

= Darius Charles =

Wesley Darius Donald Charles (born 10 December 1987) , known as Darius Charles , is an English professional footballer who plays as a defender for League One club AFC Wimbledon .

Charles started his career after progressing through the Brentford youth system and he made his first @-@ team debut in 2005 . He was loaned out by Brentford on seven occasions and he joined the last of these , Ebbsfleet United , permanently in 2009 in a historic transfer . Six months later , a proposed transfer to York City fell through , after he decided against moving to the city . He spent another season with Ebbsfleet before signing for Stevenage in 2010 .

= = Club career = =

= = = Brentford = = =

Charles first played football aged 11 while at school , for Greenford Celtic . He later played for Drayton Manor before signing for and graduating from the Centre of Excellence at Brentford . He made his first @-@ team debut as a left midfielder in a 2 ? 1 victory over Hull City on 7 May 2005 ; the final day of the 2004 ? 05 season . He made his first appearance of the 2005 ? 06 season in the Football League Trophy against Oxford United , which finished as a 1 ? 1 draw after extra time and a 4 ? 3 defeat in a penalty shoot @-@ out , while Charles played as a left @-@ back . His first league appearance of the season came as an 88th minute substitute in a 1 ? 1 draw with Chesterfield on 10 December 2005 . He went on to play as a 32nd @-@ minute substitute in a 3 ? 3 draw with Bradford City on 2 January 2006 , which proved to be his final appearance of the season for Brentford , which he finished with three appearances . He was loaned out to Conference South team Thurrock on 3 February 2006 , where he made one appearance , in a 1 ? 0 defeat to Weston @-@ super @-@ Mare . He was subsequently sent out to Yeading on a work experience deal on 16 March 2006 , and he made his debut in a 2 ? 1 defeat to Eastbourne Borough , before finishing the loan spell with six appearances . Charles signed a professional contract with Brentford on 27 June 2006 .

After having made nine appearances for Brentford during the 2006 ? 07 season , he signed for Staines Town of the Isthmian League Premier Division on a one @-@ month loan on 16 October 2006 . He made two appearances for Staines before returning to Brentford in November 2006 . He joined Conference National team Crawley Town on loan on 9 February 2007 until the end of April . He made his debut a day later after coming on as a 72nd @-@ minute substitute in a 2 ? 2 draw with St Albans City . He finished the loan spell with six appearances . He played for Brentford on five further occasions , which included scoring the winning goal in the 89th minute of a 4 ? 3 victory over Port Vale , and he finished the season with 19 Brentford appearances . Brentford took up their option for his contract to be extended for another season in May 2007 , before he signed a new two @-@ year contract with the option of another year with the club in June . He signed for Sutton United of the Conference South on an initial three @-@ month loan on 2 August 2007 . He made his debut in a 1 ? 0 defeat to Basingstoke Town . He was recalled by Brentford in September 2007 , after making seven appearances for Sutton . He made his first appearance for Brentford of the 2007 ? 08 season in a 2 ? 0 victory over Chester City on 22 September 2007 .

= = = Ebbsfleet United = = =

He joined Conference Premier team Ebbsfleet United on loan until the end of the season on 21 March 2008 , having made 18 appearances for Brentford up to that point in the 2007 ? 08 season . Charles made his Ebbsfleet debut the following day as a 78th @-@ minute substitute in a 3 ? 1 defeat to Stevenage Borough . He started in the following match , a 2 ? 1 victory over Cambridge United , and he finished the loan spell with nine appearances . He made one more appearance for Brentford in 2007 ? 08 , in a 1 ? 0 away defeat to Stockport County on 3 May 2008 , finishing the

season with 19 appearances for the club .

Charles re @-@ signed for Ebbsfleet after joining on loan for the 2008 ? 09 season on 21 June . He fouled Simon Brown to concede a penalty kick against Wrexham on 13 September 2008 , which was scored by Brown , as Ebbsfleet lost 3 ? 2 . He was sent off for a second bookable offence late into a 1 ? 0 defeat to Histon on 6 October 2008 . After his Brentford contract was cancelled he moved to Ebbsfleet permanently on 29 January 2009 , after the owners of Ebbsfleet , MyFootballClub , ratified a compensation fee of £ 25 @,@ 000 , making this the first transfer in football history to be decided by a group of members . He finished the season with 44 appearances and was named Ebbsfleet 's Player of the Year .

Conference Premier rivals York City made a £ 10 @,@ 000 bid for Charles in June , which was subsequently rejected , with MyFootballClub members voting against the offer with over a 98 % majority . Following this , York manager Martin Foyle said it was unlikely they would increase their offer for Charles . Ebbsfleet later agreed to sell Charles and striker Michael Gash for a combined fee of £ 80 @,@ 000 to an unnamed club , which was revealed to be York and he was reported to have signed on 29 June 2009 . However , the deal eventually fell through after Charles decided against joining the club as he did not want to relocate to York . Shortly after Ebbsfleet received an enquiry about him from an unnamed League Two club , although nothing came of this interest . He later became Ebbsfleet captain and was sent off for dissent in a 1 ? 0 defeat to Tamworth on 21 November 2009 . He made 42 appearances for Ebbsfleet during the 2009 ? 10 as they were relegated into the Conference South .

= = = Stevenage = = =

Charles turned down a new contract with Ebbsfleet to sign for newly promoted League Two team Stevenage on a two @-@ year contract for a compensation fee on 18 May 2010 . He made his Stevenage debut in the club 's 3 ? 1 home victory against Stockport , playing 78 minutes of the match . The following week , he started against Aldershot Town , but was taken off after 38 minutes after struggling with injury . Charles returned to the starting eleven on 18 September 2010 , starting in a 0 ? 0 draw against Torquay United , Stevenage 's first clean sheet of the season . He scored his first goal for the club in Stevenage 's 1 ? 1 draw with Milton Keynes Dons in an FA Cup first round replay on November 2010 . Charles ' goal came in the fifth minute of stoppage time , taking the game to extra time and then to a penalty shoot @-@ out , which Stevenage won 7 ? 6 . Charles received a straight red card for a professional foul on John Johnson in Stevenage 's 1 ? 0 home loss to Northampton Town on 11 December 2010 , just ten minutes after coming on as a substitute . He scored his second goal for Stevenage in the club 's fourth round FA Cup tie against Championship side Reading , cutting inside and curling the ball past the outstretched arm of Adam Federici to restore parity in a game that Stevenage went on to lose 2 ? 1 . Charles scored his first league goal of the 2010 ? 11 season with a shot from 12 yards in Stevenage 's 2 ? 1 home win against Bradford City on 2 April 2011 . He provided the assist for Joel Byrom 's goal after flicking a right @-@ wing cross in Stevenage 's 2 ? 0 play @-@ off victory over Accrington Stanley , a game in which he also hit the crossbar with a strike from 30 yards out . Charles started upfront for Stevenage in the 2011 League Two play @-@ off Final , played at Old Trafford on 28 May 2011 . Charles ' pass through to John Mousinho resulted in the only goal of the game , as a 1 ? 0 victory over Torquay United meant Stevenage were promoted into League One . He played 33 games for Stevenage during the 2010 ? 11 season , scoring four goals .

After starting in both of Stevenage 's opening fixtures of the 2011 ? 12 campaign , Charles signed a contract extension on 11 August 2011 , keeping him contracted to the club until 2013 . Two days later , Charles scored his first goal of the season with a close range header in a 1 ? 1 draw away at Chesterfield . Charles ' appearances were sporadic throughout the remainder of 2011 , with the player suffering from a knee injury . He made his first start in nearly two months in Stevenage 's 1 ? 0 away victory against Reading at the Madejski Stadium in the FA Cup on 7 January 2012 , with Charles scoring the winning goal in the first @-@ half with a finish from the edge of the area . Charles ' season ended prematurely after he suffered a hamstring injury in Stevenage 's 1 ? 1 draw

with Wycombe Wanderers on 31 March 2012 , with the injury ruling him out of action for up to six weeks . He made 34 appearances during the campaign , scoring five times .

Ahead of the 2012 ? 13 season , Charles signed a new two @-@ year contract with the club . He started in the club 's first game of the campaign , a 3 ? 1 home win over AFC Wimbledon in the League Cup , playing the whole game at left @-@ back . He scored his first goal of the season in a 1 ? 1 draw against Shrewsbury Town on 1 September 2012 , after cutting in from the wing to strike into the top corner to restore parity in the match . It turned out to be his only goal of the season as Charles played most of the season at left @-@ back , making 41 appearances during the campaign . With a year remaining on his current deal , Charles ' contract was extended for a further year in June 2013 , keeping him contracted to the club until the summer of 2015 . He made a goalscoring start to the 2013 ? 14 campaign , scoring after pouncing on a loose ball in a 4 ? 3 home defeat to Oldham Athletic on the opening day of the season .

= = = Burton Albion = = =

Charles signed for newly promoted League One club Burton Albion on a one @-@ year contract on 19 June 2015 . Having failed to appear for Burton , he joined League Two club AFC Wimbledon on loan until the end of 2015 ? 16 on 17 March 2016 . Charles started for AFC Wimbledon as they beat Plymouth Argyle 2 ? 0 at Wembley Stadium in the 2016 League Two play @-@ off Final , meaning they were promoted into League One for the first time .

= = = AFC Wimbledon = = =

On 31 May 2016 , Charles signed for AFC Wimbledon permanently after a successful loan spell at the club .

= = International career = =

Charles was named in the England C team , who represent England at non @-@ League level , in May 2009 , for the final of the 2007 ? 09 International Challenge Trophy against Belgium . He started the match to make his debut for England and they were defeated 1 ? 0 . He was called up to the team for a friendly against the Poland Olympic team in November , and he started the game as England won 2 ? 1 .

= = Style of play = =

Charles ' preferred position is centre @-@ back , although he can also play as a left @-@ back , left midfielder or centre @-@ forward .

= = Personal life = =

Charles was born in Ealing , London . His footballing hero when growing up was Ronaldo , and this was because he could " change any game with one bit of genius " . He supports Manchester United , and states that the 1999 UEFA Champions League Final between Manchester United and Bayern Munich was the best match he has ever watched . Charles ' ex @-@ partner was pregnant as of July 2009 .

= = Career statistics = =

As of match played 30 May 2016 .

= = Honours = =

Stevenage

League Two play @-@ offs : 2010 ? 11

AFC Wimbledon

League Two play @-@ offs : 2015 ? 16

Individual

Ebbsfleet United Player of the Year : 2008 ? 09