

= Bootham Crescent =

Bootham Crescent is an association football ground in York , North Yorkshire , England , and is the home of York City Football Club . With a capacity of 8 @, @ 256 , the ground is located near the centre of the city , just over a mile from York railway station .

York City leased land at Bootham Crescent from York Cricket Club as a replacement for their ground at Fulfordgate , which was on the outskirts of the city . The ground was constructed in four months , and officially opened on 31 August 1932 . During the Second World War , the Popular Stand was converted into an air @-@ raid shelter , and the ground suffered slight damage when a bomb landed on houses along the Shipton Street End . York purchased Bootham Crescent for £ 4 @, @ 075 in September 1948 . Floodlights were fitted at the ground in 1959 , and were replaced by ones twice as powerful in 1995 . A number of improvements were made in the early 1980s , with a gymnasium , offices and a lounge for officials built .

The David Longhurst Stand opened in 1991 after a roof was erected on the Shipton Street End . It was named after the former York player David Longhurst , who died during a match at the ground in 1990 . Bootham Crescent hosted football in the Football League from 1932 to 2004 , when York were relegated into the Conference National , and has done so again since York 's promotion back into the Football League in 2012 . The ground was renamed KitKat Crescent from 2005 to 2010 as part of a sponsorship deal with Nestlé . York are expected to move to a community stadium at Monks Cross in Huntington in early 2018 , and the Bootham Crescent site will be used for housing .

Bootham Crescent comprises four stands : the Main Stand , the Popular Stand , the David Longhurst Stand and the Grosvenor Road End . The ground has held a league representative match , neutral club matches , and schoolboy and youth international matches . Other than football , it has hosted a concert , a grand firework display , American football and rugby league matches and beer festivals . The record attendance of 28 @, @ 123 was set in March 1938 , for an FA Cup match against Huddersfield Town . The highest seasonal average attendance of 10 @, @ 412 was achieved in 1948 ? 49 .

= = History = =

= = = Construction and early years = = =

York City F.C. played at Fulfordgate in Fulford , on the southern outskirts of York , from 1922 to 1932 . It was difficult for most supporters to reach , being a good distance from the railway station , and the tram service to Fulford only had a single track . Attendances declined in the club 's second and third seasons in the Football League , which the directors blamed on Fulfordgate 's location . One director , G. W. Halliday , became convinced that the only solution was to move to a new ground . York Cricket Club left Bootham Crescent , their home for around fifty years , for a new ground at Wigginton Road in January 1932 . Preliminary discussions and visits to Bootham Crescent took place , and the directors believed that renting the ground would be cheaper than repaying the debts on Fulfordgate . Further , Bootham Crescent was situated near the centre of the city , and the population living within a mile of the site was , at 30 @, @ 000 , ten times that within a similar radius of Fulfordgate . However , two former directors argued that attendances at many grounds had fallen during the Great Depression , and that the approaches and surrounds to Bootham Crescent were limited .

The directors were unanimous that a change should be made , and a special meeting of the shareholders was held on 26 April 1932 . The move to Bootham Crescent on a 21 @-@ year lease was approved by 115 votes to 37 . The site of York 's new home was of an irregular shape and was hemmed in from four sides , with a narrow track to the south , barracks to the west , a school and almshouses to the north and terraced houses to the east . Nonetheless , the grounds of the city 's football , cricket and rugby league teams were now within a few hundred yards of each other . The ground was renovated over the summer of 1932 ; the area was drained and then built to the design

of local architects Ward & Leckenby . The Popular Stand was erected on the west side using sections of the terrace cover at Fulfordgate , with the Main Stand built opposite . Terraces were banked up in the wedge @-@ shaped areas behind the goals . After four months of construction , Bootham Crescent was ready for the 1932 ? 33 season , with an initial capacity of over 30 @,@ 000 .

The ground was officially opened on 31 August 1932 , when York played Stockport County in a Third Division North match . The club president , Sir John Hunt , marked the occasion by cutting a ribbon of the club 's colours of chocolate and cream . In attendance were the Lord Mayor of York , the Sheriff of York , the vice @-@ president of the Football League , the treasurer of the Football Association (FA) and the local Member of Parliament . York player Tom Mitchell scored the first goal at the ground in a 2 ? 2 draw , played before 8 @,@ 106 supporters . In the first four seasons at Bootham Crescent , attendances were not higher , and were sometimes lower than at Fulfordgate . There were problems with the ground in its early years ; the quality of the pitch was questioned , and the Lincolnshire Echo remarked in April 1937 that the pitch was " almost a morass , with extensive pools of water in front of the goals " . There was an incident in March 1934 where the referee and linesmen were found unconscious in their dressing room , due to fumes from a faulty heater .

= = = Improvements and cup runs = = =

The ground first hosted a match against First Division opposition on 12 January 1935 when York played Derby County in an FA Cup third @-@ round match , which set a new club record attendance of 13 @,@ 612 . Attendance records were set at four successive stages of the 1937 ? 38 FA Cup , culminating in the 28 @,@ 123 attendance for the sixth @-@ round match against Huddersfield Town on 5 March 1938 . By now the ground 's capacity was around 23 @,@ 000 , and seats were placed around the pitch to accommodate more fans . During the Second World War , the tunnel at the back of the Popular Stand was used as an air @-@ raid shelter for pupils and staff of Shipton Street School . The ground was slightly damaged after the air @-@ raid on York in April 1942 , when houses along the Shipton Street End were bombed . Considerable improvements were made in the immediate post @-@ war period . Deeper drainage and the concreting of the banking at the Grosvenor Road End were completed , and loudspeaking equipment was installed .

It was announced at the shareholders ' annual meeting in September 1948 that York had purchased Bootham Crescent for £ 4 @,@ 075 , with the club 's finances in a strong position at the time . Bigger crowds were recorded around the country in the post @-@ war period , and York achieved five @-@ figure average attendances in 1948 ? 49 and 1955 ? 56 . Over the late 1940s and early 1950s , concreting was completed on the terracing in the Popular Stand , due to the efforts of the supporters ' club , and the Shipton Street End . York reached the semi @-@ final of the 1954 ? 55 FA Cup , and two matches from this run were played at Bootham Crescent : the first @-@ round match against Scarborough , which York won 3 ? 2 , and the fifth @-@ round match against Tottenham Hotspur , which was won 3 ? 1 before a crowd of 21 @,@ 000 . During the summer of 1955 the Main Stand was extended towards Shipton Street , funded by profits gained from the FA Cup run and a stand extension fund .

A concrete wall was built at the Grosvenor Road End for over £ 3 @,@ 000 in 1956 , as a safety precaution and as a support for additional banking and terracing . These improvements saw capacity extended to 23 @,@ 600 . Two FA Cup ties against First Division opposition were held at the ground in 1957 ? 58 : Birmingham City were beaten 3 ? 0 , followed by a 0 ? 0 draw with Bolton Wanderers , which drew a capacity crowd of 23 @,@ 600 . Floodlights were installed at the ground in the summer of 1959 , costing £ 14 @,@ 500 , a substantial part of which was raised by a supporters ' club . They were officially switched on for a friendly against Newcastle United on 28 October 1959 , which Newcastle won 8 ? 2 before a crowd of 9 @,@ 414 .

= = = Further improvements and a new stand = = =

York reached the quarter @-@ final of the 1961 ? 62 League Cup , and in the earlier rounds beat Bristol City , Leicester City , Watford and Bournemouth at Bootham Crescent . The half @-@ time scoreboard at the Shipton Street End ceased to be used by 1965 , but remained as advertising boarding . On 5 May 1969 , referee Roy Harper collapsed and died on the pitch during a match against Halifax Town . Seats were installed in the Popular Stand for 1974 ? 75 , York 's first season in the Second Division . This increased the ground 's seating capacity to 2 @,@ 762 , but meant the overall capacity was reduced to 16 @,@ 529 . The floodlights were updated and improved for £ 20 @,@ 000 , and were officially switched on by former Wolverhampton Wanderers player Derek Dougan for a friendly with Grimsby Town on 1 August 1980 . A gymnasium was built at the Grosvenor Road End for £ 50 @,@ 000 early in 1981 , and to help towards this York received £ 15 @,@ 000 from the Sports Council and £ 20 @,@ 000 from the Football League Improvement Trust . In the summer of 1983 new offices for the manager , secretary , matchday and lottery manager were built , along with a vice @-@ presidents ' lounge . The lounge was officially opened by Jack Dunnett , the chairman of the Football League , prior to a match against Wrexham in November 1983 .

By the early 1980s cracks had appeared in the wall built at the back of the Grosvenor Road End . The rear of the terracing was cordoned off , and the capacity of the ground reduced to under 13 @,@ 500 . The Grosvenor Road End was segregated and allocated to away supporters , and fencing was erected for the first time before the FA Cup match against Liverpool in February 1985 . All the fencing had been dismantled by the early 2000s . During the 1983 ? 84 and 1984 ? 85 seasons problems had arisen in handling big crowds , due to the ground having only two of four sides available for entry and exit , and the home supporters funnelling through the car park to the Shipton Street End . Extensive improvements were made in the summer of 1985 for approximately £ 100 @,@ 000 , and eight new turnstiles were installed at the Shipton Street End . Further , the dressing rooms were refurbished to incorporate new baths and showers , and a new referees ' changing room and physiotherapist 's treatment room were readied . Hospitality boxes were built into the Main Stand during 1986 ? 87 , and video equipment was installed inside the ground . Crash barriers were strengthened , meaning ground safety requirements were met . These improvements meant that shortly before the Taylor Report was published , the ground 's capacity was 14 @,@ 109 , including 3 @,@ 059 seats . However , by September 1989 the capacity had been increased to 14 @,@ 628 .

The ground 's major drawback was the lack of covered standing accommodation at the Shipton Street End , but the cost of erecting a stand had been prohibitive . The Shipton Street Roof Appeal was launched in the spring of 1988 to raise money for a stand , and fundraising schemes were put into place . On 8 September 1990 York player David Longhurst collapsed and died from heart failure during a match against Lincoln City at Bootham Crescent . With the approval of his family , the David Longhurst Memorial Fund was launched , and all donations were added to the monies already raised for the roof appeal . The Football Trust contributed half of the £ 150 @,@ 000 cost of the stand , and it was constructed in the summer of 1991 . The David Longhurst Stand was officially opened on 14 October 1991 in a friendly match against Leeds United , which was watched by a crowd of 4 @,@ 374 .

= = = 1990s to present = = =

The Family Stand was opened in the Main Stand in 1992 , and manager John Ward ran the London Marathon to help raise funds for the project . Bootham Crescent first hosted a play @-@ off match when York beat Bury 1 ? 0 on 19 May 1993 in the Third Division play @-@ off semi @-@ final ; the attendance of 9 @,@ 206 was the ground 's highest in seven years . During 1993 ? 94 the Main Stand paddock was seated and covered , and the recent work to the stand cost £ 220 @,@ 000 . The ground 's capacity fell to 9 @,@ 459 , including seating for 3 @,@ 645 , after the renovations to the David Longhurst and Main Stands . In May 1995 a new drainage system was installed for £ 11 @,@ 000 , to improve the quality of the pitch during winter . New floodlights were installed in June 1995 at a cost of £ 122 @,@ 000 , and despite being shorter in height were twice as powerful as the original floodlights . A water tower was installed in the late 1990s , to further help the pitch quality .

In July 1999 York 's real property assets , including Bootham Crescent , were transferred to a holding company called Bootham Crescent Holdings (BCH) for £ 165 @, @ 000 . Chairman Douglas Craig put the ground and the club up for sale for £ 4 @. @ 5 million in December 2001 . It was announced that the ground would close by 30 June 2002 , and talks were held over a move to Huntington Stadium . In March 2002 the club was bought by John Batchelor ; he said York could continue at Bootham Crescent until a new stadium was built , when in fact the previous twenty @- @ five @- @ year lease was replaced with one that would expire in June 2003 . Batchelor spoke of building a new stadium at Clifton Moor , and Persimmon , who held ten percent of the shares in BCH , submitted planning applications for ninety @- @ three homes on the site of Bootham Crescent . In March 2003 York extended their lease of the ground to May 2004 , and under the ownership of the Supporters ' Trust proceeded with plans to move to Huntington Stadium . Planning problems arose with bringing the ground up to Football League standards , and the club preferred to stay at Bootham Crescent . York bought Bootham Crescent in February 2004 , after a £ 2 million loan from the Football Stadium Improvement Fund (FSIF) was secured .

York were relegated into the Conference National for 2004 ? 05 , which brought an end to seventy @- @ two years of Football League football at Bootham Crescent . In January 2005 the ground was renamed KitKat Crescent , as part of a sponsorship deal under which Nestlé donated £ 100 @, @ 000 to the club . This money went towards covering the shortfall the club faced paying BCH directors , Persimmon and stamp duty when buying the ground . The ground was still commonly referred to as Bootham Crescent . The deal expired in January 2010 , when Nestlé ended all their sponsorship arrangements with the club . York returned to the Football League for 2012 ? 13 , and their first League Two match at Bootham Crescent was a 3 ? 1 defeat to Wycombe Wanderers on 18 August 2012 , before a 4 @, @ 591 crowd . The ground has not been subject to any major investment since the 1990s , and has faced problems with holes in the Main Stand roof , crumbling in the Grosvenor Road End , drainage problems and toilet conditions .

= = Future = =

The terms of the FSIF loan required the club to identify a site for a new stadium by 2007 , and have detailed planning permission by 2009 , to avoid financial penalties . Once plans for a new stadium were in place , the loan would turn into a grant to assist in funding the relocation . As part of the loan agreement , Persimmon have first refusal on purchasing Bootham Crescent once York leave , for ten percent lower than its market value . Persimmon still intend to build ninety @- @ three homes on the site , and the proceeds of the sale would go towards building the new stadium . In March 2008 York 's managing director Jason McGill cited " the annual cost of £ 60 @, @ 000 for the maintenance and upkeep of a 1932 stadium with few commercial and income @- @ generating opportunities " as the reason for the continued need to move to a new stadium .

Despite the club failing to formally identify a site by the end of 2007 , financial penalties were not incurred , as the FSIF were satisfied with the progress made . However , McGill said plans with the preferred site had ground to a halt by March 2008 . City of York Council announced its commitment to building a community stadium in May 2008 , which would be used by York and the city 's rugby league club , York City Knights . In July 2010 the council chose the option of building a 6 @, @ 000 all @- @ seater stadium at Monks Cross in Huntington , on the site of Huntington Stadium . In August 2014 Greenwich Leisure Ltd were named as the council 's preferred bidder to deliver an 8 @, @ 000 all @- @ seater stadium , a leisure complex and a community hub . Construction is expected to start in the summer of 2016 , for completion in early 2018 .

= = Structure and facilities = =

The ground can accommodate 8 @, @ 256 supporters , including seating for 3 @, @ 409 , and comprises four stands ; the Main Stand , the Popular Stand , the David Longhurst Stand and the Grosvenor Road End .

The Main Stand , which can seat 1 @, @ 757 spectators , is an all @- @ seated stand which runs

around two @-@ thirds of the pitch . It contains the dressing rooms , club offices , ticket offices and hospitality suites , and contains a number of supporting pillars . The stand has open corners to either side , one of which is where the supporters ' club is located , and to the rear has windscreens to either side . At the front of it is the Family Stand , which offers adjusted rates for children and their carers . Opposite is the Popular Stand , a covered all @-@ seated stand , which contains a number of supporting pillars and holds a television gantry on its roof . It can seat 1 @,@ 652 spectators .

The northernmost stand of the ground is the David Longhurst Stand , which is a covered terrace for home supporters and has a row of supporting pillars across its front . The stand was originally known as the Shipton Street End , but was renamed following the death of David Longhurst , and has a capacity of 3 @,@ 062 . Opposite is the Grosvenor Road End , an open terrace reserved for away supporters , which holds a capacity of 1 @,@ 785 . As well as this , away fans are permitted to use 332 seats of the Popular Stand , in the section closest to the Grosvenor Road End . The toilet facilities for away supporters consist of open air urinals for men and Portakabins for women .

The grass pitch measures 104 by 64 metres (114 by 70 yd) . Head groundsman Bryan Foster was presented with a gold watch from the directors in March 1988 , in recognition of his long and outstanding service . His successor , Bryan Horner , was voted the Second Division groundsman of the year in 1999 . A club shop is situated just inside the car park , which also houses the commercial manager 's office . Adjoining this is the social club , known as the 1922 Bar since August 2015 , and the players ' bar .

= = Transport = =

The ground is located just over a mile from York railway station , which is approximately a twenty @-@ minute walk . The station lies on the East Coast Main Line between London King 's Cross railway station and Edinburgh Waverley railway station , and has direct services from Liverpool , Manchester , Birmingham and the South West . Many of the roads near the ground are for residential permit holders only , meaning car parking at the ground is notoriously difficult . The author Simon Inglis pointed out the irony of the club leaving Fulfordgate because of its location , when " it is harder than ever for fans to drive in to Bootham Crescent " . Parking on matchdays at nearby York Hospital has been available since January 2014 . A park and ride facility operates in the city , and a number of lines drop off within walking distance of the ground .

= = Other uses = =

Bootham Crescent hosted a war @-@ time representative match in which the Football League XI beat the Northern Command XI 9 ? 2 on 17 October 1942 , before a 5 @,@ 500 crowd . It held a university representative match on 17 February 1976 , when a FA XI drew 2 ? 2 with the Universities Athletic Union ; the FA XI included former England internationals and 1966 World Cup winners Bobby Charlton and Nobby Stiles . The ground hosted its first major neutral match on 7 February 1968 , when Middlesbrough beat Hull City 1 ? 0 in an FA Cup third @-@ round second replay , in front of a crowd of 16 @,@ 524 . During 2012 ? 13 Bootham Crescent held one fixture apiece for Harrogate Town and Gateshead , as the pitches at their grounds were unplayable . The ground hosted the 2013 FA Women 's Premier League Cup Final on 5 May 2013 , when Aston Villa beat Leeds United 5 ? 4 on penalties after a 0 ? 0 extra time draw .

The ground first held international football on 10 May 1952 , when England schools , captained by future York manager Wilf McGuinness , beat Ireland 5 ? 0 before 16 @,@ 000 spectators . It has hosted a number of youth international matches , most notably the England under @-@ 18 's 4 ? 0 win over Northern Ireland on 13 October 1996 , in which sixteen @-@ year @-@ old Michael Owen scored a hat @-@ trick for England . Bootham Crescent hosted three matches in the 2001 UEFA European Under @-@ 16 Championship , including France 's 2 ? 0 win over Russia in the quarter @-@ final on 30 April 2001 , watched by 557 spectators .

The ground has also held non @-@ football events . It hosted a music concert in September 1979 and a grand fireworks display in October 1982 to celebrate the centenary of the Yorkshire Evening

Press . Sporting events to have taken place include an American football match in the summer of 1988 , and a rugby league match between York RLFC and Leeds RLFC in the Challenge Cup before a crowd of 11 @, @ 347 on 29 January 1989 , which was won 28 ? 9 by Leeds . York City Knights will temporarily play at Bootham Crescent in 2016 , ahead of the move to the Community Stadium . Beer festivals , organised by the York Minstermen supporters ' group , were held at the ground 's social club from 2008 to 2012 .

= = Records = =

The highest attendance record at the ground was 28 @, @ 123 for a match against Huddersfield Town in the FA Cup sixth @-@ round on 5 March 1938 . The highest attendance in the Football League is 21 @, @ 010 against Hull City in the Third Division North on 23 April 1949 . The attendance of 1 @, @ 167 against Northampton Town on 5 May 1981 is the lowest ever to see York in a Football League match . York were relegated into the Conference National in 2004 , and their highest home attendance in this division was 6 @, @ 660 for a game against Morecambe on 4 May 2007 . The lowest was 1 @, @ 567 for a match against Exeter City on 10 March 2008 . The lowest attendance at the ground for any first @-@ team fixture was 608 for a Conference League Cup third @-@ round match against Mansfield Town on 4 November 2008 .

The highest seasonal average attendance for York at Bootham Crescent was 10 @, @ 412 in 1948 ? 49 . York 's lowest seasonal average was 2 @, @ 139 in 1977 ? 78 , which came after two successive relegations from the Second Division . The most recent season in which the average attendance was more than 10 @, @ 000 was in 1955 ? 56 . This season also saw York 's highest total seasonal attendance at the ground , which was 236 @, @ 685 . The lowest total seasonal attendance was 48 @, @ 357 for 1977 ? 78 in the Fourth Division .

York 's biggest margin of victory at Bootham Crescent was by eight goals , achieved with a 9 ? 1 win over Southport in the Third Division North on 2 February 1957 . Their biggest margin of defeat at the ground was by seven goals , when they were beaten 7 ? 0 by Rochdale in a Third Division North match on 14 January 1939 . The most goals scored in a match was 12 on 16 November 1935 , when York defeated Mansfield Town 7 ? 5 in the Third Division North .