

= George Boyd (footballer) =

George Jan Boyd (born 2 October 1985) is a professional footballer who plays as a winger for Burnley .

Boyd started his career in the Charlton Athletic youth system , joining Stevenage Borough of the Conference National in 2001 and making his first @-@ team debut in 2002 . Boyd spent five seasons at Stevenage , scoring over thirty goals from midfield in all competitions . He left in January 2007 to join League Two side Peterborough United for a fee of £ 260 @,@ 000 , and won two successive promotions in the 2007 ? 08 and 2008 ? 09 seasons . In March 2010 , Boyd joined Nottingham Forest on loan until the end of the 2009 ? 10 season . On return to his parent club in July 2010 , Boyd signed a new three @-@ year contract at Peterborough . In February 2013 , Boyd joined Hull City on loan for the remainder of the 2012 ? 13 season , and he helped the club earn promotion back to the Premier League during his time there . Shortly after the end of the season , he signed for the club on a permanent basis .

He also played for the England National Game XI team , who represent England at non @-@ League level , from 2005 to 2006 , earning six caps and scoring one goal . Boyd was born and raised in England , and also qualified to play for Scotland through his maternal grandfather . After playing for the Scotland B team in 2009 , he earned his first cap at senior level in 2013 .

= = Club career = =

= = = Stevenage Borough = = =

Born in Chatham , Kent , Boyd started his career as a part of Charlton Athletic 's youth system at the age of 15 . A year later he was released by Charlton , and opted to join Conference National side Stevenage Borough in 2001 . Boyd made his Stevenage debut at just 17 years of age during the 2002 ? 03 season , featuring in a 3 ? 1 defeat against Margate at Broadhall Way , although he was substituted at half ? time . Despite appearing on the bench frequently , Boyd did not play again in the first @-@ team the same season . The following season , Boyd played eleven times during the second half of the season under new manager Graham Westley , after impressing him during Boyd 's involvement in the FA Youth Cup . Boyd made a big impact despite appearing as a substitute in the majority of games , assisting all three of Stevenage 's goals in a 3 ? 1 victory over Tamworth , and scoring his first Stevenage goal in a 2 ? 1 win against Northwich Victoria in April 2004 .

As a result of his form towards the latter stages of the 2003 ? 04 , Boyd was a regular in the first team the following season , playing 37 games and scoring three times as Stevenage made the play @-@ offs . His first goal of the club 's 2004 ? 05 campaign came in a 4 ? 1 victory against Northwich Victoria , netting Stevenage 's second just before half ? time . Boyd 's second goal of the season came in Stevenage 's 5 ? 0 win against Hendon , and scored his final goal of the 2004 ? 05 campaign as Stevenage came from a goal down to beat Carlisle United at Broadhall Way . Boyd was also sent ? off for the first time in his career in a game against Canvey Island , receiving a straight red . During the side 's 2005 ? 06 campaign , Boyd found his goalscoring form , starting the season with three goals in five games , scoring twice against Woking in a 3 ? 2 defeat , and once against Tamworth . Boyd also scored in games against Dagenham & Redbridge and Exeter City respectively , as well as scoring a goal from 25 yards in Stevenage 's 2 ? 0 win against Gravesend & Northfleet at Stonebridge Road . He also impressed in Stevenage 's FA Cup run the same season , scoring a 30 @-@ yard effort away at Kettering Town in Paul Gascoigne 's first game as manager of the Northamptonshire outfit , and netted in the following round in a 2 ? 2 draw against Northampton Town . He signed a new three @-@ year contract at the club in November 2005 . Throughout the season , Boyd scored 12 times in 47 games from midfield in all competitions .

Under the new management of Mark Stimson ahead of the 2006 ? 07 season , Boyd was deployed as a striker for the first time in a 2 ? 1 defeat away at Tamworth , a game in which he scored

Stevenage 's solitary goal . The following game , he scored his first competitive hat @-@ trick in a 6 ? 0 win against Stafford Rangers . Boyd scored four goals in a 7 ? 0 victory over Merthyr Tydfil in the FA Trophy . He also scored in victories against Halifax Town and Kidderminster Harriers , as well as netting in Stevenage 's 3 ? 2 win against St Albans City . He also provided the assist for the only goal of the game in Stevenage 's 1 ? 0 win against Weymouth . In December 2006 , Stevenage turned down an initial offer from Peterborough United for Boyd , but on 31 December both parties agreed a deal for the player and it was announced that Boyd would officially sign for Peterborough on 8 January 2007 for a record Football Conference transfer fee of £ 260 @,@ 000 . Subsequently , he played his last game for Stevenage a day later in a 3 ? 2 win over Aldershot Town , scoring twice . During the first half of the 2006 ? 07 season , Boyd scored 15 goals in 27 games in all competitions . During his time at Stevenage , Boyd earned the nickname " The White Pelé " ? a nickname that has been used by fans and media since .

= = = Peterborough United = = =

Boyd made his debut for Peterborough in a 3 ? 1 defeat away at Darlington in January 2007 , and scored his first goal for the club a month later in a 3 ? 0 win against Wrexham . He came off the bench to score Peterborough 's equaliser in a 1 ? 1 draw at home to Boston United , scoring a " superb 35 @-@ yard volley " . He netted once more in a 2 ? 0 win against Notts County , as well as creating Peterborough 's second for Craig Morgan . Boyd scored his fourth goal of the season , scoring from just inside the area to give the lead away at Grimsby Town in March 2007 . He scored a total of six times for the club during the second half of the 2006 ? 07 season , playing 20 games ? including two goals on the final day of the season in a 3 ? 3 draw with Rochdale . The following year , Boyd was instrumental in helping Peterborough to promotion to League One , scoring 15 times in 53 games . During the season , he scored his second professional hat ? trick in an 8 ? 2 win against Accrington Stanley . As a result , he was named in the League Two 2008 PFA Team of the Year .

Boyd scored his first goal of the 2008 ? 09 season in Peterborough 's 2 ? 1 loss at Bristol City . He scored again two weeks later against Hartlepool United in another 2 ? 1 defeat , scoring Peterborough 's consolation goal with a " smart finish " . Boyd 's third goal of the campaign came in a 1 ? 1 draw away at Northampton Town , " finishing superbly " to give Peterborough the lead after fifteen minutes . In October 2008 , Boyd netted his fourth goal of the 2008 ? 09 season , scoring just after half @-@ time in a 2 ? 0 victory against Leeds United . He scored one and assisted two other goals in Peterborough 's 4 ? 0 win against Huddersfield Town , as well as providing the assist for Craig Mackail @-@ Smith 's goal against Hereford United . His sixth goal of the season came in Peterborough 's 2 ? 1 home win against Colchester United , Boyd scoring " clinically into the bottom corner from 12 yards " . In the same game , he " carved open the defence on a number of occasions " , and once again provided the assist for Mackail @-@ Smith 's goal . Boyd scored one and set @-@ up another as Peterborough beat Cheltenham Town at Whaddon Road in December 2008 , Boyd 's goal came in the third minute of the match . A month later , he scored twice in a 4 ? 2 win against Crewe Alexandra , and was described as " the two @-@ goal hero " following the match ? as Boyd 's two goals proved to be the difference . He provided assists in games against Yeovil Town and Hereford United respectively , and scored his last goal of the season in a 2 ? 1 away win at Hartlepool United . Boyd ended the season by providing two assists in Peterborough 's final two games of the campaign . He scored ten times in 53 games in all competitions , ensuring the club earned back ? to ? back promotions . Boyd was named in the League One 2009 PFA Team of the Year for the second successive year .

Boyd played in Peterborough 's first game of the 2009 ? 10 season , scoring from the penalty spot in a 2 ? 1 defeat to Derby County at Pride Park . Three days later , Boyd netted Peterborough 's third in the club 's 4 ? 0 away win at Wycombe Wanderers . He scored his third goal of the campaign in a 2 ? 1 home win against Ipswich Town , as well as scoring in the club 's 1 ? 1 draw at Leicester City . His sixth of the season came in Peterborough 's 3 ? 2 home victory over Reading , with Boyd scoring the club 's third goal with a backheel in injury @-@ time . In October 2009 , Boyd made a club record @-@ equalling 124th consecutive appearance , scoring a last minute equaliser against

Bristol City at Ashton Gate . He subsequently broke the record three days later in a match against Doncaster Rovers , before scoring twice in the following match against Scunthorpe United . He continued his goalscoring form throughout October with a goal at Ewood Park , scoring his third goal in Peterborough 's League Cup campaign in a 5 ? 2 defeat against Premier League team Blackburn Rovers . The following week , Boyd scored in a 2 ? 1 defeat at home to Barnsley , as well as netting in a 2 ? 2 draw against Middlesbrough shortly after . He assisted both of Peterborough 's goals in a 2 ? 1 victory at home to Watford . Boyd also scored in Peterborough 's 4 ? 4 draw against Cardiff City , scoring Peterborough 's third goal as the club came back from four goals down to earn a point . Upon Mark Cooper 's arrival as manager , Boyd was made team captain in January 2010 . In February 2010 , it was announced that Peterborough rejected a bid for Boyd from fellow Championship side Middlesbrough in the January transfer window . The following day , Peterborough United director of football Barry Fry confirmed that Middlesbrough were in talks over Boyd , although talks broke down after the two clubs failed to agree a fee for the player . Boyd scored a total of 12 times in 37 appearances during the 2009 ? 10 season .

= = = Nottingham Forest loan = = =

In March 2010 , Boyd joined Championship side Nottingham Forest on loan until the end of the 2009 ? 10 season , despite initially saying he was happy to stay at Peterborough . Peterborough chairman Darragh MacAnthony described the transfer as " one of the worst moments in his time at London Road " . Boyd made his debut for Forest in a 1 ? 0 victory over Swansea City , playing the whole match . He struggled for first @-@ team appearances during his loan spell at Forest , and although it was expected that Boyd 's move to Forest was to be made permanent in the summer , new Peterborough United manager Gary Johnson suggested " there 's every chance " that Boyd could return to his parent club . Boyd made Forest 's starting eleven for the first time in almost a month on the last day of the club 's regular season ; playing in a 2 ? 2 draw away at Scunthorpe United and scoring Forest 's second goal . It was to be Boyd 's last appearance of the season for Forest , as he did not play in the club 's unsuccessful play @-@ off campaign . In total , Boyd only made six appearances during his time at the club , scoring one goal .

= = = Return to Peterborough = = =

Boyd returned to his parent club ahead of the 2010 ? 11 season , with Peterborough plying their trade in League One following the club 's relegation from the Championship the previous season . In July 2010 it was announced that Boyd had agreed a new three ? year contract with Peterborough . On agreeing the new contract , Boyd said " I firmly believe this club is going places and I want to be a part of that " . He scored in Peterborough 's first game of the 2010 ? 11 season , a 3 ? 0 win against Bristol Rovers . He scored his second goal of the season in the club 's following game , netting Peterborough 's second in a 4 ? 1 League Cup first round victory against Rotherham United . Boyd scored his third goal in four games in the club 's win against Huddersfield Town , as Peterborough came from two goals down to win 4 ? 2 . Three days later , Boyd scored the winner in Peterborough 's 2 ? 1 League Cup win against Cardiff City , as well as providing the assist for the first goal . He scored his fifth goal of the season in a 5 ? 2 win against Oldham Athletic , scoring Peterborough 's third as the club came from two goals down to record three points .

Boyd scored his sixth goal of the 2010 ? 11 campaign in Peterborough 's 5 ? 4 win against Swindon Town in October 2010 . Two weeks later , Boyd was sent @-@ off for violent conduct in a 3 ? 0 home loss to league leaders Brighton & Hove Albion , only the second time he had been red carded in his career . He returned to first @-@ team action on 16 November 2010 , playing in the club 's 4 ? 1 FA Cup win over Stockport County . Boyd had to wait four months for his next goal , scoring twice against Sheffield Wednesday on 1 February 2011 . He went on to score five goals in five games throughout February and March , scoring once against Colchester United . This goal was followed by braces against Exeter City and Carlisle United respectively , although Boyd missed the chance to complete his hat @-@ trick in the latter game when he missed a 90th @-@ minute penalty . Three

days later , on 15 March 2011 , Boyd scored twice against Sheffield Wednesday in a 4 ? 1 victory at Hillsborough . He made it eight goals in eight games when he scored in Peterborough 's 2 ? 2 away draw at Bristol Rovers . He took his goal tally to 17 for the season when he scored Peterborough 's third goal in a 5 ? 0 home win against Dagenham & Redbridge on 7 May 2011 . Boyd played in all three of Peterborough 's play @-@ off fixtures , playing the whole game in the 2011 League One play @-@ off Final at Old Trafford as Peterborough beat Huddersfield Town 3 ? 0 to earn promotion back to the Championship . During the club 's successful 2010 ? 11 campaign , Boyd scored 17 goals in 51 appearances .

In the summer of 2011 , Peterborough rejected two bids for Boyd from Burnley . He played in the club 's first game of the 2011 ? 12 season , playing the whole match as Peterborough secured a 2 ? 1 victory over Crystal Palace on their return to the second tier of English football . Boyd scored his first goal of the new season just three days later , on 9 August 2011 , netting a curling free @-@ kick in extra @-@ time in an eventual 4 ? 3 League Cup victory against his former club , Stevenage . This was followed by two further goals away from London Road , in games against Blackpool and Bristol City respectively . Boyd scored a rare headed goal in Peterborough 's 4 ? 3 home victory against Cardiff City in October 2011 , a game in which they scored twice late @-@ on to win the match . He added a fifth to his goal tally for the season in a home loss to Barnsley on 3 December , scoring Peterborough 's first goal as they came from three goals down to tie the match at three @-@ all , although ultimately went on to lose 4 ? 3 . His sixth goal of the campaign came in a 1 ? 0 away win against Nottingham Forest , where Boyd had previously spent time on loan at , netting with a curling effort from 18 @-@ yards . He went on to score two further goals during the campaign , taking his end goal tally for the season to eight , making 48 appearances in all competitions as Peterborough consolidated their place in the Championship .

In April 2012 , Boyd rejected a contract extension at Peterborough with only a year to go on his current deal . Consequently , manager Darren Ferguson placed Boyd on the transfer list as part of the club 's new policy . Boyd remained transfer @-@ listed for the remainder of his time at Peterborough . Despite this , he continued to play regularly , opening the 2012 ? 13 season by scoring two goals in his first three appearances . In October 2012 , Boyd scored his fourth and fifth goals of the season in a 3 ? 1 home win over Huddersfield Town . His second goal during the match was a dipping volley from just inside the Huddersfield half , a goal that was described as " world @-@ class " .

In January 2013 , Peterborough rejected a bid from Nottingham Forest for Boyd , an offer that club chairman Darragh MacAnthony described as " derisory " . MacAnthony also stated that Premier League club Reading , as well as Championship rivals Crystal Palace and Millwall had " made enquiries " . He later stated that eight clubs had enquired about the player . Towards the end of the 2013 January transfer window , on 29 January , it was announced that Peterborough had accepted an offer for Boyd from fellow Championship side Crystal Palace . A day later , several other Championship sides had improved bids accepted for the player , including Nottingham Forest , who had already had bids rejected for the player earlier in the month and eventually met Peterborough 's £ 500 @,@ 000 valuation . Boyd opted to speak to Forest and agreed terms with them on 31 January , only for Forest to pull out of the deal two hours before the transfer deadline , saying that Boyd had failed a medical due to an " inconclusive eye test " .

Peterborough 's Director of football Barry Fry criticised Nottingham Forest 's owners for pulling out of the deal to sign Boyd , and chairman MacAnthony said , " I 'm devastated for George . I got a phone call off him in bits ... He said that he passed the medical then they made him do an eye test . He 's played 300 games and scored from the halfway line the other month , but Forest say he has an eyesight problem . The whole thing stinks . Alex McLeish wanted to sign him . It 's the most ridiculous thing that 's happened to me . " Peterborough subsequently said that with Boyd 's contract expiring in the summer , they would be prepared to offer him a new contract or let him leave on loan when the emergency loan window opened , with at least one club having signalled their interest in doing so .

= = = Hull City = = =

In February 2013 , Boyd joined Championship side Hull City on loan until the end of the 2012 ? 13 season , with a view to a permanent move . He made his debut two days after signing , on 23 February , coming on as a second @-@ half substitute for Robert Koren in a 4 ? 1 away defeat to Bolton Wanderers . Boyd 's full debut came at home in the following match a week later , as he scored twice in a 5 ? 2 victory over Birmingham City . After the performance , Hull manager Steve Bruce stated ? " It was a wonder show . His work @-@ rate and intelligence ? he looked the real deal . I 've always been a big admirer , but I didn 't know he was that good . If he can keep performing like that then we 've got some player on our hands " . He scored in Hull 's next match at the KC Stadium later that month , in a 2 ? 1 loss to Nottingham Forest , who he failed a medical at in January , netting just before half @-@ time when he flicked the ball over his shoulder with his back to goal . Boyd 's fourth goal in six games came on 30 March , scoring the only goal of the game as Hull secured a 1 ? 0 away victory over Huddersfield Town , an inch perfect ball played through by Jay Simpson found Boyd on the edge of the box , who clinically fired a first time strike into the keepers ' top left corner . He played regularly for the remainder of the campaign , including in Hull 's 2 ? 2 home draw with Cardiff City on the last day of the season , the game that ultimately secured the club 's promotion back to the Premier League . During his loan spell , Boyd made thirteen appearances and scored four times .

He signed for Hull on a permanent basis on 28 May 2013 , joining on a two @-@ year contract . He made his debut on the first day of the 2013 ? 14 season when he came off the bench in a 2 ? 0 loss away at Chelsea . On 17 May 2014 he played as a substitute in the 2014 FA Cup Final against Arsenal . This resulted in Hull qualifying for the 2014 ? 15 UEFA Europa League , in their first major European competition . Boyd made his European début in the first leg of the play @-@ off round match against K.S.C. Lokeren Oost @-@ Vlaanderen .

= = = Burnley = = =

On 1 September 2014 , Burnley signed Boyd on a three @-@ year deal . On 18 October Boyd scored his first Premier League goal in a losing effort against West Ham United F.C. in a 3 ? 1 defeat for the clarets . On 2 December Boyd scored his second league goal of the season in a 1 ? 1 draw with Newcastle . On 28 December Boyd scored the opening goal for Burnley in a 2 ? 2 draw over Manchester City . On 1 January 2015 Boyd scored the equaliser in the 86th minute in a 3 ? 3 draw over Newcastle . On 14 March Boyd scored the winner against Manchester City in the 61st minute .

= = International career = =

= = = England C = = =

Boyd was called up for the England C team in October 2005 and played in a European Challenge Trophy game against Belgium U23 . He subsequently played in two more games in the same competition . He played against Italy in February 2006 . He then scored his first goal for England C in a 4 ? 1 win against a Holland XI in November 2006 in the final game of the competition . Boyd made a further four appearances for Paul Fairclough 's side at the end of the 2006 ? 07 campaign , before his subsequent move to Peterborough made him ineligible to play in England C matches .

= = = Scotland = = =

In April 2009 , Boyd was called up for the Scotland B side , after obtaining documentary proof that his maternal grandfather was born in Glasgow . Boyd started and subsequently scored in a 3 ? 0 victory against a Northern Ireland B side , scoring the second goal of the game , giving a performance described as containing " flair and commitment " .

Boyd received his first call @-@ up to the senior side in March 2013 , when he was named in manager Gordon Strachan 's squad for the 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifiers against Wales and Serbia . Although he did not make the substitutes ' bench in Scotland 's 2 ? 1 home loss to Wales , he earned his first senior cap just four days later in a 2 ? 0 away defeat to Serbia on 26 March 2013 . Boyd started the match , playing the whole match at the Kara?or?e Stadium in Novi Sad .

= = Style of play = =

Boyd is generally deployed as a winger , and has been used on the left @-@ wing throughout the majority of his career . He has described himself as a winger , but has stated that he prefers to play " in the hole " because the position allows him to get more time on the ball . He has expressed his willingness to " play anywhere " to help the team , believing his versatility across the midfield and attacking areas to be one of his main strong @-@ points . He said " I have played on both sides of the park and will always try my best to do a good job regardless of where the manager plays me " . Under former Peterborough United manager , Jim Gannon , Boyd was given a " free @-@ role " , essentially playing across the midfield and behind the strikers . Gannon said " if we can get him free in attacking areas he can be a great creative force " . Gannon believes that Boyd is at his best when he " is saved from doing defensive work that wingers may have to do " , and as a result , during Gannon 's short spell at Peterborough , was deployed just behind the strikers as part of a 3 ? 4 ? 1 ? 2 formation . Boyd has also been used as a striker by manager Mark Stimson during the first @-@ half of Stevenage 's 2006 ? 07 campaign . He is predominantly left @-@ footed , and scores the majority of his goals with his left @-@ foot , but is also comfortable using his right . Kieran Trippier , Boyd 's team @-@ mate at Burnley , said of Boyd : " He 's great to play with , with a good left foot and a great engine " .

During his time at Stevenage , Boyd earned the nickname " The White Pelé " ? this was down to his use of tricks , as well as the amount of flair Boyd brought to the team at such a young age . Stevenage manager Graham Westley , who gave Boyd his first run of games in the first @-@ team , described Boyd as a " special talent " following his two goals away at Woking in August 2005 . Westley proceeded to call Boyd " gifted " , and a player with " fantastic technical ability " . He has been labelled a creative and flamboyant midfielder , and described as " a player who will create goalscoring opportunities all game long " . Boyd has stated that he considers assisting goals a " big part of his game " , and says " I try to create chances for other players and that gives me just as much pleasure as scoring " . Boyd 's creative nature is emphasised by the fact that he has assisted over 50 goals for Peterborough during his time at London Road . Peterborough United manager Darren Ferguson has said that Boyd " has the tendency , and ability , to score goals from long distance " , talking after Boyd 's 35 @-@ yard volley against Boston United . This was further highlighted when Boyd scored from just inside the opposition 's half in a win against Huddersfield Town in October 2012 . Boyd collected a Saido Berahino knock @-@ down , before hitting a dipping volley from the edge of the centre circle . Manager Darren Ferguson stated ? " If Lionel Messi had done it you 'd be seeing it over again . For vision and execution it was one of the best I have seen " . Boyd also scored several long range goals during his time at Stevenage , scoring from outside the area on seven different occasions ; most notably on the half @-@ volley from 30 yards in a game against Cambridge United in January 2006 .

Boyd believes that he needs to work on his turn of pace and also improve his heading ability , and considers these as his main weaknesses . Former manager Darren Ferguson said " there might be those who say he lacks a little bit of pace but what he does not have in his legs he has in his head " . In his career , Boyd has only ever scored three headed goals , and says that he is much more comfortable with the ball at his feet .

= = Personal life = =

Boyd grew up in Kent , and was " first interested in becoming a footballer when he used to play football with his Dad at the local park " . After being rejected by Charlton Athletic at the age of 15 ,

Boyd moved to Stevenage , combining a course at North Hertfordshire College with playing football at the Hertfordshire club . During this time , Boyd worked in a sweet shop at Hitchin railway station to earn the money for his train fare to training . Boyd supports Crystal Palace , who he used to watch regularly , and states that former Palace striker Chris Armstrong was a player he aspired to play like . Boyd has a daughter , Ava , whom his partner gave birth to in March 2011 .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Club = = =

As of match played 7 May 2016 .

= = = International = = =

As of match played 28 May 2014 .

= = Honours = =

Peterborough United

Runners @-@ up (promotion)

League Two (1) : 2007 ? 08

League One (1) : 2008 ? 09

Play @-@ off winner

League One (1) : 2010 ? 11

Hull City

Runners @-@ up (promotion)

Championship (1) : 2012 ? 13

Individual

PFA Team of the Year (2) : 2007 ? 08 , 2008 ? 09