

= 1903 ? 04 Bradford City A.F.C. season =

The 1903 ? 04 season was the first season in Bradford City A.F.C. ' s history , having been founded on 29 May 1903 and then elected into the Football League to replace Doncaster Rovers in the Second Division . They finished in 10th position in the league and reached the fourth qualifying round of the FA Cup .

Bradford City were formed following a series of meetings during the first half of 1903 and replaced the former rugby league club of Manningham , whose Valley Parade ground they used . The club had already signed six players before they were accepted into the league before the rest of the side were later signed by a five @-@ man committee . The board directors appointed Robert Campbell as the club 's first manager . Bradford City 's first game ended in a 2 ? 0 defeat at Grimsby Town and the first home game resulted in another loss to Gainsborough Trinity . Club captain Johnny McMillan finished the top goalscorer with 14 league and two FA Cup goals .

= = Background = =

Organised league football had been played in the West Riding of Yorkshire since 1894 in the West Yorkshire League , but no side from the county had played in the Football League . So on 30 January 1903 , Scotsman James Whyte , a sub @-@ editor of the Bradford Observer , met with Football Association representative John Brunt at Valley Parade , the home of the city 's rugby league side Manningham Football Club , to discuss establishing a Football League club within Bradford . In May , Manningham 's committee decided to swap codes from rugby to association football and so the Football League decided to invite Bradford City to join their league in a bid to introduce association football to the West Riding , the main sport in which was rugby league . The League voted in favour of replacing Doncaster Rovers , who had finished the 1902 ? 03 season in 16th position in the Second Division , with Bradford City even though Bradford had yet to play a single game .

= = Review = =

= = = Pre @-@ season = = =

Even before Bradford City were guaranteed a place in the Football League , the club made its first acquisitions by signing Jack Forrest and Ben Prosser from Stoke on 1 May . These were followed by four more players joining the club ; Sam Bright , George Robinson , Peter O 'Rourke and Jimmy Millar . Despite not having enough players to field a full side , four club representatives travelled to London by the end of May for a league management committee meeting , when the club was elected into the Second Division . Money was raised to fund the club , including at least £ 2 @,@ 000 from sponsors , a balance of £ 500 from Manningham FC and proceeds from a summer archery tournament . Bradford City also took over Manningham 's Valley Parade ground for their home fixtures .

The four @-@ strong party which visited London , as well as newly elected Alfred Ayrtton made up five members of a 13 @-@ man sub @-@ committee which controlled club affairs . The first five , who also included J. Brunt , J.E. Fattorini , A.J. Foxcroft and J.T. Whyte , were responsible for first team matters . On 20 June , the club directors appointed former Sunderland secretary @-@ manager Robert Campbell as Bradford City 's first manager from a shortlist of 30 applicants . Campbell 's role was to coach the players , helped by trainer George Cutts . Ayrtton , who had been president of Manningham FC , became the club 's first chairman .

Bradford played no recorded pre @-@ season friendlies . Instead , Campbell and Cutts , decided on the first selection for the opening game of the season with Grimsby Town by playing a series of Whites v Stripes games between professionals already signed by the club and amateur players . The first squad was signed at a cost of £ 917 10s 0d , with the players choosing Johnny McMillan as

their own captain . Millar , a defender signed from Middlesbrough , was chosen as vice @-@ captain .

= = = September = = =

Bradford City 's first league game was at Blundell Park against Grimsby Town on 1 September 1903 , on a sunny Tuesday evening in front of 10 @,@ 000 fans . The pioneering team consisted of Arthur Seymour in goal , defenders Willie Wilson , Fred Halliday , George Robinson , Jimmy Millar and Thomas Farnall with Richard Guy , John Beckram , Jack Forrest , Johnny McMillan and John Graham in attack . Graham , Beckram and Guy all came close to giving City an opening day lead , but Grimsby scored through Archie Dunn . After City were reduced to ten men because of an injury to Guy , Fred Rouse doubled Grimsby 's lead in the second half ; Grimsby finished the victors 2 ? 0 . Four days later , City hosted their first home at Valley Parade against Gainsborough Trinity . The game attracted 11 @,@ 000 spectators even though there was no covered accommodation for fans . Among the spectators was Bradford 's Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress . City lost 3 ? 1 with Guy scoring the club 's first ever league goal , but they also had a goal disallowed and missed a penalty . The Bradford Daily Argus reported that the goal was " greeted with a shout which awoke babies on the distant hillsides of Bolton and Eccleshill . The match highlights were shown in Bradford 's St George 's Hall later in the same evening .

Bradford won their first game in the league in their third game of the season , with a 2 ? 0 victory against Burton United at Peel Croft . A week later , they won their first game at their Valley Parade home by defeating Bristol City 1 ? 0 . McMillan scored in each game , with Forrest also scoring against Burton . They finished the month with a 3 ? 1 loss at Manchester United .

= = = October = = =

Bradford played only two league games during October . The first ended in a 5 ? 2 defeat to Burslem Port Vale ; the second ? on 24 October ? finished in a 3 ? 1 victory to Bradford against fellow Yorkshire side Barnsley . Instead , City played their first games in the FA Cup in the club 's history . The first qualifying round match and the club 's debut in the competition was a 6 ? 1 victory against Rockingham Colliery with six different City players on the scoresheet . City progressed through the following two qualifying rounds against Mirfield United and Worksop Town , with all three games being held at Valley Parade .

During October , City also hosted an inter @-@ league game between the English and Irish Leagues at Valley Parade . Although the ground was not up to high standards , the Football League was keen to encourage football in Bradford . An estimated 20 @,@ 000 supporters attended the match which finished with a 2 ? 1 victory for the Football League . The club also made their first signing since the start of the season , bringing in forward Thomas Drain from Scottish side Maybole .

= = = November and December = = =

City went another two weeks before playing again when their FA Cup run came to an end with a 2 ? 1 defeat at their fellow Second Division side Chesterfield in the fourth qualifying round . They returned to league action on 21 November against Bolton Wanderers , nearly a month since their win against Barnsley . Drain , who had scored on his debut against Barnsley , scored Bradford 's first ever hat @-@ trick , but the game finished in a 3 ? 3 draw . A week later , Drain scored for the third successive league match but City lost 3 ? 2 to Burnley .

Bradford played six games during December , with the first two ending in draws against Preston North End and Stockport County . On 19 December , City defeated Leicester Fosse 4 ? 0 at Valley Parade . It was City 's highest league victory of the season with McMillan scoring his side 's second hat @-@ trick of the campaign . City finished the month with three games in the space of four days . They first lost 4 ? 1 to Woolwich Arsenal on Christmas Day , before a 1 ? 0 victory at Blackpool .

The year finished with a draw against Port Vale .

== January , February and March ==

At the turn of the new year , City were defeated by Gainsborough Trinity , before they completed their first double by defeating Burton United 3 ? 0 . Two draws followed ? against Bristol City and Manchester United . City extended their unbeaten run by winning all three matches during February , with victories against Glossop , Barnsley and Lincoln City . Each victory finished 2 ? 1 with Beckram , Drain and Robinson all scoring twice during the month . The club 's six @-@ game unbeaten run came to an end in the return fixture at Glossop , with further defeats following against Stockport County and Chesterfield . The three @-@ game losing streak was overturned with a 3 ? 0 win over Burnley ; Graham scored twice to become the third player to score more than one goal during a league game .

== April ==

City packed in eight games during April to complete the league season . On 1 April , they lost to Lincoln City and then the following day they lost to Preston North End . A third game in four days finished in a 1 ? 1 draw with Chesterfield . The first victory of the month came in the reverse fixture against the club 's first ever league opponents Grimsby Town . City lost 1 ? 0 to Bolton Wanderers before a 2 ? 1 victory followed against Leicester Fosse , with McMillan scoring one of the goals . The final two matches both ended in defeats without City scoring ; first to Arsenal , then to Blackpool . City finished 10th at the end of the first season recording 31 points from 34 games .

Team captain McMillan finished as the club 's top scorer with 14 goals . He played 32 games , with goalkeeper Seymour , half @-@ back Robinson and forward Graham all being ever @-@ presents . With the advent of league football in Bradford , thousands of people came to home games , resulting in the club 's end @-@ of @-@ season receipts totalling £ 3 @,@ 896 . It resulted in a small operating loss from the first season , but donations helped the club record a profit of £ 39 in their first season in the Football League . Following the end of the season , the club released six players and also sold Guy to Leeds City .

== Match results ==

== Legend ==

== Football League Second Division ==

Source : Frost

== FA Cup ==

Source : Frost

== League table ==

Source : Butler