

Explore York City FC



Introduction and background

The present York City Football Club was founded in 1922 and is still in existence today. Originally they played in the Midland League, before later joining the National League. You can find more about the history of the club on the [York City Football Club website](#). Archives of the club, previously held by the York City Football Club Foundation, were deposited on an initial five year fixed-term loan with Explore York Libraries and Archives in autumn 2019.

The archives

The archive of York City FC offers a fascinating insight into the history and development of the club both on and off the pitch. The collection covers the organisation and management of the club as well as the games played and fans' engagement.

The collection primarily consists of over 2,500 match-day programmes for home and away matches dating from 1922 to 2020 (**Ref: YCF/1**). Early programmes consist of team sheets and advertisements for local businesses, but more recent programmes include in-depth information on the opposing team, as well as the history of York

Sporting Archives Guide 2

City, the progress of the youth and reserve teams, fan activities in the city and across the country, and the club's charitable and community work. Several of the programmes also include inserted match reports published in the York Press and match tickets, which had been collected and organised by the fan who gifted the collection to York City Football Club Foundation. A number of fanzines from the period 1983-2010 are also included (**Ref: YCF/2**), offering a fans' view of the club's performance and management at the time of publication.

YCF/3 contains press clippings from local and national newspapers covering the period 1971-2010. These include a number of season previews, reviews and souvenir supplements for significant matches such as Cup, Trophy and play-off finals. There is extensive coverage of the 2002 'Save City' campaign launched by York Press and the Supporters' Trust, as well as coverage of changes in management more generally.

The history of York City from the fans' view is represented clearly in **YCF/4**, which includes a range of ephemera pertaining to the club, principally match tickets and season tickets collected by individual fans. Other items within the series include programmes for social events, memorabilia (such as first-day covers and souvenir booklets), and an early share certificate dating to 1923. Similarly, **YCF/5** includes various Club publications, such as souvenir programmes for testimonial matches and Supporters' Club Yearbooks. These series give us an impression of the activities and ephemera of life as a supporter of York City on and off the pitch.

Overall, this collection is particularly useful for those researching the history of York City Football Club, either in isolation or as part of a comparative study. Equally, though, there are opportunities to delve into the links between football clubs and their fans, particularly through the club communications.