

= History of York City F.C. ( 1908 ? 80 ) =

York City Football Club is a professional association football club based in York , North Yorkshire , England . The history of York City F.C. from 1908 to 1980 covers the period from the club 's original foundation , through their reformation and progress in the Football League , to the end of the 1979 ? 80 season .

Originally founded in 1908 , York City played several seasons in the Northern League and Midland League before going into liquidation during the First World War . The club was reformed in 1922 and was elected to play in the Midland League for 1922 ? 23 . After seven seasons in the Midland League , they were elected to play in the Football League for 1929 ? 30 , and were placed in the Third Division North . During the Second World War , York played in regional competitions , before the Football League restored its usual competitions in 1946 ? 47 . After fourteen seasons in the Football League , the club was required to apply for re @-@ election for the first time because they finished 1949 ? 50 at the bottom of the Third Division North . York had their best FA Cup season in 1954 ? 55 , when they reached the semi @-@ final ; they were defeated by First Division club Newcastle United in a replay .

York played in the Third Division North until 1958 ? 59 , when a league reorganisation placed them in the Fourth Division . The same season , they finished third and won their first @-@ ever promotion , but were relegated after one season . York won another promotion in 1964 ? 65 , but were again relegated after one season . The club won a third promotion to the now @-@ unified Third Division in 1970 ? 71 , remaining there for the next two seasons on goal average . They were promoted into the Second Division for the first and only time in 1973 ? 74 . By mid @-@ October 1974 , York were in fifth place ? their highest league placing ? before finishing 1974 ? 75 in fifteenth place . They faced two successive relegations in 1976 and 1977 , and a twenty @-@ second place finish in the 1977 ? 78 Fourth Division forced the club to apply for re @-@ election .

= = 1908 ? 17 : Foundation and liquidation of original club = =

With the expansion of the York & District League ( formed 1897 ) at a time when association football was gaining national popularity , demand for a club representative of the city of York arose . York City Football Club was founded as an amateur club , joining the Northern League for the 1908 ? 09 season and acquiring a ground in Holgate Road at the end of Lindley Street and Murray Street . York won their first match 2 ? 1 at home to South Bank , but finished the season eleventh out of twelve teams in the Northern League . During this season the club entered the FA Amateur Cup ; after beating Withernsea and St Paul 's the team were knocked out by Scarborough in a replay . York finished in last place in 1909 ? 10 , before joining the Yorkshire Combination to reduce travelling . York competed in this division for two seasons ; after finishing eighth in a ten @-@ team league in 1910 ? 11 they ranked in the same position in an expanded league of fourteen teams the following season .

J. E. Wright took over as secretary in 1911 , and advocated the formation of a limited company to run a professional club , believing amateur football would not succeed in a rugby league stronghold . The club turned professional in 1912 , and acquired a rough plot of land known as Field View . York were admitted into the Midland League in June 1912 , and the new ground was opened with a 2 ? 1 win over Rotherham Town , which was played before 5 @,@ 000 spectators . They played in the Midland League for three seasons , achieving a highest finish of tenth of twenty teams in 1912 ? 13 before ranking twelfth in an eighteen @-@ team league the following season . York were invited to a meeting to discuss the formation of a Third Division of the Football League , but with the outbreak of the First World War the meeting did not take place . Because of hostilities the Midland League was suspended after 1914 ? 15 , in which York ranked sixteenth of twenty teams . The club went into liquidation through the bankruptcy court in August 1917 after a creditor pressed for payment for the ground 's stand . York 's ground was taken over by the York Corporation , who leased it to allotment @-@ holders .

= = 1922 ? 39 : Refoundation and establishment in Football League = =

As local football continued to expand after the war , and with the success of the newly formed Yorkshire League , demand for another senior team in York arose . At a meeting held at the Co @-@ operative Hall in York on 6 May 1922 , the decision was made to form the York City Association Football and Athletic Club Limited , with W. H. Shaw as chairman . Despite having neither a ground nor players , an application was made for election into the Football League ; this was unsuccessful but the club was admitted into the Midland League on 10 June 1922 . York 's first match was away to Notts County reserves on 6 September 1922 , and despite a good performance the team lost 4 ? 2 . York had to play their first two home matches at Mille Crux , the ground of Messrs Rowntree & Company Limited , because their Fulfordgate ground was not ready . Their first match at Fulfordgate came on 20 September 1922 , with a 4 ? 1 victory against Mansfield Town . York finished 1922 ? 23 in nineteenth place ; they had been placed mid @-@ table in early @-@ March 1923 but failed to win any of their remaining fourteen fixtures . In the same year York reached the final of the North Riding Senior Cup but lost 4 ? 2 to Middlesbrough reserves at Ayresome Park on 10 March 1923 . The club 's first season proved disappointing financially , with a loss of £ 718 reported , and as a consequence Shaw relinquished the chairmanship to Arthur Brown . York entered the FA Cup for the first time in 1923 ? 24 and reached the first qualifying round , losing 3 ? 1 to Mexborough Town in a second replay . They again ranked nineteenth in the table with an almost identical record to the previous season 's .

For 1924 ? 25 the Midland League was reorganised because eight Football League clubs withdrew their reserve teams from the competition . York finished sixth in the Principal Competition that concluded in February 1925 and were runners @-@ up to Denaby United in the North Subsidiary Competition . The club struggled financially in this period , and was only kept going by the enthusiasm and generosity of the directors . John Fisher , one of these benefactors , was elected chairman in 1925 . The Midland League was restored to its previous size for 1925 ? 26 and York finished in sixteenth place after a poor start to the season , from which they never recovered . York enjoyed their most successful Midland League season in 1926 ? 27 , when they finished in sixth place and scored ninety @-@ six goals in thirty @-@ eight league matches . They surpassed the FA Cup 's qualifying rounds for the first time this season , being beaten 2 ? 1 by Second Division side Grimsby Town at Blundell Park in the second round . In 1927 the club made its first serious attempt for election into the Football League , but Barrow and Accrington Stanley were re @-@ elected instead . Fisher resigned as chairman in August 1927 and Brown took the position for the second time . After ranking seventh in the Midland League in 1927 ? 28 , York appointed their first official manager in July 1928 , with Jock Collier named as player @-@ manager . York finished ninth in 1928 ? 29 , and Jimmy Cowie was the divisional top scorer with forty @-@ nine goals . This was York 's last season in the Midland League as the club won election into the Football League on 3 June 1929 , taking the place of Ashington in the Third Division North .

York 's first match in the Football League was against Wigan Borough at Springfield Park on 31 August 1929 and finished with a 2 ? 0 victory for the visitors . Reg Stockill , the scorer of the first goal , became the youngest player to represent the club in a competitive match at the age of 15 years and 281 days . The 1929 ? 30 season brought two meetings with First Division club Newcastle United in the FA Cup third round , and a sixth place finish in York 's debut Football League season . Collier resigned as manager in May 1930 and George Sherrington took over for the following three years , combining this with his role as club secretary . Sherrington 's first season in charge saw York rank twelfth in the league , and they again faced First Division opposition in the FA Cup third round , taking Sheffield United to a replay . Despite an improved league position of ninth in 1931 ? 32 , York were eliminated from the FA Cup in the first round . This , combined with disappointing average home crowds , resulted in a deficit of £ 1 @,@ 539 over the season . In August 1932 , York moved to a new ground at Bootham Crescent , which was closer than Fulfordgate to the club 's centre of support and the railway station . The ground was officially opened for a match with Stockport County on 31 August 1932 ; it ended a 2 ? 2 draw , and the first goalscorer at the ground was Tom Mitchell . York 's worst performance in the Football League to date came in 1932 ? 33 , finishing in twentieth

place . The club only avoided having to seek re @-@ election after winning the last match of the season .

Collier was re @-@ appointed manager in May 1933 , and York enjoyed a better season in 1933 ? 34 , finishing twelfth in the Third Division North . The club finished in fifteenth place in 1934 ? 35 , and Bootham Crescent staged its first match against First Division opposition when Derby County defeated York 1 ? 0 in the FA Cup third round . In 1935 ? 36 York ranked in sixteenth place , and by the end of the season the club 's debt was £ 7 @ , @ 048 . The annual report stated that " increased support must be forthcoming if the club was to retain its Football League status " . The team reached the FA Cup fourth round for the first time in 1936 ? 37 , being eliminated by Second Division club Swansea Town in a replay . Collier retired from football in March 1937 to go into business with his brother , and was replaced by Tom Mitchell . The team finished an inconsistent season in twelfth place . The 1937 ? 38 season saw York placed " firmly on the football map " , as the team eliminated First Division West Bromwich Albion and Middlesbrough from the FA Cup , before meeting Huddersfield Town in the sixth round . This match saw York draw 0 ? 0 at home before a crowd of 28 @ , @ 123 , the club 's record highest attendance . York lost the replay 2 ? 1 at Leeds Road , a match that attracted 58 @ , @ 066 spectators . By the end of that season 's FA Cup run York were on the fringe of the promotion race but faltered in the closing weeks and finished in eleventh place . The club avoided having to apply for re @-@ election with a win in the penultimate match of 1938 ? 39 , ranking twentieth in the table . W. H. Sessions was appointed chairman to succeed Brown in 1939 .

= = 1939 ? 59 : Wartime football , FA Cup run and first promotion = =

At the outbreak of the Second World War in September 1939 the Football League was suspended indefinitely , leaving the club with no revenue . The Football League organised regional competitions after the government gave the Football Association permission for football to proceed on a wartime footing . York decided to carry on playing and were placed in the North East League , where they ranked eighth in their section of eleven clubs . In the final weeks of 1939 ? 40 , York competed in the Football League War Cup . The club was placed in the Football League North for 1940 ? 41 , and finished thirty @-@ second in the thirty @-@ six @-@ club league . They beat Sheffield Wednesday 7 ? 0 in the War Cup , before being eliminated by Newcastle United in the second round . After completing eighteen fixtures in the 1941 ? 42 Football League North , York competed in the league @-@ organised qualifying stage of the War Cup . They were eliminated after ranking thirty @-@ third of fifty @-@ four clubs , failing to qualify for the knock @-@ out stages by one place . York played in the Combined Counties Cup in the season 's closing weeks , and beat Halifax Town 5 ? 4 over two legs in the final .

After ranking seventeenth of forty @-@ eight clubs in the Football League North in 1942 ? 43 , York progressed through the War Cup qualifying stages , reaching the semi @-@ final of a major cup competition for the first time . They were beaten 4 ? 1 over two legs by Sheffield Wednesday . In the 1943 ? 44 Football League North the team finished thirty @-@ first of fifty clubs , and after qualifying for the War Cup knock @-@ out stages were eliminated 7 ? 2 over two legs by Bradford Park Avenue in the second round . York experienced selection problems in 1944 ? 45 with many players leaving for war service ; after ranking forty @-@ second of fifty @-@ four clubs in the Football League North , they then failed to qualify for the War Cup knock @-@ out stages . They extended their programme by competing in the Tyne , Wear and Tees Cup . Although hostilities had finished by the start of 1945 ? 46 , there was insufficient time for the Football League to restore its usual competitions . York finished mid @-@ table in the Third Division North ( East ) in the first half of the season , before reaching the second round of the Third Division North ( East ) Cup after qualifying through the group stages . The FA Cup resumed this season , and for the first and only time ties were played on a two @-@ legged basis . York reached the fourth round , at which point they were beaten 11 ? 1 on aggregate by Sheffield Wednesday . York made a profit in five of the seven seasons played during the war .

Peacetime football resumed in 1946 ? 47 , with the same fixture list as the abandoned 1939 ? 40

season . York endured a mid @-@ season run of ten defeats from eleven matches , before their form improved , and five wins from the last eight matches saw them finish in fifteenth place in the Third Division North . They were top of the table by mid @-@ September 1947 , before a run of two wins from thirteen matches saw them drop to eighteenth place . York finished 1947 ? 48 in thirteenth place , and the club recorded a net profit of £ 4 @,@ 914 ; a balance surplus of £ 1 @,@ 843 was carried forward . In September 1948 York purchased their Bootham Crescent ground , which had been leased since 1932 , for £ 4 @,@ 075 . They achieved their record average league attendance of 10 @,@ 412 during 1948 ? 49 at the peak of the post @-@ war attendance boom . The team enjoyed a run of eight successive league wins at home spanning September 1948 to January 1949 , but failed to win any of their last seven fixtures to finish 1948 ? 49 in fourteenth place .

Mitchell resigned as manager in February 1950 and was replaced in April with Dick Duckworth , a former York player . York were forced to apply for re @-@ election to retain their place in the Football League for the first time , after finishing bottom of the Third Division North in 1949 ? 50 . They did not have to enter the ballot because the Football League was to be extended to ninety @-@ two clubs for 1950 ? 51 . Despite York 's senior team 's troubles , the reserve team scored over one hundred goals to finish sixth in the Midland League , and won the North Riding Senior Cup for the first time after beating Middlesbrough 3 ? 0 at Ayresome Park in the final . York 's fortunes improved in 1950 ? 51 ; they ranked seventeenth in the league and reached the FA Cup third round for the first time since 1946 , when they were beaten 2 ? 0 by First Division Bolton Wanderers at Burnden Park . York 's best post @-@ war season to date came in 1951 ? 52 , as they finished in tenth place and set a home record of sixteen wins , four draws and three defeats . York chased promotion in 1952 ? 53 , and by late @-@ January 1953 they were third in the table . They finished in fourth place with fifty @-@ three points ; both new club records in the Football League . During this season Duckworth was reluctantly released from his contract to take charge at Stockport County in October 1952 . His successor , the former Grimsby Town manager Charlie Spencer , died in February 1953 . Sheffield United 's assistant manager Jimmy McCormick was appointed in June 1953 , and by late @-@ December York were bottom of the table . A win in the last match of 1953 ? 54 meant they finished in twenty @-@ second place , and avoided having to apply for re @-@ election . Sessions resigned as chairman in November 1953 and was succeeded by Hugh Kitchin .

After a dispute with the directors over team selection , McCormick resigned in September 1954 , after which team affairs were handled by trainer Tom Lockie and secretary George Sherrington . With an emphasis on close @-@ passing attacking football , the team embarked on a ten @-@ match unbeaten sequence . In the 1954 ? 55 FA Cup , York became the first third @-@ tier club to participate in an FA Cup semi @-@ final replay . York beat Scarborough , Dorchester Town , Blackpool ( winners of the competition eighteen months earlier ) , Bishop Auckland , Tottenham Hotspur and Notts County in the previous rounds before playing Newcastle United in the semi @-@ final . After drawing 1 ? 1 at Hillsborough , York were defeated 2 ? 0 in the replay at Roker Park , which ended an FA Cup campaign in which Arthur Bottom scored eight goals . The team were billed " The Happy Wanderers " after a popular song ; Henry Rose of the Daily Express said , " There are no weak spots in this First Division side masquerading in Third Division shirts " . By the end of the cup run , York were on the fringes of the Third Division North promotion race , but injuries and a congested fixture list led to them finishing fourth in 1954 ? 55 . Bottom was the divisional top scorer that season , with thirty @-@ one goals .

York were optimistic for 1955 ? 56 , and they were top of the table after ten matches . A run of nine consecutive matches without a win saw York drop out of promotion contention , and they finished eleventh . That season 's FA Cup run included a 2 ? 1 win over a Swansea Town side featuring eight Wales internationals at Vetch Field in the third round . They then played First Division Sunderland , billed as the " Bank of England club " because of their high expenditure on transfers , York were beaten 2 ? 1 at Roker Park in a replay . During this season York filled the managerial position that had been vacant for the last eighteen months ; Arsenal player Don Roper rejected the job before Sam Bartram was appointed in March 1956 . Bartram , a former Charlton Athletic player , was a popular choice , having been a favourite with the fans while playing for the club during the war . York invested heavily in transfers for 1956 ? 57 , spending £ 12 @,@ 000 on fees ? a sizeable

amount at that time . The aim was promotion into the Second Division , but the team failed to make the intended impact and finished in seventh place . The 1957 ? 58 season was the last of regionalised football ; the top twelve clubs in the North and South sections would form the new Third Division , and the bottom clubs would become founder members of the Fourth Division . York went into the Easter period third from bottom , but after seven wins and three draws in their last ten matches they missed out on a top @-@ twelve position on goal average . York led the Fourth Division until early @-@ November 1958 , and despite faltering mid @-@ term continued strongly to finish third in 1958 ? 59 and gain promotion for the first time . They only missed out on the runner @-@ up spot to Coventry City on goal average .

= = 1959 ? 80 : Promotions , relegations and spell in Second Division = =

By late @-@ February 1960 , York were placed twelfth in the Third Division . After one season , in which the team won only two of their last fourteen matches , they were relegated from the Third Division in twenty @-@ first place . Bartram was released from his contract in July 1960 and was replaced by Lockie . His team started 1960 ? 61 well , and were fourth by mid @-@ November 1960 . York endured five successive defeats before a winning run in the New Year revived their promotion hopes . They finished the season in fifth place , having won only one of their last seven matches . Throughout 1961 ? 62 York were in or around the top four places , but missed out on promotion after losing 1 ? 0 to Aldershot in the last match , finishing in sixth place . That season , York enjoyed their best run in the newly instituted League Cup . In this competition they beat First Division club Leicester City , but were eliminated after a 2 ? 1 defeat to divisional rivals Rochdale at Spotland Stadium in the fifth round . York made a poor start to 1962 ? 63 and were second from bottom by late @-@ December 1962 , but their form improved from March 1963 and they finished the season fourteenth . Club historian David Batters described the 1963 ? 64 season as " one of the worst in the club 's history " . York spent most of the season in the bottom four before finishing twenty @-@ second , having to apply for re @-@ election for the second time . This application was successful , as the club polled the maximum forty @-@ eight votes . During this season a football betting scandal exposed by the newspaper Sunday People accused York player Jack Fountain of fixing match results . His contract was terminated and he was found guilty of fixing two matches York lost .

York produced some of their best football in a decade in 1964 ? 65 , winning twenty league matches at home ? a club record ? and ending the season in third place to gain promotion , one point behind champions Brighton & Hove Albion . The following season they were in the bottom four by late @-@ December 1965 . They finished the season in bottom place and were relegated back into the Fourth Division , having conceded a club @-@ record 106 goals . After the season ended York released Norman Wilkinson , who had scored a record 143 goals for the club . York struggled throughout 1966 ? 67 and finished twenty @-@ second after a club @-@ record eight successive defeats . The club was forced into its third re @-@ election bid , which was successful with forty @-@ five votes . Kitchen resigned the chairmanship in June 1967 and was succeeded by Derrick Blundy , who held the position for sixteen months , after which Eric Magson took over . York started 1967 ? 68 winning none of their first thirteen matches . Their first win came in late @-@ October 1967 , by which time Lockie had become the first manager to be sacked by the club . Former Sheffield United player Joe Shaw took charge in November 1967 , and York rose from bottom place to fourteenth by late @-@ March 1968 . However , they won none of their last eight matches and finished twenty @-@ first . Another application for re @-@ election was made , which was successful with forty @-@ six votes . Shaw resigned for personal reasons a week into 1968 ? 69 , and former Huddersfield Town manager Tom Johnston succeeded him in October 1968 . Poor away form led to York finishing twenty @-@ first , and the club 's application for re @-@ election was successful with forty @-@ five votes . The team reached the FA Cup third round , and were beaten 2 ? 0 at home by First Division Stoke City .

York were fourth in the table twelve matches into 1969 ? 70 . Their promotion challenge faded and they finished the season thirteenth . York reached the fourth round of the FA Cup for the first time

since 1958 , and played two Second Division teams ; after beating Cardiff City 3 ? 1 at St Andrew 's in a second replay , they lost 4 ? 1 to Middlesbrough at Ayresome Park . Barry Jackson , who made a club @-@ record 539 appearances for York , was released at the end of the season . York started 1970 ? 71 strongly , and after faltering mid @-@ season they went unbeaten in sixteen consecutive matches to enter the top four . Despite losing three of their last four fixtures , York remained in fourth place to earn a third promotion . They also reached the FA Cup fourth round for the second successive season ; after drawing 3 ? 3 at home to First Division Southampton they were beaten 3 ? 2 in the replay at the Dell . York started 1971 ? 72 with three wins from eight matches , but after failing to win in eleven consecutive matches they dropped into the bottom four . They finished nineteenth on goal average and avoided relegation . In the third round of the League Cup York played First Division club Sheffield United , losing 3 ? 1 at Bramall Lane . York failed to win any of their first eleven matches in 1972 ? 73 , but results improved and they were tenth in the table by early @-@ March 1973 . Another downturn in form followed before York beat Rotherham United in the last match of the season to finish eighteenth , avoiding relegation from the Third Division on goal average for the second successive year .

From mid @-@ November 1973 York remained within the top three in 1973 ? 74 and won promotion into the Second Division for the first time , in the season " three up , three down " was introduced in the top three divisions . Promotion was secured after a 1 ? 1 home draw against Oldham Athletic on 27 April 1974 . This season , York held First Division Manchester City to a 0 ? 0 home draw in the League Cup fourth round , before being beaten 4 ? 1 in the replay at Maine Road . In January 1974 Bob Strachan became chairman and served on the FA Council , the first York official to do so . The team drew 1 ? 1 at home with Aston Villa in their opening Second Division match on 17 August 1974 , with Barry Lyons the York goalscorer . After starting 1974 ? 75 well , York were fifth in the table by mid @-@ October 1974 ? the club 's highest @-@ ever placing in the Football League . York finished in fifteenth place , and the season 's highlights included doubles over Norwich City ? who won promotion ? and Fulham ? who were FA Cup finalists that season . York were exempt from the FA Cup until the third round , where they drew 1 ? 1 with First Division team Arsenal at Highbury ; in the replay , Arsenal won 3 ? 1 after extra time at York . Johnston left to take over at Huddersfield Town in January 1975 , and was succeeded in February by former Manchester United manager Wilf McGuinness . York started 1975 ? 76 with two wins from eight fixtures , but a run of ten defeats from eleven matches saw them drop into the bottom two . Seven successive defeats in the New Year saw York drop to bottom place , although results improved in the season 's closing weeks . They were relegated into the Third Division in twenty @-@ first place , after a 2 ? 2 home draw with Chelsea on 24 April 1976 . They lost their League Cup second round match 1 ? 0 at home to First Division Liverpool .

York started 1976 ? 77 poorly , and they were in the bottom two of the Third Division for most of the first half of the season . The mid @-@ season signings Chris Galvin and Gordon Staniforth marked an improvement in results , but after winning only one of their last fifteen matches they finished in bottom place and were relegated for the second successive season . The 1977 ? 78 season also started poorly ; York lost seven of their opening twelve matches , leaving them seventeenth in the table . McGuinness was sacked in October 1977 and was succeeded the following month by Charlie Wright , a former Charlton Athletic player . York remained in the lower reaches of the table and finished the season in twenty @-@ second place , forcing the club to apply for re @-@ election for the sixth time . This was successful , as the club polled the maximum number of votes . This season , attendances fell to an all @-@ time low , and amid growing financial trouble , Michael Sinclair took over as chairman in a boardroom shuffle in April 1978 . Results improved in 1978 ? 79 ; York finished tenth in the Fourth Division and reached the FA Cup fourth round . They played reigning First Division champions and European Cup winners @-@ elect Nottingham Forest , and were beaten 3 ? 1 at the City Ground . In 1979 ? 80 York were consistently in the lower reaches of the table , before finishing seventeenth . With the club eighteenth in the table by mid @-@ March 1980 Wright was sacked . Youth coach Barry Lyons succeeded him , initially as caretaker manager , before being appointed permanently in May 1980 .