



The versatile, Castleford-born **Steve Payne** came through the youth ranks at Huddersfield Town but didn't trouble the first-team statisticians before being freed to join Macclesfield Town in December 1994. Steve won Conference titles with the Silkmen and played in their FA Trophy-winning side. In all, Steve made 112 Conference appearances for Macc, scoring four times, while working as a joiner. In his last year there he was the

side's skipper.

The Spireites paid £40,000 for Steve in 1999. He was well-known to supporters before his arrival, since he scored both goals in Chesterfield's 1998-9 defeat at Moss Rose and was involved in the incident that saw David Reeves sent off there. Steve settled into the back row alongside Steve Blatherwick and the two complemented each other neatly, but with Chesterfield's failure to score very much to the fore in 1999-2000, Steve was pitched up front as an emergency forward and responded well, his pace and opportunism giving him three goals to his credit.

When Stuart Howson arrived to take a central defence berth, Steve moved to fullback and continued to perform with distinction, winning a player of the year award for 2002. At full-back, a long throw emerged as a useful attacking weapon. He was appointed team captain the following year but found his opportunities limited by injuries that would eventually hasten his departure from Saltergate.

Despite problems with injury Macclesfield were tempted to pay £25,000 to take Steve back to Moss Rose in April 2004. His return was not a happy one and he played only 13 more times for Macc before the curtain came down on his League career. Having returned to his former trade of carpentry Steve moved into non-league football, with Northwich Victoria, Stalybridge Celtic and AFC Halifax Town.

For Chesterfield: 146 + 5 Football League appearances, 8 goals.

Career: 230 + 11 Football League appearances, 10 goals.