . On 4 September 2010 , he made his debut coming on as a second @-@ half substitute against Bristol Rovers .

Dickov opted to build a youthful side and made controversial decisions at the start of the season to offload 2009 ? 10 player of the year and club captain Sean Gregan as well as top scorer Pawe? Abbott amongst other first team players . The team went into the New Year in ninth position , with games in hand on the teams above them , and being unbeaten at home in the league . Results in the second half of the season were less consistent and the team finished the season in the bottom half of the table . On 6 May 2011 Dickov announced that he would make only his second appearance of the season for the first team in the final match of the season , and would then end his playing career to concentrate on management . He then came on as a 77th @-@ minute substitute the following day against Milton Keynes Dons .

They finished the 2011 ? 12 Season in 16th position in League One , one place higher than the previous season .

On 27 January 2013 , Dickov lead Oldham to a shock 3 ? 2 victory against Premier League side Liverpool in the FA Cup fourth round but resigned on 3 February , primarily due to the team 's poor league form .

= = = Doncaster Rovers = = =

On 20 May 2013 , Dickov was appointed manager of Doncaster Rovers , who were promoted to the Championship having won the League One title in the 2012 ? 13 season . Doncaster were relegated back to League One after just one season following a 1 @-@ 0 final day defeat to Leicester City . On 8 September 2015 , Dickov was sacked as Doncaster manager due to poor performances .

= = Style of play = =

Although he was a striker , Dickov was better known for his tenacity than his goal @-@ scoring exploits . In a 2003 interview with the Independent on Sunday he provided a summary of his playing style : " The ability to battle is one of the main parts of my game . I know my limits . I am not the sort who gets the ball and is then going to beat five or six players and stick it in the top corner from God knows where . But , whether I 'm playing well or not , the one thing you will get from me is 110 per cent , upsetting defenders and basically giving them pain . " Rio Ferdinand was mentioning his name as the biggest headache to deal with on the pitch . His combative approach resulted in Manchester City manager Joe Royle naming him " The Wasp " , and during his time at Leicester he was known as " The Pest " .

= = Personal life = =

Dickov is married to Janet and the couple have had three children together , Lauren , Max and Sam . The family live in Cheshire .

Later describing it as the " darkest period " of his footballing career , in March 2004 , he , and team @-@ mates Keith Gillespie and Frank Sinclair were falsely accused of sexual assault while at a training camp in La Manga , Spain with Leicester City . All three were subsequently cleared when forensic tests showed the allegations were false .

According to a media source in Bulgaria , Dickov owes his family name to a Bulgarian grandfather .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Player = = =

= = = International = = =

= = = International goals = = =

Scores and results list Scotland 's goal tally first .

= = = Manager = = =

As of 5 September 2015

= = Honours = =

Arsenal

UEFA Cup Winners ' Cup : 1994

Manchester City

Football League Second Division play @-@ offs : 1998 ? 99

Football League First Division promotion : 1999 ? 2000

Leicester City

Football League First Division runners @-@ up (promoted) : 2002 ? 03

Football League One : 2008 ? 09

Leeds United

Football League One runners @-@ up (promoted) : 2009 ? 10