

= 2008 ? 09 York City F.C. season =

The 2008 ? 09 season was the eighty @-@ seventh season of competitive association football and fifth season in the Football Conference played by York City Football Club , a professional football club based in York , North Yorkshire , England . Their fourteenth @-@ place finish in 2007 ? 08 meant it was their fifth successive season in the Conference Premier . The season covers the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 .

Ahead of Colin Walker 's first start to a season as manager , York signed nine players before the summer transfer window closed . The season started with an eight @-@ match unbeaten run , but Walker was sacked in November 2008 after three successive defeats . Martin Foyle was appointed as his successor , and after the turn of the year York won only five league matches . Survival in the Conference Premier was achieved with a seventeenth @-@ place finish . York reached the 2009 FA Trophy Final at Wembley Stadium , being beaten 2 ? 0 by Stevenage Borough . They were eliminated from the 2008 ? 09 FA Cup in the fourth qualifying round , and from the 2008 ? 09 Conference League Cup in the Northern section fourth round .

Thirty @-@ three players made at least one appearance in nationally organised first @-@ team competition , and there were fourteen different goalscorers . Defender Danny Parslow missed only one of the fifty @-@ eight competitive matches played over the season . Richard Brodie finished as leading scorer with nineteen goals , of which fifteen came in league competition and four came in the FA Trophy . The winner of the Clubman of the Year award , voted for by the club 's supporters , was Parslow .

= = Background and pre @-@ season = =

Billy McEwan was sacked as manager of York City early into the 2007 ? 08 season , with the team nineteenth in the Conference Premier table and having recently been beaten by Conference South team Havant & Waterlooville in the FA Cup . After a six @-@ match unbeaten run as caretaker manager , Colin Walker was appointed as York 's permanent manager and led the team to a fourteenth @-@ place finish in the table . York released Darren Craddock , Stuart Elliott , Tom Evans , Ross Greenwood , Anthony Lloyd , Manny Panther and Alex Rhodes after the season ended , while Nicky Wroe and Martyn Woolford left for Torquay United and Scunthorpe United respectively .

Jimmy Beadle , Richard Brodie , Craig Farrell , Josh Mimms , Danny Parslow , Ben Purkiss , Mark Robinson and Onome Sodje signed new contracts ahead of 2008 ? 09 . York signed seven players before the season started ; they were goalkeepers Michael Ingham from Hereford United and Artur Krysiak on a one @-@ month loan from Birmingham City , defender Mark Greaves from Burton Albion , midfielders Niall Henderson from Raith Rovers , Steven Hogg from Gretna and Ben Wilkinson from Hull City , and striker Daniel McBreen from St Johnstone . Professional contracts were handed to three youth team players , those being defenders Andy McWilliams and Josh Radcliffe and winger Liam Shepherd . Greaves was named as York 's club captain for the season .

New home and away kits were introduced for the first time in two years . The home kit comprised red and navy blue halved shirts with red collars , navy blue shorts and navy blue socks with two white strips on the cuffs . The away kit included white shirts with black shoulders , white shorts and white socks with black cuffs . Last season 's third kit was retained , which featured light blue shirts with a maroon collar , bar a section under the neck which was light blue , and maroon trims on the sleeves , maroon shorts and light blue socks . CLP Industries continued as shirt sponsors for the fourth successive season .

= = Review = =

= = = August = = =

York 's season started with a 1 ? 0 victory away to Crawley Town , Farrell scoring the winner nineteen minutes from time . The second match was a 1 ? 0 home win over Wrexham , who had won their opening fixture 5 ? 0 against Stevenage Borough , with Greaves scoring the winner . Krysiak suffered a dislocated finger during this match , which resulted in him returning to Birmingham prematurely from his loan spell , and was replaced by Mimms , who gave an assured performance . York 's winning start to the season ended after a 1 ? 1 home draw with Histon , who took the lead through a Daniel Wright penalty kick in the first half , before McBreen scored the equaliser for York on sixty @-@ nine @-@ minutes .

Winger Simon Russell signed for the club from Kidderminster Harriers . York drew 2 ? 2 away to Northwich Victoria , which saw the team fight back on two occasions after twice being a goal down , with Brodie scoring his first goal of the season . He then scored in the third minute against Barrow , who equalised seven minutes later through Lee Hunt , in a home match that finished a 1 ? 1 home draw . Beadle was loaned out to Northern Premier League Premier Division club Whitby Town for a month , having not made any appearances in 2008 ? 09 . Sodje scored with a late volley after coming off the bench to give York a 1 ? 1 draw away to Torquay United to maintain the team 's unbeaten record , which looked under threat after Danny Stevens gave Torquay the lead on sixty @-@ five minutes . Sodje 's goal against Torquay won the first Conference Premier Goal of the Month competition , for August 2008 .

= = = September = = =

Grimsby Town midfielder Peter Bore joined on an initial one @-@ month loan on transfer deadline day . York drew for the fifth time in succession with a 1 ? 1 home draw with Mansfield Town , in which Sodje scored after he latched onto Adie Moses ' misplaced header . The team 's first victory in six games came in a 2 ? 0 home win over Woking ; the goals came from McBreen and a Danny Bunce own goal . A 4 ? 2 defeat away to Kettering Town saw York 's unbeaten run come to an end after nine games , leaving their opponents as the only unbeaten team in the division . Former Accrington Stanley striker David Brown , former Rotherham United defender Tom Hirst and Ipswich Town midfielder Jai Reason joined the club on trial . After impressing in a reserve match , Hirst was signed by the club . However , Brown and Reason were not offered contracts .

An eighty @-@ sixth @-@ minute equaliser from McBreen gave York a 1 ? 1 draw at home to Salisbury City , which maintained the team 's unbeaten record at Bootham Crescent . Parslow signed a new contract with the club , and Rotherham midfielder Peter Holmes joined on a one @-@ month loan . A second defeat of the season came after losing 2 ? 0 away to Kidderminster , Brian Smikle and Justin Richards scoring for the home team . Beadle was released by the club towards the end of his loan spell at Whitby , due to him looking for regular first team football . This was followed by the departure of Bore , who returned to Grimsby from his loan spell early . A 3 ? 3 draw away against Stevenage was achieved after the team were 2 ? 0 down after nineteen @-@ minutes , with the York goals coming from Sodje , Holmes and Farrell . Sodje picked up a hamstring injury during this match , meaning he would be out of action for four to six weeks .

= = = October = = =

Despite having the better chances , York drew 0 ? 0 at home with Cambridge United , before being beaten 3 ? 1 away by Wrexham , in which Wilkinson scored a late consolation goal . The club made an attempt to re @-@ sign former striker Clayton Donaldson on loan from Crewe Alexandra , but were told to make an inquiry four weeks later , due to him being injured . York 's first double of the season came with a 2 ? 0 away win over Woking , the goals coming from Wilkinson and McBreen . Ilyseden Christie 's loan spell at Kettering from Stevenage was to be terminated for a loan move to York to go ahead , but this deal fell through . Walker revealed he was interested in signing striker Bruce Dyer , shortly after he played against York 's reserves for Bradford City .

York achieved a consecutive victory for the first time in 2008 ? 09 after beating Rushden & Diamonds 2 ? 0 at home , with goals from Robinson and Farrell . After this match , Holmes was

recalled by Rotherham . Brodie was loaned to fellow Conference Premier side Barrow for one month , having lost his place in the starting line @-@ up . Former Leeds United midfielder Gavin Rothery impressed in the reserves against Hartlepool United , after which he signed a short @-@ term contract with the club . A 0 ? 0 home draw with Mansfield in the fourth qualifying round of the FA Cup resulted in a replay , which would be played at Field Mill . Radcliffe was sent out on loan for a month at Harrogate Railway Athletic of the Northern Premier League Division One North . York were eliminated from the FA Cup after a 1 ? 0 defeat away to Mansfield .

= = = November = = =

An eighty @-@ seventh @-@ minute penalty scored by Yemi Odubade saw York lose 1 ? 0 away to Oxford United . Dyer signed for the club , having been unattached after his release by Chesterfield at the end of 2007 ? 08 . Adam Boyes signed a long @-@ term professional contract ahead of York 's Conference League Cup third round tie against Mansfield , which was won with a 4 ? 2 penalty shoot @-@ out victory . This was preceded by Greaves ' headed goal in the fourth minute of stoppage time , earning the team a 1 ? 1 draw , which was followed by a goalless period of extra time . The attendance of 609 was the lowest crowd in the club history ? breaking the previous record of 763 set in the 2007 ? 08 Conference League Cup .

York lost 2 ? 1 at home to Torquay , in their first home defeat of the season . After Roscoe D 'Sane gave the visitors the lead , Greaves equalised for York with a header from a Purkiss cross in the eighty @-@ fifth minute , before Mark Ellis scored for Torquay on ninety minutes . A third successive defeat came after losing 1 ? 0 away to Cambridge . It was agreed that Brodie 's loan at Barrow would be extended after he scored four goals in six appearances , but York decided to overturn this decision a day later . Barrow hoped to open talks over signing him on a permanent contract in January 2009 .

Walker was sacked as manager , alongside head coach Eric Winstanley , and youth team coach Neil Redfearn took over as caretaker manager . He took charge of the team for the home match against Crawley , which finished a 2 ? 2 draw after Lewis Killeen scored the rebound from a Thomas Pinault penalty in the ninetieth @-@ minute . Former Port Vale manager Martin Foyle was appointed as manager , with Redfearn taking the role of assistant manager . Foyle made his first signing by bringing in winger Adam Smith on loan from Conference North club Gainsborough Trinity . Foyle 's first match in charge was a 1 ? 1 away draw against Salisbury City , which was earned following a Brodie goal in the eighty @-@ third @-@ minute .

= = = December = = =

A 1 ? 0 home defeat by Grays Athletic through a Wes Thomas goal followed ; this was Grays ' first away victory of the season . York followed this with a 1 ? 1 draw away to Histon , in which they took the lead through Brodie in the fourteenth @-@ minute , before Parslow scored an own goal on fifty @-@ nine minutes . North Ferriby United striker Steve Torpey was appointed as youth team coach to succeed Redfearn . Foyle 's first win as manager came in a 2 ? 0 away victory over Northwich Victoria in the FA Trophy first round , both goals coming from Brodie . This was followed with a 3 ? 1 home win over Ebbsfleet United , with goals from Adam Smith , Brodie and Sodje after being one goal down . Dyer retired from football , having only made three appearances for York through back and hamstring injuries , while Rothery was released . York 's two @-@ match winning run ended after a 2 ? 1 defeat away to league @-@ leaders Burton Albion , which was secured after Greaves scored an own goal . A 2 @-@ 1 home defeat by Altrincham followed ; Brodie scored a free kick in the thirty @-@ second minute to give York the lead , before Chris Senior and Dale Johnson scored for the visitors in the second half . Redfearn left the club to take charge of the Leeds under @-@ 18 team and Andy Porter , a former teammate of Foyle at Port Vale , was appointed as assistant manager .

= = = January = = =

The New Year began with a second defeat of the season to Burton , this time being beaten 3 ? 1 at home , in which Brodie scored in the first half with a shot from the edge of the penalty area . Wrexham defender Kyle Critchell was signed on a one @-@ month loan , who Foyle knew while he was a coach at the club . Adam Smith returned to Gainsborough following the conclusion of his loan , while a permanent move had been stalled as Gainsborough were holding out for a fee . Progression to the third round of the FA Trophy was ensured with a 2 ? 1 away victory over Oxford , with goals from McBreen and Brodie . Further signings from Wrexham took place when striker Simon Brown and midfielder Christian Smith signed on loan and permanently respectively . Hirst was released having failed to break into the first team . Lewes were beaten 3 ? 0 at home ; Brodie opened the scoring with a volley into the top corner from outside the penalty area , and Christian Smith scored from thirty yards before Brodie finished the scoring with a low shot into the bottom corner . Henderson was released having fallen out of the reckoning for a first team place .

York were knocked out of the Conference League Cup following a 3 ? 1 away defeat by Barrow in the Northern section fourth round . Midfielder Levi Mackin was signed on loan from Wrexham until the end of the season . He debuted in York 's 2 ? 1 away defeat to Eastbourne Borough , in which Christian Smith scored a header from Brown 's cross . Adam Smith rejoined York from Gainsborough on a permanent contract for an undisclosed fee . His return came as a substitute in York 's 1 ? 1 draw away to Altrincham , in which Brodie scored the equalising goal after Shaun Densmore put the home team in the lead . Farrell was loaned out to Oxford for the remainder of the season , as he sought more game time . York drew 1 ? 1 away with Kidderminster in the FA Trophy third round , in which Boyes scored his first goal for York , meaning a replay was to be played .

= = = February = = =

Critchell 's loan at York was extended for a second month , with the fitness of several York defenders in doubt . York were beaten 1 ? 0 away by Mansfield , courtesy of a Robert Duffy penalty , in the teams ' fourth encounter of the season . A 13 ? 12 penalty shoot @-@ out victory over Kidderminster followed a 1 ? 1 extra time draw in an FA Trophy replay ; in normal time , McBreen scored a header from a corner delivered by Simon Rusk before the away team equalised shortly after through Justin Richards . A new record for the most consecutive penalties scored in a shoot @-@ out was set , at twenty @-@ five . McBreen was reported to have signed for North Queensland Fury of the A @-@ League , although the transfer had yet to be confirmed by York . It was confirmed that he would join the Fury for the start of 2009 ? 10 in August 2009 . Former Wrexham defender Shaun Pejic signed after a successful trial at the club . York beat Conference South team Havant & Waterlooville 2 ? 0 at home in the fourth round of the FA Trophy to secure a place in the semi @-@ final , with both goals scored by McBreen . This was followed by a 2 ? 0 away defeat to Rushden in the league . York 's first league victory in a month was a 2 ? 0 home win over Weymouth , who were forced to play a weakened team due to their financial situation , and Brodie scored headers in each half .

= = = March = = =

Ingham made several important saves as York drew 0 ? 0 away to Ebbsfleet . The first leg of the FA Trophy semi @-@ final tie against AFC Telford United ended in a 2 ? 0 away win , with goals in each half from Rusk and Purkiss . A late goal from Sodje with a shot from the edge of the penalty area earned the team a 1 ? 1 draw away to Forest Green Rovers , after Kaid Mohamed had given the home side a first half lead . A 2 ? 1 home win over AFC Telford in the second leg of the FA Trophy semi @-@ final , with goals in each half from Brodie and McBreen , saw York progress into 2009 FA Trophy Final at Wembley Stadium with 4 ? 1 aggregate victory . This was followed by a 0 ? 0 home draw with Kettering in the league . Wilkinson joined divisional rivals Altrincham on loan until the end of the season , having failed to feature in the team since January 2009 . York drew 0 ? 0 with play @-@ off contenders Kidderminster at home , which was followed by a 2 ? 0 home defeat

to Stevenage .

= = = April and May = = =

York dropped into the relegation zone after a 1 ? 0 away defeat to Grays , who themselves moved out of the relegation zone and above York , and this was followed with a 0 ? 0 home draw with Oxford . They were beaten 2 ? 1 at home by Northwich ; Jonny Allan gave the visitors the lead in the first half and Robinson equalised with a penalty on sixty @-@ eight minutes , before Allan scored a stoppage @-@ time winner for Northwich . This was followed by a 0 ? 0 draw away to fellow strugglers Barrow . Before York 's penultimate home match against Eastbourne , Parslow was named the 2008 ? 09 Clubman of the Year , voted for by the club 's supporters . A 1 ? 0 victory saw York move out of the relegation zone , in what was their first league win in ten matches . It was achieved after McBreen scored from a Purkiss pass in the thirty @-@ fifth minute . A second successive win came at home to Forest Green , who York beat 2 ? 1 with second half goals from Boyes and Brodie .

A 2 ? 1 away victory over Weymouth saw York secure survival from relegation , with their opponents facing relegation as a result . Brodie gave York a fourteenth @-@ minute lead , and after Cliff Akurang equalised for Weymouth late in the first half , Boyes scored the winning goal thirteen minutes from time . York 's last league match was a 1 ? 1 away draw with bottom placed Lewes , Greaves scoring on eighty minutes before the home team equalised three minutes from time . This result saw them finish the season seventeenth the table . York were defeated 2 ? 0 by Stevenage in the 2009 FA Trophy Final at Wembley , who scored with second half goals from Steve Morison and Lee Boylan .

= = Summary and aftermath = =

York were in a mid @-@ table position for most of the season , and were as high as fifth in August 2008 , while dropping as low as twenty @-@ second in April 2009 . Their goalscoring record of forty @-@ seven goals scored was the fifth lowest in the division ; whereas , their defensive record of fifty @-@ one goals conceded was better than that of the champions Burton . Parslow made the highest number of appearances during the season , appearing in fifty @-@ seven of York 's fifty @-@ eight matches . Brodie was York 's top scorer in the league and in all competitions , with fifteen league goals and nineteen in total . McBreen was the only other player to reach double figures , with ten goals .

After the season ended , York released Greaves , Hogg , McBreen , Pejic , Radcliffe , Robinson , Rusk , Shepherd , Christian Smith and Wilkinson . Boyes , Farrell , Darren Kelly and Sodje left for Scunthorpe , Rushden , Portadown and Barnsley respectively . Brodie , McWilliams , Mimms and Purkiss signed new contracts with the club . Over the summer York signed defenders James Meredith from Shrewsbury Town , Alan O 'Hare from Mansfield and Djoumin Sangaré from Salisbury , midfielders Neil Barrett from Ebbsfleet , Andy Ferrell from Kidderminster , Alex Lawless from Forest Green , Mackin from Wrexham , winger Craig Nelthorpe from Oxford and strikers Michael Gash from Ebbsfleet , Richard Pacquette from Maidenhead United and Michael Rankine from Rushden . Striker Michael Emmerson was promoted from the youth team after he signed a professional contract with the club .

= = Match details = =

= = = Conference Premier = = =

= = = League table (part) = = =

=== FA Cup ===

=== FA Trophy ===

=== Conference League Cup ===

== 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