

= Neil Barrett (footballer) =

Neil William Barrett (born 24 December 1981) is an English semi professional footballer who plays as a midfielder for Isthmian League Premier Division club Metropolitan Police .

Barrett started his career in the youth system of Chelsea , before joining Portsmouth in 2001 . He made over 20 appearances in his first season with Portsmouth , but having not played over a season and a half he moved to Dundee on loan . He joined them permanently in 2004 , but left a year later following their relegation from the Scottish Premier League . Following a period with Livingston , he signed for Conference National club Woking in 2007 . After half a season with them he joined Ebbsfleet United , and played for them in their victory in the 2008 FA Trophy Final at Wembley Stadium .

Barrett left Ebbsfleet after two seasons to sign for York City in 2009 and played for them in the 2010 Conference Premier play off Final at Wembley . He was released by York in 2011 and after a short spell with Havant & Waterlooville in the Conference South he returned to Ebbsfleet United . After their relegation to the Conference South in 2013 he signed for their divisional rivals Basingstoke Town , but was released by them after one season .

= = Career = =

= = = Chelsea and Portsmouth = = =

Born in Tooting , London , Barrett started his career as a trainee in the Chelsea youth system . While at the club he was an England schools international . He joined First Division team Portsmouth on 25 June 2001 on a free transfer and he made his first team debut in a 1 ? 0 victory at Stockport County on 25 August . His first goal for Portsmouth came with the equaliser against Gillingham on 8 September 2001 with a header from a Robert Prosinecki cross , in a game that finished as a 2 ? 1 victory . Barrett was offered a new contract with Portsmouth in October 2001 after impressing in the first team . He finished the 2001 ? 02 season with 26 appearances and two goals , despite not playing any games for Portsmouth from March 2002 .

Barrett was taken to hospital with a suspected broken knee suffered during a reserve team game against Bristol City in September 2002 , although an X ray later confirmed there was no break . However , tests were carried out and he was expected to be out of the team for six weeks to recover from the injury . Having fallen out of favour at Portsmouth , he had a trial at Notts County in December 2002 and manager Bill Dearden commented that Barrett " could be a reasonable prospect " . He finished the 2002 ? 03 season with no appearances for Portsmouth and was told by manager Harry Redknapp he was surplus to requirements . He had a one week trial with Wimbledon in August 2003 , having been told he could leave Portsmouth .

= = = Dundee = = =

Having made no appearances for Portsmouth up to that point during the 2003 ? 04 season , Barrett joined Scottish Premier League (SPL) team Dundee on loan until the end of the season on 23 January 2004 . His debut came two days later in the 2 ? 1 victory over Dundee United in a Dundee derby match , in which he made a reasonable contribution and was cautioned for a " bone crunching " challenge on Charlie Miller . He scored his first two goals for Dundee in the Scottish League Cup against Motherwell , with a shot set up by Sebastian Kneifel and a header , although Dundee went on to lose 5 ? 3 . He finished the loan period with 13 appearances and two goals , during which he had to deal with a " serious " ankle injury .

He joined Dundee permanently on 18 July 2004 , signing a one year contract , after having his contract at Portsmouth cancelled . He scored his first goal of the 2004 ? 05 season on 18 December 2004 with a 57th minute goal against Aberdeen that was set up by Fabián Caballero , which earned his team a 1 ? 0 victory . He finished the season with 32 appearances and

two goals while Dundee were relegated to the Scottish First Division , and was released by the club in May 2001 .

= = = Livingston = = =

Barrett had a trial with Major League Soccer team the New York / New Jersey MetroStars , and claimed he was offered a two @-@ year contract , although this claim was denied by an organisation spokesman . He started a trial with League Two club Oxford United in August 2005 and in his first game was substituted after six minutes after sustaining a head injury . He resumed playing in the SPL after signing for Livingston on 9 September 2005 , on a contract until January 2006 , with the option of it being extended for a further three years , following a successful trial . He made his debut two days later in a 4 ? 1 defeat to Hearts , during which he conceded a penalty kick . He made 11 appearances for Livingston , with his last coming in December 2005 . Conference National team Exeter City handed him a one @-@ week trial in September 2006 , and after training with them for six weeks he was offered a contract until January 2007 .

= = = Woking = = =

He eventually signed for another Conference National club , Woking , in January 2007 after being recommended to the club by former Dundee teammate Tom Hutchinson and he made his debut in a 2 ? 0 victory over Altrincham on 20 January , in which he had a goal disallowed that was adjudged to be offside . Barrett missed some games because of injury and he finished the 2006 ? 07 season with seven appearances for Woking , and manager Frank Gray wanted him to return to the club for pre @-@ season training .

= = = Ebbsfleet United = = =

He signed for Conference Premier rivals Ebbsfleet United on a free transfer on 19 June 2007 as a replacement for Mark DeBolla . He made his debut in a 2 ? 1 victory over Northwich Victoria on 11 August 2007 . He sustained an ankle injury in the second game of the 2007 ? 08 season , which meant he was expected to be unable to play for six weeks , before he made a " surprise " return after four weeks in a 1 ? 1 draw with Burton Albion . He scored his first goal with a shot from 20 yards , which was Ebbsfleet 's first goal in a 4 ? 1 victory over Grays Athletic . He went on to score goals in two consecutive games , with strikes in victories over Burton and Weymouth . Barrett played for Ebbsfleet in the 2008 FA Trophy Final at Wembley Stadium on 10 May 2008 , which the team won 1 ? 0 against Torquay United . He finished the season with 44 appearances and three goals , after which he signed a new one @-@ year contract with Ebbsfleet . He played for Ebbsfleet in their 3 ? 2 defeat to Stevenage Borough in the semi @-@ final first @-@ leg of the FA Trophy on 14 March 2009 , during which he sustained a broken jaw while scoring a goal , which ruled him out for the remainder of the 2008 ? 09 season . He finished the season with 37 appearances for Ebbsfleet , scoring seven goals .

= = = York City = = =

Barrett signed for fellow Conference Premier team York City on a free transfer on 29 June 2009 . He made his debut in a 2 ? 1 defeat to Oxford on 8 August 2009 , before scoring his first goal for the club with the opener in a 1 ? 1 draw with Luton Town on 20 October with a shot in the bottom corner . He scored the opening goal in a 3 ? 1 defeat to Premier League team Stoke City in the FA Cup third round on 2 January 2010 , with a header from an Alex Lawless free kick . He picked up a hamstring injury during March 2010 , missing one match before making his return in a 1 ? 0 victory over Mansfield Town later that month . He played in both legs of York 's play @-@ off semi @-@ final victory over Luton , which finished 2 ? 0 on aggregate . He signed a new one @-@ year contract with York on 13 May 2010 . He started in the 2010 Conference Premier play @-@ off Final

at Wembley on 16 May , being substituted on 81 minutes , with York losing 3 ? 1 to Oxford . He finished the 2009 ? 10 season with 51 appearances and five goals for York .

Barrett made his first appearance of the 2010 ? 11 season in the second game , starting in a 0 ? 0 draw at Grimsby Town on 17 August 2010 . He scored his first goal of the season with an effort from six yards out to score the final goal in a 4 ? 0 victory at Rushden & Diamonds on 20 November 2010 . He finished the season with 25 appearances and two goals before being released on 23 June 2011 after being told he could find another club .

= = = Havant & Waterlooville = = =

Following his release by York , Barrett went on trial with Luton and played the first half of their first friendly of the 2011 ? 12 pre @-@ season , a 4 ? 2 victory away at Hitchin Town . He subsequently went on trial with Kingstonian of the Isthmian League Premier Division and played in a friendly against former club Woking . His next move came on 9 September 2011 , when he signed for Havant & Waterlooville of the Conference South on non @-@ contract terms , making his debut the following day after starting in a 2 ? 2 draw at home to Sutton United . He was released by Havant in October 2011 after making seven appearances for the club .

= = = Return to Ebbsfleet United = = =

Barrett returned to Conference Premier side Ebbsfleet United on non @-@ contract terms on 4 November 2011 after contacting manager Liam Daish over the possibility of signing . His second debut for the club came the following day in a 1 ? 0 away win over Newport County , and scored his first goal of the 2011 ? 12 season came with a header in a 3 ? 2 win at Gateshead on 3 March 2012 . Barrett made 28 appearances and score done goal as Ebbsfleet finished 14th in the Conference Premier , before signing a new one @-@ year contract with the club in July 2012 . He missed only four matches for Ebbsfleet in the 2012 ? 13 season , making 45 appearances and scoring one goal , as the team were relegated to the Conference South after ranking 23rd in the Conference Premier table .

= = = Later career = = =

Barrett signed for Conference South team Basingstoke Town on 1 July 2013 . His debut came in Basingstoke 's 2 ? 1 win away against Concord Rangers on 17 August 2013 , before scoring his first goal for the club in a 2 ? 0 home win over Eastleigh on 24 August . He made 28 appearances and scored four goals in the 2013 ? 14 season as Basingstoke finished in 14th place in the Conference South table . He was released by the club in May 2014 .

Barrett joined Isthmian League Premier Division club Leatherhead during the 2014 ? 15 season and made his debut as a 73rd @-@ minute substitute in their 2 ? 1 away defeat to Maidstone United on 9 December 2014 . He made 11 appearances as they achieved an 11th @-@ place finish in the Isthmian League Premier Division table . Barrett signed for Leatherhead 's divisional rivals Metropolitan Police in September 2015 , and made his debut in a 1 ? 1 home draw with VCD Athletic on 19 September .

= = Style of play = =

Barrett plays as a central midfielder and provides " plenty of drive in midfield " . He has described himself as being " one to get in the box " and having " a bit of a knack of being in the right place at the right time " . He has been described as being " not afraid of sticking his foot in " . Ebbsfleet manager Liam Daish commented " He will bring a physical presence to our midfield and is capable of getting his name on the score sheet . " and while at the club was pivotal in midfield .

= = Personal life = =

Barrett 's wife Rebecca , whom he married in Leatherhead , Surrey on 29 May 2010 , works as a flight attendant for Virgin Atlantic and he has a son called George . He combined playing with being Ebbsfleet 's commercial manager during 2011 ? 12 .

= = Career statistics = =

As of match played 26 March 2016 .

= = Honours = =

Ebbsfleet United

FA Trophy : 2007 ? 08