

= 2011 ? 12 York City F.C. season =

The 2011 ? 12 season was the ninetieth season of competitive association football and eighth season in the Football Conference played by York City Football Club , a professional football club based in York , North Yorkshire , England . Their eighth @-@ place finish in 2010 ? 11 meant it was their eighth successive season in the Conference Premier . The season covers the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 .

Gary Mills , who was starting his first full season as manager , signed eleven players before the summer transfer window closed . York occupied a play @-@ off position for most of the season , and finished the Conference Premier season in fourth place . York beat Mansfield Town 2 ? 1 on aggregate in the play @-@ off semi @-@ final . Luton Town were then beaten 2 ? 1 in the 2012 Conference Premier play @-@ off Final at Wembley Stadium , which meant the club was promoted into League Two , returning into the Football League after an eight @-@ year absence . Eight days beforehand , York won their first national knockout competition , with a 2 ? 0 victory over Newport County at Wembley in the 2012 FA Trophy Final . They were knocked out of the 2011 ? 12 FA Cup in the fourth qualifying round , after being beaten 2 ? 1 away at Wrexham .

Thirty players made at least one appearance in nationally organised first @-@ team competition , and there were nineteen different goalscorers . Goalkeeper Michael Ingham , defender James Meredith and midfielder Patrick McLaughlin missed only three of the fifty @-@ eight competitive matches played over the season . Matty Blair finished as leading scorer with twenty goals , of which ten came in league competition , eight came in the FA Trophy and two came in the play @-@ offs . The winner of the Clubman of the Year , voted for by the club 's supporters , was Scott Kerr for his first full season with the club .

= = Background and pre @-@ season = =

Just over a month into the 2010 ? 11 season , manager Martin Foyle resigned with York City fifteenth in the league table . Tamworth manager Gary Mills took over and after pushing for a play @-@ off place the team finished the season in eighth place . Released following the end of the season were Neil Barrett , Chris Carruthers , Leon Constantine , Liam Darville , Michael Gash , Levi Mackin and Andy McWilliams . George Purcell , Michael Rankine , Jonathan Smith , Peter Till and Greg Young also left the club after departing for Dover Athletic , Aldershot Town , Swindon Town , Fleetwood Town and Alfreton Town respectively . Jamal Fyfield , Michael Ingham and James Meredith signed new contracts with York , with David McDermott being retained on non @-@ contract terms .

New additions in defence ahead of the season 's start included goalkeeper Paul Musselwhite from Lincoln City and defender Lanre Oyebanjo from Histon . Midfielders to sign were Patrick McLaughlin from Newcastle United , Adriano Moké from Jerez Industrial ( via a spell at the Glenn Hoddle Academy ) , and Michael Potts from Blackburn Rovers , with winger Matty Blair joining from Kidderminster Harriers . Strikers Ashley Chambers , who had been on loan the previous season , and Liam Henderson signed from Championship sides Leicester City and Watford respectively . Striker Jason Walker was the only player signed for a fee , having cost £ 60 @,@ 000 from Luton Town .

New home and away kits were introduced for the second successive summer , the home kit featuring red shirts with a white ' V ' shape decoration toward the top of the shirt , light blue shorts with white trims on each side and white socks . The away kit included light blue shirts with the same ' V ' shape decoration , white shorts with light blue trims on each side and light blue socks . Pryors Solicitors continued as shirt sponsors for the third successive season .

= = Review = =

= = = August = = =

Walker scored an eighty @-@ third @-@ minute penalty kick and a ninetieth @-@ minute header to give York a 2 ? 1 victory away at Ebbsfleet United in the opening game of the season . A second victory came in York 's first home game of the season , a 3 ? 1 victory over Barrow , with Walker , McLaughlin and Blair scoring . Former Stockport County winger Danny Pilkington was signed on non @-@ contract terms following a trial with the club . The team 's first defeat of the season came after going down 1 ? 0 at home to AFC Telford United , after former York striker Craig Farrell scored an eighty @-@ seventh @-@ minute goal . York responded to this by defeating Kettering Town 5 ? 1 away from home , with Boucaud , Walker and Moké scoring in the first half and debutant Pilkington scoring the fifth in stoppage time . Shortly after this game , Kettering midfielder Jon Challinor was signed by York on a contract until January 2012 . York picked up their first clean sheet of the season after drawing 0 ? 0 away at Fleetwood Town . A second successive defeat at home came after Alfreton Town won 1 ? 0 at Bootham Crescent , with former York player Levi Mackin scoring the only goal with a penalty .

= = = September = = =

Walker scored what proved to be only a consolation after scoring in the eighty @-@ fourth @-@ minute against Tamworth , with York losing 2 ? 1 after conceding two penalties , both of which were awarded from fouls committed by Chris Smith . York 's first victory in four games came after Jamie Reed scored an eighty @-@ eighth @-@ minute winner to give the side a 1 ? 0 win at home to Bath City . This was followed by a 3 ? 0 win away at league leaders Wrexham , with first half goals from McLaughlin , Chambers and Reed handing York victory . York then drew 2 ? 2 at home to Darlington ; Reed opened the scoring in the second @-@ minute with a shot into the top corner from the edge of the penalty area , and in the seventy @-@ ninth @-@ minute Walker scored with a curling shot into the top corner to equalise for York . Chambers and Walker scored first half goals as York defeated Luton 3 ? 0 at home . After a four @-@ game unbeaten run York were defeated 3 ? 2 away at Gateshead , with former York loanee Jon Shaw scoring their three goals , and Walker and a Curtis own goal making up York 's tally .

= = = October = = =

Following defeat to Gateshead , York beat Stockport County away 2 ? 1 after Blair and Walker scored second @-@ half goals . York then went on to beat Braintree Town 6 ? 2 at home , with Chambers , McLaughlin , Fyfield , Walker and Moké scoring . Chambers scored in the sixty @-@ second @-@ minute with York 's goal in a 1 ? 1 draw away at Southport , before the home side scored an equaliser nine minutes from time . Chambers scored an eighty @-@ sixth @-@ minute winner in a 2 ? 1 victory at home to Grimsby Town , in which Walker had earlier scored with a bicycle kick for York in the first half . Walker scored twice at home against Cambridge United to give York a 2 ? 2 draw , with the equaliser being scored direct from a free kick in the eighty @-@ ninth @-@ minute . York then beat Hayes & Yeading United 4 ? 2 away , with Walker , Challinor , McLaughlin and Chambers scoring . York were knocked out of the FA Cup in the fourth qualifying round after losing 2 ? 1 away at Conference league leaders Wrexham , with McLaughlin scoring York 's only goal .

= = = November = = =

A second game with Wrexham in eight days finished in a 0 ? 0 draw at home , with Ingham making a number of fine saves to preserve the clean sheet . Henderson was signed by fellow Conference side Forest Green Rovers on a one @-@ month loan . York drew 0 ? 0 draw away at Barrow , with Walker and Boucaud being sent off during stoppage time . Striker Moses Ashikodi was signed on loan from league rivals Kettering until January 2012 . Reed gave York the lead away at Forest Green after scoring a penalty in the eighty @-@ third @-@ minute , before the home side scored an

equaliser in the fourth minute of stoppage time . York defeated Lincoln 2 ? 0 at home with Pilkington and McLaughlin scoring in each half .

= = = December = = =

A second successive victory came after a 7 ? 0 win at home to Kettering , in which Ashikodi scored against his parent club for his first for York goal . The other scorers were Reed , Challinor , Blair , McLaughlin and Chambers . York were held to a 0 ? 0 draw away at AFC Telford , in which Boucaud , Blair and Walker were denied from scoring by opposition goalkeeper Ryan Young during the first fifteen minutes . Challinor scored during stoppage time to secure an FA Trophy first round replay with Conference North side Solihull Moors , with the match ending a 2 ? 2 draw at Bootham Crescent . York won the replay away at Solihull 3 ? 0 , with Smith scoring his first goal of the season and Blair scoring twice . York suffered their first league defeat since September after losing 3 ? 2 at home to Kidderminster . Henderson scored his first goal for York with the equaliser away at Mansfield on Boxing Day , which finished a 1 ? 1 draw .

= = = January = = =

York were 2 ? 0 down in their New Year 's Day fixture at home to Mansfield until the seventy @-@ seventh @-@ minute when Blair scored , and in the first @-@ minute of stoppage time substitute Fyfield scored the equaliser to draw the game at 2 ? 2 . Ashikodi was signed on a permanent contract until the end of the season , having scored one goal in six appearances for the club while on loan . Challinor signed an extended contract until the end of the season , while McDermott was allowed to join AFC Telford after being unable to break into the team . Henderson joined Forest Green for a second loan spell , signing until the end of the season . On the same day , York signed former Fleetwood midfielder Scott Brown on a contract until the end of the season . Blair scored both of York 's goals in a 2 ? 0 victory away at Lincoln , which was the team 's first win in five league games . Striker Matthew Blinkhorn was signed on a contract until the end of the season after his contract with League of Ireland Premier Division side Sligo Rovers expired .

York won their FA Trophy second round game away at Salisbury City 6 ? 2 , with Blair , Reed , McLaughlin and Blinkhorn scoring the goals . York defeated Ebbsfleet 3 ? 2 at home for a second successive league win , in which Blair scored twice and James Meredith scored his first goal of the season . Smith scored York 's goal in a 1 ? 1 draw away at Kidderminster with a fifty @-@ seventh @-@ minute header , before the home side equalised in the eighty @-@ fifth @-@ minute . York fought back from two goals down in the following game away at Darlington , with Smith and Chambers scoring in the second half . Transfer deadline day saw the departure of Boucaud to Luton for a fee of £ 25 @,@ 000 , while Norwegian midfielder Erik Tønne was signed on loan from Sheffield United until the end of the season .

= = = February = = =

Free agents Chris Doig , a Scottish defender who previously played for Aldershot Town , and Ben Swallow , a Welsh winger who previously played for Bristol Rovers , were signed on contracts until the end of the season . Middlesbrough defender Ben Gibson was signed on loan until the end of the season . York progressed to the quarter @-@ finals of the FA Trophy after Ebbsfleet were beaten 1 ? 0 at home in the third round , courtesy of a second half Blair goal . Reed and Blinkhorn scored late goals to give York a 2 ? 1 victory at home to Stockport , with the visitors having taken the lead earlier in the second half . York suffered their first defeat in eight league games after losing 2 ? 1 at home to Gateshead . Progression to the semi @-@ final of the FA Trophy for the third time in five seasons came after York defeated Grimsby 1 ? 0 away in the quarter @-@ final , in which Scott Kerr scored his first goal for the club .

= = = March = = =

Oyebanjo , with his first goal for the club , and Walker scored to give York a 2 ? 0 victory at home to Hayes . This was followed by a 0 ? 0 home draw with Tamworth . York defeated Luton in the first leg of the FA Trophy semi @-@ final at Bootham Crescent , with Reed scoring a penalty in a 1 ? 0 victory . Fyfield scored the winning goal away at Grimsby during stoppage time with a twenty @-@ five yard strike , after Reed and Smith had scored York 's earlier goals in a 3 ? 2 victory . York reached the FA Trophy final for the second time in four seasons after drawing 1 ? 1 away at Luton in the semi @-@ final second leg , with Blair scoring a ninetieth @-@ minute equaliser , meaning the team went through 2 ? 1 on aggregate . Free agent midfielder Eugen Bopp was signed on a contract until the end of the season after a trial . York were beaten 2 ? 1 at home to Southport , with Reed 's eighty @-@ fourth @-@ minute goal not being enough to earn York any points , after the visitors had scored twice earlier in the second half . McLaughlin scored for the first time since December with the only goal in a 1 ? 0 victory away at Bath , which restored York 's position in the play @-@ offs . A second goal in two games from McLaughlin saw York equalise away at Luton in the eighty @-@ first @-@ minute , before Meredith scored an eighty @-@ sixth @-@ minute winner in a 2 ? 1 victory .

= = = April = = =

McLaughlin 's third goal in three games came in a 2 ? 1 defeat away at Newport County , with the home side scoring the winner twenty @-@ minutes from time through Romone Rose . York lost the second game in a row when league leaders Fleetwood won 1 ? 0 at Bootham Crescent , in which former York striker Richard Brodie scored the only goal in the seventy @-@ third @-@ minute . Blair and Oyebanjo scored in the second half to give York a 2 ? 0 victory away at Alfreton . Swallow was prematurely released by the club because of an internal issue . York drew 1 ? 1 at home to Newport with Walker scoring a second half equaliser , which was his first goal from open play since 22 October . Musselwhite was forced to make his debut in York 's visit to Cambridge due to an injury to Ingham , with York winning 1 ? 0 through a second half Walker goal . York were guaranteed a play @-@ off place after beating Braintree 1 ? 0 away , with Tønne scoring his first goal for the club in the seventy @-@ fifth @-@ minute . The league campaign concluded after a 1 ? 0 victory at home to Forest Green , with Moké scoring in the eighty @-@ second @-@ minute . The result meant York finished fourth in the Conference table and that they would play third @-@ placed Mansfield in the play @-@ off semi @-@ final . Following the game , Kerr was named as the season 's Clubman of the Year , voted for by the club 's supporters .

= = = May = = =

York drew 1 ? 1 with Mansfield at home in the first leg of the play @-@ off semi @-@ final . Mansfield took the lead in the twenty @-@ sixth @-@ minute after Exodus Geohagbon 's long throw was headed in by Ross Dyer , before York equalised on forty @-@ two minutes after Geohagbon scored an own goal from a Challinor cross . York defeated Mansfield 1 ? 0 after extra time in the second leg after Blair scored a header from a Walker cross in the 111th @-@ minute . With an aggregate score of 2 ? 1 York progressed to the play @-@ off final to play Luton . The club won its first national knockout competition , and first piece of silverware in nineteen years , after Newport were defeated 2 ? 0 in the 2012 FA Trophy Final at Wembley Stadium , with Blair and Oyebanjo scoring in the second half . Days after the Trophy victory , plans for a community stadium to be built at Monks Cross , which would be shared by York City and rugby league team York City Knights , were approved by City of York Council .

On 20 May 2012 , York regained their Football League status with promotion to League Two after a 2 ? 1 win over Luton in the 2012 Conference Premier play @-@ off Final at Wembley . Luton took the lead when Andre Gray scored in the second minute , before Chambers scored the equaliser on twenty @-@ six minutes with a low shot from a Smith hooked cross . The winner came two minutes into the second half after Blair , despite being in an offside position , scored from close range after

latching onto Parslow 's header . After the match , Blair was quoted as saying " I scored the goal and it feels unbelievable but I 'm not taking anything away from the other lads today . The back five , and Daniel Parslow in front , defended like heroes and were brilliant all game " . Mills summarised York 's achievements by saying " To come to Wembley two weeks running and do the double is an incredible feeling . In fact , with the ground announcement , it ? s been a terrific treble and probably the best hat @-@ trick ever at York City Football Club " .

The day after the play @-@ off final thousands turned out to witness the club 's players , management , staff and directors ride through York city centre on an open @-@ topped bus , in celebration of what The Press described as " an unsurpassed nine days in the Minstermen 's proud existence " .

= = Summary and aftermath = =

York occupied a play @-@ off position for the majority of the season , briefly rising as high as first place during the first month of the season while never dropping below fourteenth . For the third time in the space of six seasons , York had a better record away than at home in the league . The team won twelve matches , drew eight and lost three away , compared to winning eleven , drawing six and losing six at home . Ingham , McLaughlin and Meredith recorded the highest number of appearances during the season , each appearing in fifty @-@ five of York 's fifty @-@ eight games . Blair was top scorer in all competitions with twenty goals , followed by Walker , whose eighteen goals made him York 's leading league scorer . Three other players , Chambers , McLaughlin and Reed , reached double figures .

Prior to the club 's Football League return , York released Ashikodi , Blinkhorn , Bopp and Brown , while Meredith , Moké and Pilkington left on their own accord for Bradford City , Cambridge and Kidderminster . Challinor , Chambers , Doig , Fyfield , Ingham , Kerr and Parslow signed new contracts with the club . New players to join were defender Danny Blanchett from Burton Albion , midfielders Lee Bullock from Bradford , John McReady from Darlington and Jonathan Smith from Swindon , winger Michael Coulson from Grimsby and striker Oli Johnson from Oxford United . Midfielder Tom Platt was promoted to the first team squad from the youth team after signing a professional contract with the club .

= = Match details = =

League positions are sourced by Statto , while the remaining information is referenced individually .

= = = Conference Premier = = =

= = = League table ( part ) = = =

= = = FA Cup = = =

= = = FA Trophy = = =

= = = Conference Premier play @-@ offs = = =

= = Transfers = =

=== In ===

Brackets around club names denote the player 's contract with that club had expired before he joined York .

=== Out ===

Brackets around club names denote the player joined that club after his York contract expired .

=== Loans in ===

=== Loans out ===

== Appearances and goals ==

Source :

Numbers in parentheses denote appearances as substitute .

Players with names struck through and marked left the club during the playing season .

Players with names in italics and marked \* were on loan from another club for the whole of their season with York .

Players listed with no appearances have been in the matchday squad but only as unused substitutes .

Key to positions : GK ? Goalkeeper ; DF ? Defender ; MF ? Midfielder ; FW ? Forward