



YORK CITY

**YORK CITY F.C. SEASON
REVIEW 2015-16**

DOWN AND UNDER...

BY TOM IBBOTT

**FOOTBALL
CLUB**

DEAR ALL,

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my review of the season. My name is Tom and I am an aspiring young football journalist. I have written two full season York City reviews already (2011/12 and 2013/14) so this is my third one.

Now, this year has been a tough season for all associated with York City Football Club. After staving off the relegating threat last season very late on, York fans saw the summer as an opportunity to rebuild and perhaps try and push onto the play-offs like they managed to achieve in 2013/14. However, that was not the way it went.

Following poor summer recruitment of signings such as George Swan, Taron Hare and Eddie Nolan plus being stuck with transfer-listed trio, Femi Ilesanmi, Marvin McCoy and Anthony Straker, who were signed on 2-year deals the previous summer, City were not in the best position at the start of the season to go on and push up the league.

And this showed at the start of the season with a 3-0 defeat to Wycombe on the opening day of the season and a slow slide of results, ultimately culminating in the sacking of boss Russ Wilcox. Jackie McNamara was soon brought in, but after even worse recruitment from him in the form of young loanees such as Jordan Lussey, Mark Kitching and Lubo Satka, the slide down the league table carried on and City looked certain for relegation after successive 6-0 and 5-1 defeats to Portsmouth and Accrington Stanley respectively.

There were upturns in results such as back-to-back victories for the first time in the season at home to Notts County & Exeter City in February, however City still failed to stave off relegation and on the 23rd April City's relegation to the National League after four years in League Two had been confirmed.

The season had seen its fair share of off-field issues as well with first-team coach Richard Cresswell and player-coach Jonathan Greening mysteriously leaving the club with mutual consent just days after Greening had offered his playing services to the club for the rest of the season, fueling a lot of rumours to fly around the City camp and no doubt unrest was caused with the players didn't help with the results either. Towards the back end of the season, both Sophie and Rob McGill resigned from the board after both being part of the club for a number of years, leaving just two members of the board, Jason McGill and Ian McAndrew.

However, all these issues and fan anger directed towards manager Jackie McNamara cannot argue against the fact that both Jason McGill and Jackie McNamara are looking to get York City promoted straight back up next season. McNamara undoubtedly has more passion for the club than any manager since the days of Gary Mills and Jason McGill continues to show his support through the time and funds he puts in from his very own company, JM Packaging.

Anyway, please enjoy reading what I have to say about the season. I have reviewed every game of the season along with a variety of other features. Please enjoy and let me know what you think!

-TOM IBBOTT, Author



BEHIND THE SCENES/BACKROOM **MANAGEMENT 2015-16**

Patron: The Archbishop of York, Dr. John Sentamu
Chairman: Jason McGill
Business Development Director: Rob McGill*
Stadium Development Director: Ian McAndrew
Communications & Community Director: Sophie McGill*
Financial Management Consultant: Peter Rookes
Manager: Russ Wilcox*/Richard Cresswell*/Jackie McNamara
Assistant Manager: Simon Donnelly
First Team Coach: Richard Cresswell*
Goalkeeping Coach: Andy Leaning*/Craig Hinchliffe
Captain: Russell Penn
Vice-Captain: Dave Winfield
Fitness Coach: Adi Hammond
Performance Analyst: Luke Foulkes*/James Fisk
Academy Manager: Andy McMillan
Youth Team Manager: Jonathan Greening*/Steve Torpey
Physio: Jeff Miller
Youth Team Physio: Mat Johnson
Honorary Medical Officer: Dr. John Moroney
Kit Manager: David James
Club Secretary: Lisa Charlton
Operations & Safety Manager: Chris Tock
Commercial Consultant: Alan Stevenson
Commercial Department: Dave Hendry
Media Officer: Niall Cope
Ticket Office Administrator: Angela Blackmore
Supporter Liaison Officer: Phil Howden
Grounds Manager: Chris Stirk
Foundation Manager: Paula Stainton
Community Manager: Danial Parker
Club Chaplain: Paul Deo

*Indicates someone that left before the end of the season



York City chairman, Jason McGill (left) with manager, Jackie McNamara (centre) and assistant, Simon Donnelly (right) following their appointments as City's new management team.

TRANSFERS 2015/16:

<u>INS</u>	<u>OUTS</u>
<p><u>Summer</u> Callum Rzonca (FREE – Youth Team) Vadaine Oliver (FREE – Crewe Alexandra) George Swan (FREE – Wolverhampton Wanderers) James Berrett (FREE – Yeovil Town) Scott Flinders (FREE – Hartlepool United) Eddie Nolan (FREE – Scunthorpe United) Taron Hare (FREE – Scunthorpe United) Reece Thompson (UNDISC. – Frickley Athletic) Ben Godfrey (FREE – Youth Team)</p>	<p><u>Summer</u> Wes Fletcher (RELEASED – Motherwell) Ryan Jarvis (RELEASED – Lowestoft Town) Lewis Montrose (RELEASED – Stockport County) Daniel Parslow (RELEASED – Cheltenham Town) Jason Mooney (RELEASED – Accrington Stanley) Lindon Meikle (RELEASED – Macclesfield Town)</p>
<p><u>Mid-Season</u> Danny Galbraith (FREE – Gillingham) Kenny McEvoy (FREE – Tottenham Hotspur) Matty Dixon (FREE – Hull City) Derek Riordan (FREE – East Fife)</p>	<p><u>Mid-Season</u> Keith Lowe (RELEASED – Kidderminster Harriers) Ben Godfrey (UNDISC. – Norwich City) Marvin McCoy (RELEASED) Anthony Straker (RELEASED – Grimsby Town) Eddie Nolan (RELEASED) John McCombe (RELEASED – Macclesfield Town) Tom Platt (RELEASED – Harrogate Town)</p>
<p><u>Loans</u> David Tutonda (Cardiff City – 27th November 2015) Stéphane Zubar (Bournemouth – 27th August 2015) Rhys Turner (Oldham Athletic – 27th November 2015) Michael Collins (Oxford United – 27th November 2015) Bryn Morris (Middlesbrough – 27th November 2015) William Boyle (Huddersfield Town – 3rd January 2016) Kenny McEvoy (Tottenham Hotspur – 2nd January 2016) Bradley Fewster (Middlesbrough – End of season) Mark Kitching (Middlesbrough – 6th January 2016) Jordan Lussey (Bolton Wanderers – 10th December 2015) Stefan O'Connor (Arsenal – 6th January 2016) Luke Hendrie (Burnley – End of season) Kyle Cameron (Newcastle United – End of season) Ntumba Massanka (Burnley – 11th March 2016) Lubo Satka (Newcastle United – End of season) William Boyle (Huddersfield Town – End of season) Lewis Alessandra (Rochdale – End of season) Scot Bennett (Notts County – End of season)</p>	<p><u>Loans</u> Tom Platt (Harrogate Town – 28th September 2015) Ben Hirst (Scarborough Athletic – 29th October 2015) Tom Platt (Harrogate Town – 24th March 2016) Emile Sinclair (Guiseley – End of season) Taron Hare (Stamford – End of season) Callum Rzonca (Stamford – End of season)</p>

(Team – Date) represents the team that the player was on loan from/went on loan to and the date the loan expired

CITY SQUAD 2015/16:

Goalkeepers:



1. Scott FLINDERS



24. Michael INGHAM

Defenders:



2. Marvin McCOY



3. Femi ILESANMI



5. John McCOMBE



6. Eddie NOLAN



6. Lubo SATKA



14. George SWAN



15. Keith LOWE



15. Kyle CAMERON



16. Dave WINFIELD



17. Taron HARE



27. David TUTONDA



27. Luke HENDRIE



31. William BOYLE



34. Mark KITCHING



35. Stefan O'CONNOR



36. Jordan LUSSEY



38. Stéphane ZUBAR

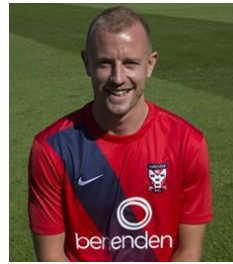
Midfielders:



4. James BERRETT



5. Scot BENNETT



8. Luke SUMMERFIELD



10. Russell PENN



12. Bryn MORRIS



18. Tom PLATT



20. Michael COLLINS



23. Matty DIXON



26. Ben GODFREY



30. Jonathan GREENING

Wingers:



7. Michael COULSON



11. Josh CARSON



13. Anthony STRAKER



33. Kenny McEVOY



37. Danny GALBRAITH

Strikers:



9. Vadaine OLIVER



12. Derek RIORDAN



19. Jake HYDE



20. Ntumba MASSANKA



22. Reece THOMPSON



23. Rhys TURNER



25. Callum RZONCA



26. Lewis ALESSANDRA



29. Emile SINCLAIR



32. Bradley FEWSTER

MATCH REPORTS – PLAYER KEY

Scott Flinders – SF
Marvin McCoy – MM
Femi Ilesanmi – FI
James Berrett – JB
John McCombe – JM
Scot Bennett – SB
Eddie Nolan – EN
Lubo Satka – LSa
Michael Coulson – MCn
Luke Summerfield – LSu
Vadaine Oliver – VO
Russell Penn – RP
Josh Carson – JC
Bryn Morris – BM
Derek Riordan – DR
Anthony Straker – AS
George Swan – GS
Keith Lowe – KL
Kyle Cameron – KC
Dave Winfield – DW
Taron Hare – TH
Tom Platt – TP
Jake Hyde – JH
Michael Collins – MCs
Ntumba Massanka – NM
Reece Thompson – RTh
Rhys Turner – RTu
Matty Dixon – MD
Michael Ingham – MI
Callum Rzonca – CR
Ben Godfrey – BG
Lewis Alessandra – LA
David Tutonda – DT
Luke Hendrie – LH
Emile Sinclair – ES
Jonathan Greening – JG
William Boyle – WB
Bradley Fewster – BF
Kenny McEvoy – KM
Mark Kitching – MK
Stefan O'Connor – SO
Jordan Lussey – JL
Danny Galbraith – DG
Stéphane Zubar – SZ



THE COLOUR USED REPRESENTS THE MAIN COLOUR OF KIT WORN BY THE RESPECTIVE CLUB IN THAT GAME.



MATCH REPORTS:

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 8th August 2015: Wycombe Wanderers 3-0 YORK CITY

(Wycombe Goalscorers: A. Stewart, 7, A. Holloway, 28 & S. Zubar (O.G), 58)

BOOKED: *Wycombe: Stewart, Pierre, Jacobson. City: Winfield.*

City Line Up: SF, KL, DW, SZ, MM (EN), LSu, RP (JH) JB, DT (AS), VO, RTh. **SNU's:** FI, JC, MI, BG

It's safe to say that City's season didn't get off to the greatest start in the world, as they fell 3-0 to last season's play-off runners up Wycombe. Just 7 minutes into the game, the Blues took the lead as a high ball lofted into the City penalty area was flicked on the wrong way by defender, Keith Lowe, gifting Stewart the chance to put his side 1-0 up. The next big chance came to York as Vadaine Oliver chased the ball down the right before crossing it into the box, only for midfielder James Berrett to head wide of the post. And just before the half hour mark, another defensive mix-up from the Minstermen proved costly as Wycombe's Holloway finished calmly into the bottom corner, after catching Scott Flinders off-guard in the City net. City came close again through another header, this time from Russell Penn's ball into the box, but Vadaine Oliver could only head it over the crossbar. A similar situation occurred during the second half as a Penn ball was beautiful crossed into the box, but this time it was on-loan defender Stéphane Zubar that couldn't quite finish the job; heading high and wide. And just before the hour mark, Wycombe finished off the game due to another awful defensive error from the Minstermen, as Zubar's attempted back pass to goalkeeper, Flinders ended up flying over the keeper's head and into the back of his own net. An awful start to the season for the Minstermen.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 24

(LEAGUE CUP 1) Tuesday 11th August 2015: YORK CITY 2-2 Bradford City (York win 4-2 on pens)

(City Goalscorers: L. Summerfield, 49 (pen), J. Berrett, 85. Bradford

Goalscorers: C. Routis, 21, J. Hanson, 90+4)

BOOKED: *City: Summerfield, Penn. Bradford: McArdle, Liddle.*

City Line Up: SF, KL, DW, SZ, MM, LSu (JC), RP, JB, DT, VO (JH), RTh. **SNU's:** JM, EN, AS, MI, BG

Next up for City was a break from league action as 2013 finalists, Bradford City visited Bootham Crescent for a League Cup clash which would see the two sides meeting for the first time since ex-City double-Wembley winning manager Gary Mills' final game in charge of the club. City were all prepared for a stiff challenge and this was confirmed midway through the first half as Christopher Routis got on the end of a great free kick into the box to put the League One side ahead. But this only made the Minstermen more determined and City became the dominant side. They were gifted the chance to level things once again as striker, Reece Thompson was bundled over in the penalty area, which gave midfielder Luke Summerfield the chance to level things again from the spot and as cool as you like; that's exactly what he did. Suddenly, City were on top, but were hit by another blow as left back David Tutonda's clumsy tackle gifted Bradford a chance to regain their lead from the penalty spot. But Alan Sheehan could only blast his effort over the crossbar, gifting York another lifeline. And soon, City's dominance paid off, as Luke Summerfield was fouled on the edge of the area awarding City a free kick, which James Berrett sweetly curled into the top left hand corner of the goal, meaning City had just 5 minutes of normal time to hang on for the victory. However, the pressure began to pile from Bradford and with the referee on the verge of blowing the final whistle, long-serving frontman James Hanson was on hand to equalise for the visitors and take the game to extra time. 30 minutes of extra time followed, but with limited chances taking the game to penalties. And a mixture of two fantastic saves from City keeper Flinders from Chris Routis and Tony McMahon's penalties as well as cool finishes from Keith Lowe, James Berrett, Reece Thompson and Josh Carson ensured that City would be in the hat going into Round 2 of the League Cup.

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 15th August 2015: YORK CITY 1-2 Hartlepool United (City Goalscorer: R. Thompson, 57. Hartlepool Goalscorers: B. Paynter, 71, M. Woods, 81)

BOOKED: *City: Berrett. Hartlepool: Carroll, Woods, Bates.*

City Line Up: *SF, KL, DW, SZ, MM, LSu, RP, JB, DT, VO, RTh (JH). SNU's: JM, EN, JC, AS, MI, BG*

Following their great escape last season, Hartlepool came into this clash full of confidence, but after knocking League One Bradford out of the League Cup, City were also confident they could get a result. The visitors begun the brightest though, as strike duo Billy Paynter and Rakish Bingham linked up well, but Bingham's effort managed to force out a fantastic save from Flinders. City also had a good chance when Tutonda's high cross into the box met the head of Vadaine Oliver who rose above his opponent to head down to the bottom right corner of the goal, only for ex-York trialist Adam Bartlett to pull off a cracking save to keep the score level. A well-rehearsed free kick from Luke Summerfield, meeting Dave Winfield's head also nearly put City ahead, but Bartlett was the hero again as he tipped the ball over the crossbar. But, undoubtedly the best chance of the first half came for The Minstermen. Midfielder, Luke Summerfield whipped the ball into the box where Oliver was waiting to head it on to centre-back Dave Winfield, who managed to turn his marker eight yards from the goal before firing at the post. But it was cleared only as far as Vadaine Oliver, who controlled the ball well, only to volley it wide of Bartlett's goal. However, it was City who drew first blood, as good work from Summerfield and Penn resulted in a ball into the area, where Reece Thompson had the easy job of tapping the ball into the back of the net. This only fuelled Hartlepool's desire to win the match though, and fifteen minutes later, a beautiful curling effort from Billy Paynter on the edge of the box gave Flinders no chance in the City goal and the scores were evens once again. And Pools showed no sign of stopping; they had come for three points after all. It was Bingham's run down the right which led to the ball into the box, where Michael Woods was waiting with a shot that would initially have been saved by Flinders, but a big deflection in the opposite direction from James Berrett guided the ball into the back of the net, and City failed to pick up their first point of the season.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 22

(LEAGUE TWO) Tuesday 18th August 2015: YORK CITY 1-0 Yeovil Town (City

Goalscorer: J. Berrett, 63)

BOOKED: *City: Oliver.*

City Line Up: *SF, KL, DW, SZ, MM, BG (EN), RP, JB, DT, VO, RTh (JH). SNU's: JM, JC, AS, TP, MI*

After failing to pick up a point in their first two league games, just like their opponents, Yeovil, City were determined to take something from this game. And following a niggler to Luke Summerfield, Russ Wilcox put his faith in 17-year old Ben Godfrey in the midfield. City had the first real chance of the game, but Berrett's 30-yard effort sailed wide of the post causing ex-City keeper Artur Krysiak no trouble at all. Another chance came for The Minstermen when Tutonda's ball into the box was headed on by striker Vadaine Oliver, but Stéphane Zubar could only fire at Krysiak from six yards. Yeovil's best chance of the game came when Wakefield and Fogden linked up well only for Harry Cornick to shoot directly at Scott Flinders who parried the shot, for Zubar to clear. The only goal of the game came on 63 minutes when David Tutonda's ball into the area was cleared by the Yeovil defence as far as ex-midfielder James Berrett who's effort from outside the area took a series of bobbles and deflections but eventually found its way into the back of Krysiak's net, which would ultimately prove to be enough to give City their first three points of the season, despite late scares from Yeovil. City's League Two campaign was finally up and running.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 17

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 22nd August 2015: Exeter City 0-0 YORK CITY (No Goalscorers)

BOOKED: *Exeter: Oyeleke. City: Winfield, McCoy, Berrett.*

City Line Up: *SF, KL, DW, SZ (FI), MM, LSu (EN), RP, JB, DT, VO, JH (ES). SNU's: JC, MI, CR, BG*

After gaining their first three points four days prior, City had hoped to pick up another three here and came into the game full of confidence. The biggest talking point of the first half came when York defender Stéphane Zubar had to be stretchered off through injury, to be replaced by Femi Ilesanmi. However, the only real chance of the first half came when Marvin McCoy's ball into the box was headed straight at ex-City keeper Bobby Olejnik in the Exeter goal by last season's top scorer Jake Hyde. The second half begun with City dominance as Summerfield's ball into the box was smothered by Olejnik before Hyde could reach it. Exeter also went close though when Emmanuel Oyeleke's 20 yard effort went just over Flinders' bar. And suddenly it was Exeter who were dominating as Tom Nichols' pass set up Ryan Harley whose effort could only go wide of the York goal. City's best effort of the game came when David Tutonda skipped past Arron Davies and crossed a ball into the box, reaching City skipper Russell Penn who could only fire straight at former City team-mate Olejnik. Exeter later went close through a free kick right on the edge of the box which was just wide of the City goal by inches. The game finished and City took a point home with them for the long 6-hour journey back to North Yorkshire.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 18

(LEAGUE CUP 2) Tuesday 25th August 2015: Swansea City 3-0 YORK CITY (Swansea Goalscorers: N. Dyer, 2, M. Grimes, 64, M. Emnes, 88)

BOOKED: NONE

City Line Up: *SF, MM, KL, DW, FI, EN, RP (JC), LSu, JB (BG), VO (CR), RTh. SNU's: TH, MI, DT, ES*

Following the spectacular first round display at home to Bradford City, York were rewarded with a visit to 2013 winners and Premier League side Swansea City. York were undoubtedly massive underdogs going into the game and even with Swansea's fringe players starting the game, this was soon realised as it took less than two minutes for Swansea to take the lead when Eder's clash with Scott Flinders led to the ball falling to Nathan Dyer by the penalty spot for a simple pass into the back of the net, despite the best efforts from Dave Winfield and Keith Lowe to block the shot. The Prem side continued to use their sublime passing tactics to get run rings through City's defence and came close when Nathan Dyer's cross to Eder was blocked by Marvin McCoy and put out for a corner. But a great chance for the Swans came when Wayne Routledge was set free on goal, putting Dave Winfield in a spin before getting a shot off, which was saved magnificently by Scott Flinders. City came close in the second half though, when Vadaine Oliver's effort on goal from inside the area curled just wide of the goal. The Swans doubled their lead on 64 minutes, however when former Exeter City midfielder Matt Grimes fired on goal from outside of the area, only for a deflection from Keith Lowe to send the ball flying into the back of the net and undeservedly leaving City further behind. Manager, Russ Wilcox used the opportunity of playing against higher league opponents to bring on 17-year old midfielder Ben Godfrey, who had played just one professional game prior to this match and 18-year old striker Callum Rzonca who was yet to make his professional debut. But Rzonca's inexperience proved costly when he was outmuscled by Jordi Amat who began at attack which resulted in substitute Marvin Emnes finished coolly past Flinders after dazzling Keith Lowe, leaving City three goals down and the game pretty much decided. City had been knocked out of the cup, but could hold their heads up high after putting on a good display against a Premier League opposition and besides the result, they had nothing to be down heartened about.

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 29th August 2015: YORK CITY 1-2 Mansfield Town (City Goalscorer: R. Thompson, 6. Mansfield Goalscorers: M. Green, 13, 30)

BOOKED: *City: Winfield. Mansfield: Benning, Clements.*

City Line Up: SF, KL, DW, FI, MM (ES), LSu (BG), RP, JB, DT, VO, RTh (JC). **SNU's:** JM, EN, MI, CR

These two sides had had some memorable matches over recent years, but for City this certainly wasn't one that will go down in the history books. City did take the lead on just 6 minutes though, when a free kick from Luke Summerfield was swung into the box and taped in by Reece Thompson, scoring his second goal of the season past 40-year old Brian Jensen in the Mansfield goal. But it took less than ten minutes for Mansfield to level as a short corner caused a mix-up in the York defence and claims of a blatant foul on James Berrett that wasn't awarded, City were left off guard and Matt Green was left to score his first of the season from close range. And on half an hour, it became two for Mansfield as an easy through ball from Craig Westcarr fed Matt Green in nicely, who did well to take on Winfield and McCoy before lashing the ball into the bottom left hand corner of Scott Flinders' York City goal, scoring his fifth goal against the Minstermen since 2010. City came close when Marvin McCoy crossed the ball, but Russell Penn could only guide his free header wide of the post. City's best chance of the second half came when James Berrett's high corner was met by the oncoming Femi Ilesanmi, playing his third game at centre back since being converted from the left, who could only send the header wide of the post; much to the annoyance of the City fans. Mansfield very nearly finished off City by making it three when Matt Green played in Chris Clements whose 20-yard effort struck the post. City had lost their third league game of the season, leaving them with a shameful four points from five games.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 19

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 5th September 2015: Newport County 0-3 YORK CITY (City Goalscorers: J. Berrett, 38, R. Thompson, 55, V. Oliver, 59)

BOOKED: *Newport: Holmes, Partridge, Barrow, Collins. City: Berrett, Oliver* OFF: *Holmes (Newport)*

City Line Up: SF, KL, DW, FI, MM, LSu, EN, JB, DT (JC), VO (ES), RTh (CR) **SNU's:** JM, TH, MI, BG

City were low on confidence following the loss to Mansfield, but they were visiting a Newport side who had earned just one point all season, managed by ex-England player Terry Butcher. City almost took the lead when James Berrett's free kick was parried by Joe Day in the County goal. But, Berrett made up for this when he capitalised on a stray Aaron Hayden pass and went on a brilliant direct forward run to the edge of the box before turning Matt Partridge and firing into the bottom left hand corner of the goal to bag his third goal of the season. Newport's best chance of the game came in the first half when a corner ended up bouncing out to Mark Byrne who struck it on the half volley only to fly over Scott Flinders' goal, but Berrett's goal was enough to make sure City were winning going into the half time break. City soon made it two, ten minutes after the restart when Luke Summerfield's free kick was flicked on by the head of Reece Thompson to get his third of the season and double the lead. And four minutes later City put the game to bed. Following good work from Reece Thompson and James Berrett, Vadaine Oliver was left with a simple tap, after Joe Day parried the ball straight into his path to earn the striker his long-awaited first goal in a City shirt, which was much deserved given his efforts during the first part of the season. And the game soon got even worse for Newport, as they were reduced to ten men when Danny Holmes was shown his second yellow card of the match following a clumsy and unnecessary mistimed tackle on Eddie Nolan leading to the defender receiving his marching orders from referee Trevor Kettle. City had won their second league game of the season and went back to North Yorkshire with three more points on the board, and also a spectacular performance to show for it.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 17

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 12th September 2015: Stevenage 2-2 YORK CITY (Stevenage Goalscorers: C. Whelpdale, 52, C. Lee, 55. City Goalscorers: E. Nolan, 39, L. Summerfield, 74) BOOKED: Stevenage: Pett.

City Line Up: SF, KL, DW, FI, MM (RP), LSu, EN, JB, DT (ES), VO, RTh (JC). **SNU's:** JM, MI, CR, BG

Following the 3-0 victory away at strugglers Newport County, City were full of confidence going into this tie with a Stevenage side managed by ex-England striker Teddy Sheringham. And it was City who were the best side in the first half, performing very similarly to the way they showed the previous weekend, using confident attacking style play to really tear apart their opponents. And deservedly, City broke the deadlock through the unlikely source of right back-cum-midfielder Eddie Nolan. Following an attacking run from joint top scorer Reece Thompson, the ball ricocheted out to Luke Summerfield who set up his midfield partner for a beautifully struck 25-yard finish, which ended up in the back of Joronen's net, giving him no chance. But soon after the break, Stevenage brought it back to 1-1. A cross from Connor Ogilvie caused confusion in the City penalty area which allowed Chris Whelpdale to come across and head home the equaliser for Stevenage. And just three minutes later they were ahead. A corner was swung in, flicked on and reached a Charlie Lee, who was surrounded by three City players, making no attempt at all to stop him from heading home his first goal of the season. Suddenly, Stevenage became the dominant side and looked set to keep the three points or even grab a third goal, but another twist in the tale came when Luke Summerfield's corner was played to Russ Penn, who laid it back off to Summerfield, who managed to curl the ball absolutely sublimely into the far top corner of the goal, arguably bettering even Nolan's strike earlier in the game. But just as it looked like City would cling on, more drama came as a clumsy tackle by Dave Winfield resulted in a Stevenage penalty. But Brett Williams' spot kick was parried excellently by Flinders who also saved the follow up shot, ensuring that City would be taking a point back to North Yorkshire with them.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 19

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 19th September 2015: YORK CITY 2-2 Carlisle United (City Goalscorers: L. Summerfield, 72 (pen), J. Carson, 74. Carlisle Goalscorers: T. Miller, 26, T. Archibald-Henville, 42)

BOOKED: City: Winfield, Summerfield. Carlisle: Balanta. OFF: Oliver (YORK)

City Line Up: SF, EN, KL, DW, FI (DT), LSu, RP (JC), JB, RTu, VO, RTh (ES). **SNU's:** MM, JM, MI, BG

City put on a spectacular comeback to mark the 25th anniversary of the death of David Longhurst on the Bootham Crescent pitch. City started off the brighter side when good work from Berrett and debutant Rhys Turner led to Reece Thompson being one on one with the keeper on the edge of the six yard box, but he could only put it over the bar, as he slipped to the ground. And Carlisle certainly capitalised on City's mistake, as Alex Gilliead sent Tm Miller through he slotted calmly past Flinders and a whole host of defenders. And three minutes prior to half time, United were two up when Gilliead's shot ended up bouncing out to Troy Archibald-Henville who finished through a group of static York defenders. And things got worse for the Minstermen after the break when striker Vadaine Oliver was sent off for an off the ball incident, with the referee claiming he punched his opponent in the back, seeming to make the result more and more inevitable. But City were thrown a lifeline when Luke Summerfield was bundled over in the box and was rewarded with a penalty that he slotted in absolutely perfectly. The type of penalty that even the best keeper couldn't save. And two minutes later, City went against all the odds to equalise when substitute Emile Sinclair was sent clear down the right flank, where he crossed the ball to link up with fellow sub Josh Carson who awaited the ball, sliding to put it past Gillespie in the goal. City almost won the game when Luke Summerfield's free kick was put out for a corner. However, it was certainly a result that most City fans would have taken a half time!

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 16

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 26th September 2015: Notts County 1-0 YORK CITY (Notts Goalscorer: I. McLeod, 12)

BOOKED: *Notts: Aborah. City: Ilesanmi, Penn, Berrett, Thompson, Carson.*

City Line Up: SF, EN, KL, DW, FI, LSu (BG), RP, JB, ES (AS), RTh, JC (DT). *SNU's: MM, JM, MI, CR*

Following their heroic substitute displays against Carlisle the previous week, Josh Carson and Emile Sinclair made their first starts of the season for a City side that had won just two league games so far this season. Early on, Notts were almost ahead when a short free kick resulted in a Campbell cross into the box over the heads of Keith Lowe and Dave Winfield finding Izale McLeod who could only put the ball wide of the goal. But they did break the deadlock on just twelve minutes when confusion between Femi Ilesanmi and James Berrett led to Opoku Aborah pouncing on the ball, before laying off Noble who lofted the ball over the head of Keith Lowe and after Scott Flinders failed to kick the ball clear, his clanger led to McLeod having an open goal to tap the ball into. They almost made it two not long after when a high free kick into the box caused havoc for the City defenders, who failed to clear it, but the header only went over the crossbar. A chance did fall for City later in the first half though when Emile Sinclair combined with James Berrett, who produced a superb 25-yard volley, only for veteran goalkeeper Roy Carroll to tip it over the crossbar. A number of second half chances fell for Notts, but they weren't able to convert and the one goal as a result of Scott Flinders' earlier clanger was enough to win the game for County. More bad news fell for City as midfielder Luke Summerfield was lost to concussion, which would keep him out for 2 and a half months.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 19

(LEAGUE TWO) Tuesday 29th September 2015: YORK CITY 1-2 Oxford United (City Goalscorer: R. Turner, 38. Oxford Goalscorers: D. Hylton, 9, K. Roofe, 71)

BOOKED: *City: Winfield.*

City Line Up: SF, KL, DW, FI, MM, BG, RP, JB, JC (AS), RTu, RTh (DT). *SNU's: JM, TH, TP, MI, CR*

Next up at Bootham Crescent to play the out-of-form City were in-form Oxford United, who were one of the absolute favourites for promotion to SkyBet League One. And it only took 9 minutes for the U's to take the lead when young City midfielder, Ben Godfrey gave away the ball in the middle of the park, which ended up finding its way to Danny Hylton to round keeper, Scott Flinders and slot home. However, to the shock of everyone in the ground, City found a route back into the game when a Josh Carson header found its way to U's defender Jake Wright who managed to somehow head the ball past his own goalkeeper, Sam Slocombe, where City loanee Rhys Turner was waiting to put the ball in the back of the net for his first goal in City colours and restore an equal scoreline. However, this setback did not stop the U's from continuing to dominate throughout the game, with a number of chances coming close to Scott Flinders' goal. One of the nearest misses came as a corner into the box from John Lundstram causes havoc for City defenders and found its way to Kemar Roofe on the edge of the box, who could only fire wide of the post. A further chance for Oxford came as Callum O'Dowda found Roofe on the edge of the area and he managed to squeeze a shot round City's Keith Lowe, but he could just hit it above the bar. The U's did finally restore their lead on 71 minutes however when another Lundstram corner was floated across, and though the initial shot was blocked on the line by Ben Godfrey; Roofe was there to put in the rebound. City did have a late chance to get something out of the game when Anthony Straker put in a decent cross, only for Rhys Turner to fluff his lines and James Berrett could not finish off the rebound, meaning that City were left with the sour taste of defeat.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 19

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 3rd October 2015: YORK CITY 2-2 Cambridge United (City Goalscorers: M. Coulson, 50, J. McCombe, 54. Cambridge Goalscorers: M. Roberts, 71, B. Corr, 81)

BOOKED: *City: Collins. Cambridge: Roberts.*

City Line Up: SF, KL, JM, FI, MM, MCs, RP, JB, AS (JC), RTu (ES), MCn (BG). **SNU's:** GS, RTh, MI, DT

City fans received some shock news prior to this game at the announcement that Michael Coulson would be starting his first game of the season following a long injury and having now even featured on the bench this season. Another inclusion was centre-back John McCombe who was yet to play a game this season. It was City that had the first real chance to take the lead when Michael Collins put Rhys Turner through on goal, but he could only hit it at Cambridge goalkeeper, Sam Beasant, which turned out to be the best chance of the first half. The second half was a lot more exciting for both teams, however and begun well for City when they broke the deadlock just 5 minutes into the second half. James Berrett managed to work the ball out to Marvin McCoy on the wide right hand side where a beautiful cross was put into the box which managed to find its way to Michael Coulson to bury a left footed volley on his first game of the season. And a second was soon to follow when Anthony Straker pumped a long ball forward to Rhys Turner to teed up centre-back John McCombe for a beautiful finish into the bottom right hand corner of the goal from the edge of the box to double City's lead. City continued to dominate, but following a puzzling substitution by Russ Wilcox to take off goalscorer Coulson and replace him with 18-year old defensive midfielder, Ben Godfrey, United found a way back into the game when Luke Berry went on a run into City's box which culminated with a cross finding its way eventually to centre-half Mark Roberts for a powerful shot into City's net. This provided a springboard for United who then created a number of chances and one finally paid off in the 81st minute when a long throw-in into the box caused problems for City's defence and Barry Corr managed to tap in for the U's, giving them a point to take back down south, much to the disappointment to City, who had thrown away a priceless two-goal lead.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 18

(FL TROPHY 2) Tuesday 6th October 2015: YORK CITY 2-0 Doncaster Rovers (City Goalscorers: V. Oliver, 5, 50)

BOOKED: *Doncaster: Forrester.*

City Line Up: SF, KL, JM, FI, MM, MCs, RP, JB, AS, MCn (JC), VO (RTh). **SNU's:** DW, MI, ES

Following the positive performance prior to conceding two goals against Cambridge, City were determined to prove they could keep up the performance for a whole game against higher league opposition, Doncaster. City managed to show a sign of their intent early on in this game, when Anthony Straker floated a cross in the box where Vadaine Oliver, playing his first game after a three game ban, was waiting to head the ball past the Doncaster keeper to give City the advantage after just 5 minutes. Doncaster did create a few minor chances, with Harry Middleton going close from outside the area, but it was clear that City were the better team and to a neutral it would have been hard to spot that Doncaster were the higher league team. City continued to come out fighting in the second half and showed just how much they wanted to reach the third round of the Football League Trophy. A bad pass by Rovers' Andy Butler was intercepted by City's Vadaine Oliver, who went on to lob goalkeeper Thorsten Stuckmann and slide in to grab his and City's second goal of the game just 5 minutes into the second half. Though a few chances were created, a couple from Harry Forrester, Doncaster were unable to provide any real goal threat and City looked comfortable sitting on their two goal cushion and thanks to the returning Vadaine Oliver, City now had a third round date to look forward to, which would be against out-of-form League One side, Barnsley.

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 10th October 2015: Luton Town 1-1 YORK CITY (Luton Goalscorer: C. McGeehan, 63 (pen). City Goalscorer: K. Lowe, 38)

BOOKED: *City: McCoy.*

City Line Up: SF, MM, KL, JM, FI, MCs, RP, JB, AS, MCn (RTu), VO. **SNU's:** JC, DW, RTh, MI, BG, ES

City went to Luton knowing they had only lost once in 13 meetings with the Bedfordshire side, however City had won just one of their six away games in all competitions so far this season. It was the Hatters that started the brightest when a Craig Mackail-Smith fell to Luke Guttridge at the post who could only hit it wide of the goal with the help of Scott Flinders' fingertips. 7 minutes before half time, though, it was York who broke the deadlock. A Russell Penn free kick was floated into the box and headed on by John McCombe where last season's player of the season, Keith Lowe was waiting to score his first goal of the season when he put the ball past Mark Tyler. However, in the middle of the second half Luton were thrown a lifeline when a strong counter-attack culminated in the referee deeming Dan Potts to have been dragged down in the penalty area and a penalty was awarded to the home side. Cameron McGeehan certainly didn't mess about with it either, blasting his spot kick down the middle of the goal, giving Flinders no chance. It looked like Luton might just nick the game as chances continued to be made; the best one coming when Luke Guttridge's corner found the head of Luke Wilkinson, but Scott Flinders pulled off an absolutely spectacular save to prevent it and make sure that the Minstermen still had the one point to take back to North Yorkshire.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 19

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 17th October 2015: Barnet 3-1 YORK CITY (Barnet Goalscorers: J. Akinde, 59, M. Gash, 82, J. Clarke, 90. City Goalscorer: M. Coulson, 80)

BOOKED: *Barnet: Yiadom. City: McCoy, Collins.*

City Line Up: SF, KL, JM, FI, MM, MCs, RP (ES), JB, AS, MCn, VO (RTu). **SNU's:** JC, DW, MI, BG, DT

City went to Barnet hoping to win their for the first time in 7 games, the last one coming in the 3-0 away victory at Newport County when goals from James Berrett, Reece Thompson & Vadaine Oliver gave City the win. However, City seemed to be in the back seat for the whole match. A good chance fell for the Bees in the first half when ex-City 8-goal striker, Michael Gash teed up Bondz N'Gala, but the centre back could only fluff his shot past the post of Scott Flinders' goal. The second half provided much more all-round entertainment value, but it was Barnet that benefited first when Michael Gash again set up a shot, this time for John Akinde who cleverly placed the ball round Flinders to give Barnet the lead. 20 minutes later though, out of absolutely nowhere, City managed to restore a neutral scoreline when Anthony Straker played in Michael Coulson, who managed to weave his way past Sam Togwell and hit a superb edge-of-the-box shot into the bottom corner of the Barnet goal. But, after thinking they had saved a point to take back to York, complacency proved to be the Minstermen's downfall when who else, but Michael Gash hit a power blasting free kick through the York City defence and into Scott Flinders goal to restore the lead for the Bees against his former employees. Unfortunately, City could not find a way back for the second time and in the 90th minute, John Akinde played in Josh Clarke who was able to finish past Flinders; a very similar goal to Akinde's earlier in the game, leaving a bitter taste in the mouths of City players and supporters alike. City had extended their winless run to seven matches and now slipped dangerously close to the relegation zone after falling to 21st.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 21

(LEAGUE TWO) Tuesday 20th October 2015: YORK CITY 2-2 Dagenham & Redbridge
(City Goalscorers: V. Oliver, 14, M. Coulson, 79. Dag & Red Goalscorers: A. Hemmings, 31, J. Cureton, 56)

BOOKED: *City: McCoy, Collins.*

City Line Up: SF, DW, JM, FI, MM, MCs, EN (RTu), JB, AS (JC), MCn, VO. **SNU's:** KL, MI, BG, DT, ES

Following a string of bad form for the Minstermen, York City fans continued to call for the head of manager Russ Wilcox from the Bootham Crescent helm. It was clear that this relegation dogfight match would be crucial in deciding his fate. But perhaps surprisingly to many City fans, it was York that took the lead in the fourteenth minute of the match. Left centre-back played in wing-back Anthony Straker, who was able to cross the ball through three Dagger's defenders on the floor and Vadaine Oliver was waiting in the six-yard box to claim his second league goal of the season by tapping in at the away end. It looked like City would breeze past the London-based side as chances continually came the way of the Minstermen, however it was Dagenham that made the next break through to equal the standings when a long ball forward from Josh Passley found veteran striker, Jamie Cureton who used his experience to manoeuvre round Dave Winfield, before slipping through Ashley Hemmings, who was able to strike the past round John McCombe and past a distracted Scott Flinders, who failed to get his positioning correct. And things only got worse for the Minstermen eleven minutes into the second half, when Hemmings found the ball and managed to pick out a well-positioned Cureton and the 40-year old managed to fire past Flinders from the left hand side of the penalty area. City were now playing to salvage a point in contrast to the three they were clearly going for at the beginning of the night. Further chances were limited after this for the Daggers though and the Minstermen did finally find a way through when a ball in from Marvin McCoy eventually found Michael Coulson, standing outside of the penalty box, via Rhys Turner and Michael Collins and he curled a superb effort into the bottom corner of the goal to restore equal measures and ensure that City had an extra point to add to their league tally. City fans continued to call for the Wilcox's sacking however and the pressure was definitely on for the ex-Scunthorpe boss.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 21

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 24th October 2015: YORK CITY 1-3 AFC Wimbledon (City Goalscorer: V. Oliver, 60. Wimbledon Goalscorers: A. Azeez, 15, L. Taylor, 65, T. Elliott, 85)

BOOKED: *City: Godfrey.*

City Line Up: SF, KL, JM, FI, MM (ES), MCs, EN (BG), AS (JC), MCn, VO, RTu. **SNU's:** DW, MI, CR, DT

Following the midweek draw against Dagenham, this game really was do-or-die for boss Russ Wilcox. And it did not look good for him when Lyle Taylor fed Ade Azeez, who was able to squeeze the ball over Flinders into the net after just fifteen minutes. It did not look like it would get any better for City and Wilcox afterwards however as chances were limited, but City did surprisingly get the next goal when a bouncing ball in the penalty area found Vadaine Oliver, who produced a superb acrobatic bicycle kick into the net as the Minstermen's equaliser on the hour mark. It only took five minutes though, before Wimbledon's lead was restored when a backwards header from Anthony Straker found Lyle Taylor and the combined efforts of John McCombe and Scott Flinders were not enough to prevent the ball meeting the back of the net. Victory for the Dons was further confirmed on 85 minutes when a ball in from George Francomb found the head of Tom Elliott to create a two goal cushion and take three points back down south for Wimbledon. City fans continued to voice their opinions on manager, Wilcox louder than ever after the game and they finally got their wish, as the following Monday, the sacking of Wilcox was confirmed by the club board and City followed this with the announcement that first-team coach Richard Cresswell would take over first-team duties until a new manager was found.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 21

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 31st October 2015: Crawley Town 1-0 YORK CITY (Crawley Goalscorer: S. Walton, 86 (pen))

BOOKED: *City: Berrett, Coulson, Nolan, Oliver.*

City Line Up: SF, MM, KL, FI, EN, MCs, BM, JB, MCn, VO, ES (RTu). **SNU's:** AS, DW, TP, MI, BG, DT

City had failed to find a replacement for Russ Wilcox just yet, so caretaker manager Richard Cresswell took charge of this game along with his assistant, Jonathan Greening and goalkeeping coach Andy Leaning. They instantly stamped their mark on the team, with names such as Josh Carson and John McCombe not in the matchday squad at all and Tom Platt making the bench as well as a start for Cresswell's first signing, loanee Bryn Morris. City started very 'brightly' in their one-off luminous yellow kit, with James Berrett's shot from inside the penalty box saved by Darryl Flahavan. City had another chance soon after when Vadaine Oliver slipped through the oncoming Bryn Morris, who was one-on-one with goalkeeper Flahavan, but he could only put the ball wide of the post. Crawley livened up in the second half though; Rhys Murphy went close but there was no one to get on the end of his ball into the box. And then a contender for save of the season came when a ball into the box from Crawley eventually fell to Shahir Felon, but his thunderbolt volley from ten-yards was somehow tipped over the bar by Flinders to keep the scores level. The pressure continued to build from Crawley though; another shot from Felon came close when he squeezed it past Eddie Nolan. This end-to-end battle continued as City wasted a glorious opportunity when a perfect cross into the box by Marvin McCoy could only be header over by top scorer Vadaine Oliver. Crawley did get the first goal though late on when a dubious penalty was given for a soft foul by Eddie Nolan and Simon Walton buried it in the bottom corner to give Cresswell a defeat in his first game in charge of the Minstermen.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 22

(FA CUP 1) Saturday 7th November 2015: Accrington Stanley 3-2 YORK CITY (Accrington Goalscorers: S. McConville, 29, M. Crooks, 36, J. Windass, 48 (pen). City

Goalscorers: V. Oliver, 34, M. Coulson, 90)

BOOKED: *Accrington: Kee. City: Winfield, Ilesanmi, Oliver.*

City Line Up: SF, MM, KL (DW), FI, EN, MCs, BM, BG (RTu), MCn, VO, ES (JH). **SNU's:** AS, GS, MI, DT

This game marked the start of a new era for the Minstermen as new manager, Jackie McNamara took the reins following his appointment two days prior. City fans had mixed opinions, following his lack of experience in the English league system, having come from Scotland, but others argued he had youth on his side. Jackie was thrown straight in at the deep end when his first game was an FA Cup tie at Accrington Stanley. It all began wrong for McNamara though when Sean McConville fired Stanley into the lead on 29 minutes following a great string of passes and sloppy defending from City defensive duo, Keith Lowe and Marvin McCoy. However, it only took five minutes for City to find a reply when Bryn Morris was sent on a run, leaving ex-City loanee Brad Halliday on the floor before crossing the ball into the box where Vadaine Oliver was waiting to bundle the ball past ex-City keeper Jason Mooney to restore the equal scoreline. But just two minutes later, Stanley were back in front when more poor defending from Keith Lowe led to Matt Crooks having a simple one-on-one effort with Flinders to bury into the back of the net, before celebrating right in front of City's travelling supporters. It only got worse for City shortly after the break when Billy Kee dispossessed Femi Ilesanmi before being bundled over by him in the penalty area. Star man Josh Windass fooled Scott Flinders with a cheeky lobbed penalty to give Stanley a two goal cushion in McNamara's first game in charge of the Minstermen. City came close late on when Rhys Turner crossed to Vadaine Oliver whose header was kept out on the line by Jason Mooney. City did eventually get a consolation when Rhys Turner put in a lovely ball for stand-in captain Michael Coulson to head past the hopeless flapping Jason Mooney in Accrington's goal. It wasn't enough to put Jackie McNamara's men through to the next round however and they were knocked out of the FA Cup in Jackie's very first match.

(FL TROPHY 3) Tuesday 10th November 2015: Barnsley 2-1 YORK CITY (Barnsley Goalscorers: B. Pearson, 67, A. Hammill, 83. City Goalscorer: M. Coulson, 40)

BOOKED: *Barnsley: Wabara, Hammill. City: McCoy, Godfrey.*

City Line Up: SF, MM, GS, FI, EN, MCs, BG (DT), JB, MCn, VO (JH), ES (AS). **SNU's:** DW, MI

For Jackie McNamara's second game at the helm of York City, he was faced with the tough challenge of an away tie at League One side Barnsley in the 3rd round of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy following the 2-0 victory at home to fellow League One side Doncaster Rovers. But City couldn't have met their League One opponents at a better time, as Barnsley were currently on a 7-game losing streak, which even bettered the Minstermen's own 3-game losing streak. Jackie McNamara showed early signs of his intent for the club by handing rookie defender George Swan his first appearance of the season as well as starting youth-team midfielder Ben Godfrey. Barnsley had the first real chance of the game though when on-loan Newcastle forward Ivan Toney retrieved the ball on half way before laying off Lloyd Isgrove who floated the ball just onto City's crossbar and out for a goal kick. Though Barnsley had dominated for periods of the first half, it was in fact City that made the breakthrough when they were awarded a free kick 30-yards from goal. Ex-Barnsley man Michael Coulson struck an unstoppable shot into the top corner that Cristiano Ronaldo would be proud of to give City the lead for the first time in McNamara's reign as manager. The home side came out fighting after the break through and on 67 minutes found a way back into the match through Ben Pearson who tapped in an Adam Hammill cross at the far post. As City tried to play out the game to see it into penalties, there was no luck as Barnsley made sure they booked their place in the 4th round when provider, Hammill turned goalscorer on 83 minutes with a brilliant curling effort from the edge of the penalty area following some shoddy City defending that would have to be put right by McNamara's men in coming matches.

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 14th November 2015: YORK CITY 1-2 Plymouth Argyle (City Goalscorer: B. Godfrey, 90+9. Plymouth Goalscorers: J. Jervis, 19, G. Carey, 44)

BOOKED: *Plymouth: Threlkeld*

City Line Up: SF, EN, GS, DW (KL), FI, MCs (DT), BG, JB, MCn, VO, RTu (JG). **SNU's:** AS, JH, MI, ES

For Jackie McNamara's first home game in charge of his new side he faced a Plymouth Argyle side pushing for promotion, leaving the Minstermen as obvious outsiders. City started brightly and almost bagged the first goal of the game when a free kick into the box from James Berrett fell to Rhys Turner but his effort was cleared and the tables very quickly turned as Argyle attacked quickly on the counter as Gary Sawyer retrieved the ball and laid off Graham Carey who's ball into the box was met and turned in by Jake Jervis at the near post as a result of a lack of communication from Dave Winfield and George Swan. Plymouth continued to push for their second goal to double their lead and eventually found it just before half time when Gregg Wylde left Eddie Nolan bamboozled and his cross was met by Graham Carey who finished simply from the centre of the box; finishing through Dave Winfield, George Swan and Scott Flinders, putting Argyle 2-0 up going into the half-time break. However, in City's defence, they did come out fighting very much in the second half and looked like a route back into the game may be found. A total of ten minutes added time were played at the end of the match due to an injury to City's Dave Winfield, causing him to be replaced by Keith Lowe and City did get a consolation goal in the ninth minute of injury time when David Tutonda confused Graham Carey with a series of stepovers before playing a pass into the Plymouth box to Ben Godfrey, who managed to score his first goal for the York City first team, which further proved why players, staff and fans alike hold him in such regard and see massive potential in the youth-team graduate.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 22

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 21st November 2015: Leyton Orient 3-2 YORK CITY (Orient Goalscorers: M. Baudry, 21, J. Simpson, 45+2, 64. City Goalscorers: V. Oliver, 45+4, 86)
BOOKED: *Orient: Moore. City: Boyle, Morris, Berrett.*

City Line Up: *SF, EN, GS, WB, FI, JG (ES), BG (DT), JB, MCn (AS), VO, BM. SNU's: JH, MCs, RTu, MI*

A City side currently on a 5-match losing streak went to a Leyton Orient side that had been forced to stay in a hotel for the week prior to the game as a punishment from their chairman for the poor performance the week before. And Orient came out fighting, proving they didn't want to go back to the hotel. An early sign of their intent came when Jack Payne struck the crossbar from 20 yards out to strike fear in their Yorkshire opponents. They did get the first goal though when a corner was floated into the box and Mathieu Baudry was left all alone in the centre of the box to head over Flinders and give the home side the lead. And it got worse for City when John Marquis went on a run into the City box and five defenders decided to stand off and allow him to cross the ball on the floor for Jay Simpson to tap into an open goal from a yard out. But, City did manage to grab a goal back before the break when Bryn Morris' effort was blocked and the rebound from top scorer Vadaine Oliver was deflected into the back of Orient's net to make sure City went into the break down by only one goal. But in the middle of the second half, Orient's two-goal cushion was restored as Jay Simpson picked up the ball on the edge of the penalty area before diving through Emile Sinclair and Michael Coulson and burying a shot into Flinders' bottom corner to surely confirm victory for the home side. City came close when Bryn Morris' free kick into the box was flicked on by George Swan, but Vadaine Oliver could only head his one-on-one effort into Alex Cisak's hands. City did get a goal back when Berrett's cross was flicked in by Vadaine Oliver, but City could only get the one goal and went back to Yorkshire with no points.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 22

(LEAGUE TWO) Tuesday 24th November 2015: Portsmouth 6-0 YORK CITY
(Portsmouth Goalscorers: B. Davies, 50, M. McNulty, 52, 60, 71, B. Tollitt, 80, C. Chaplin, 84)

BOOKED: *Portsmouth: Bennett. City: Swan. OFF: Greening (YORK)*

City Line Up: *SF, EN, GS, WB, FI, ES (BG), BM, JG, JB, AS, VO (JH). SNU's: TH, RTu, MI, DT*

City went into this game feeling prepared and positive after a much improved performance at Leyton Orient the previous match. And in the first half, this was realised as City performed positively and defended well, something that had been a weakness in their game all season long. However, City were blown a huge blow when ex-Premier League midfielder Jonathan Greening was sent off for a blatant elbow to the face of Pompey's Michael Doyle. However, City went into half time still goalless, thus giving McNamara the chance to sort out his team following Greening's sending off. However, this proved to be the start of the downfall as it took just five minutes before Ben Davies put Pompey ahead when an attempted cross ended up flying into Flinders' net and the annihilation begun. Just two minutes later, Marc McNulty bagged his first of the game when some absolutely dreadful defending from City allowed him to tap in from close range. McNulty added a third for Pompey when he tapped in Kyle Bennett's simple cross and grabbed his hat-trick to make it four for Portsmouth when a through ball from Michael Doyle released McNulty who was able to tap round Flinders to claim the match ball. Pompey's fun was not done there either when Enda Stevens basic cross caused havoc for City defenders and Ben Tollitt was on hand to tap in and make it five for the home side. And the final blow was dealt when Flinders failed to hold onto Enda Stevens' shot and the spillage landed right at the feet of Conor Chaplin, who put Portsmouth 6-0 up and truly made McNamara's men look like the laughing stock of the football league. Performances like that would have to be improved if City were to escape the relegation zone, of which they had just dropped into.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 23

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 28th November 2015: YORK CITY 1-5 Accrington Stanley
(City Goalscorer: B. Fewster, 75. Accrington Goalscorers: M. Pearson, 15, B. Kee, 33, 72, J. Windass, 61 (pen), S. McCartan, 88)

BOOKED: *City: Lussey, Berrett. Accrington: Halliday, Windass, McCartan.*

City Line Up: SF, JL (GS), SO, FI, MK, KM, JB, BG (BF), DG (JC), MCn, VO. **SNU's:** AS, TP, MI, CR

Following the 6-0 annihilation at Fratton Park, manager Jackie McNamara went out and recruited five young loan players from various clubs, Kenny McEvoy, Jordan Lussey, Stefan O'Connor, Mark Kitching and Bradley Fewster as well as Danny Galbraith on a contract until the end of the season to face the club that he faced in his first game as City boss. But, the removal of experienced players such as Eddie Nolan and Emile Sinclair from the starting 11 proved costly as it took just fifteen minutes for Accrington to take the lead after Josh Windass' free kick bounced out towards Matty Pearson whose deflected effort found its way into the back of the net to give the visitors the lead. The Minstermen's problems doubled midway through the first half also when Sean McConville crossed a ball into the box where Josh Windass was waiting to flick it onto Billy Kee for an easy tap in to give Stanley a two-goal cushion at the break. It got no better for City in the second half either as a very soft penalty was given to Stanley after the referee deemed Stefan O'Connor to have tripped Josh Windass, who subsequently converted the spot kick. Stanley soon made it four when O'Connor lost the ball to Sean McConville whose cross was parried by Scott Flinders into the path of Billy Kee, who grabbed his second of the game. City did pull one goal back when Josh Carson flicked on Vadaine Oliver's header into the path of debutant Bradley Fewster who finished with beautiful accuracy. But that was to be the only glory for City that day as Shay McCartan truly finished off the Minstermen with a simple strike from outside the area. It was glorious for Accrington, but surely must have struck fear into Jackie McNamara over whether his big decision to bring in 5 young players was the right one.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 23

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 12th December 2015: Bristol Rovers 2-1 YORK CITY (Rovers Goalscorers: J. Easter, 71, M. Taylor, 90+1. City Goalscorer: V. Oliver, 41)

BOOKED: *Rovers: Taylor. City: Flinders, O'Connor, Ilesanmi.*

City Line Up: SF, SO, DW, WB, FI, RP, JB, LSu (BG), KM (AS), VO, BF (DG). **SNU's:** JC, GS, MI, MK

After a two week break from the Portsmouth and Accrington slaughters, the Minstermen had plenty of time to really make their team gel and were boosted by the returns of experienced duo Dave Winfield and Russell Penn from injury and Luke Summerfield, who had been out for two and a half months with concussion. Manager McNamara decided to play a 4-3-3 system to really go all out on the attacking strengths in the squad. And it seemed to be working, as the Minstermen created a number of positive moments and chances in the first half that must have put a smile on the boss, who was yet to experience anything but defeat as City manager. This was capped off five minutes before the break when Femi Ilesanmi exchanged passes with James Berrett, before the latter swung in a cross that top scorer Vadaine Oliver was able to tap in after losing his marker, Tom Parkes. It was hard to believe for most in the ground at the time, but York City were winning at the break. Following the break, it continued to be the Minstermen that responded positively and looked like they may score again, however Rovers were not going to go down without a fight and when a free kick shot bounced off the head of Russell Penn, football league journeyman Jermaine Easter was on hand to head in the equaliser for the Gas, despite claims of offside from City defenders Will Boyle and Dave Winfield. Despite this, City continued to show fight and desire, keeping out a number of chances created by Rovers. But in injury time, the blow was dealt, like so many times this season for City, when a cross was controlled on the chest and tapped in by Matty Taylor causing some to even question whether there was a curse on City's season or even on manager, Jackie McNamara as City once again were defeated.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 24

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 19th December 2015: YORK CITY 2-1 Morecambe (City Goalscorers: D. Winfield, 38, J. Berrett, 52. Morecambe Goalscorer: J. Devitt, 54)

BOOKED: *City: Flinders, Oliver. Morecambe: Wildig, Molyneux.*

City Line Up: SF, SO (EN), DW, WB, FI, RP, JB, LSu, DG (KM), VO, BF (JC). *SNU's: AS, GS, MI, MK*

After an improved performance at Bristol Rovers, City were determined to build on it and try to gain just their third league win of the season. Jackie McNamara chose to go with the same team that put in the spirited performance at Bristol Rovers the week before. Just like that game, it was City that started the game brightest. A very good chance came when Luke Summerfield's cross into the box from the right was met by a stretching Vadaine Oliver whose shot had to be tipped over the crossbar by Morecambe goalkeeper, Barry Roche. City were very lucky to get away with a chance later on though when Danny Galbraith gave the ball away to Aaron Wildig who had a straight one-on-one chance with Scott Flinders. He managed to round Flinders before shooting towards goal, but out of nowhere came a heroic Dave Winfield to clear the ball away from goal on the line and keep a neutral scoreline. City were rewarded for their efforts on 38 minutes and it was the heroic defender that bagged the goal. James Berrett struck an inch-perfect cross into the box where the towering Winfield rose above a crowd of players to power a header into the bottom of the net and give City the lead. City made it two just seven minutes after half time as well when Russell Penn played a short pass to James Berrett, who switched the ball to his left foot before finishing sweetly from twenty yards for his first goal in three and a half months. The deficit was reduced back to one two minutes later though when Stefan O'Connor failed to keep up with Lee Molyneux, whose cross was met by Jamie Devitt. City showed enough character to hang onto their lead however and finally had the first victory of the McNamara reign at the eighth time of asking.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 22

(LEAGUE TWO) Monday 28th December 2015: Mansfield Town 1-1 YORK CITY (Town Goalscorer: K. Pearce, 31. City Goalscorer: D. Winfield, 10)

BOOKED: *Town: Lambe, Clements. City: Oliver.*

City Line Up: SF, EN, DW, WB, FI, RP, JB, LSu, DG, VO, BF (JC). *SNU's: AS, GS, MI, BG, KM, MK.*

After the shock departure of Richard Cresswell and Jonathan Greening from the club, City were without the experienced midfielder man Greening who would have been available for this game after serving his three-match ban from his sending off at Portsmouth. Instead, Jackie McNamara decided to stick with the same squad that beat Morecambe 2-1 apart from the forced change of the injured Stefan O'Connor for Eddie Nolan at right back. It looked like this proved to be the correct decision as it took just ten minutes before City were in the lead. A free kick from Luke Summerfield was swung into the box and Dave Winfield was on hand to give a backheel flick into the back of the net to score his second goal in successive games. City came close to scoring again when Bradley Fewster's cross was headed towards goal by Vadaine Oliver, but the ex-Mansfield man's effort was tipped over the crossbar by goalkeeper Brian Jensen. After a lot of pressure though, it was Town that got the next goal when an out swinging corner from Adam Chapman was headed towards goal by Krystian Pearce but Scott Flinders could not reach the ball in time as it trickled over the line and into the net. Mansfield almost took the lead for the first time in the game in the second half when a long ball into the box found Craig Westcarr, but Scott Flinders quickly came rushing out of his goal to put the ball out for a corner. And luck seemed to be in City's favour as a cross from Nathan Thomas was met by Matt Green no more than a yard out from goal, but somehow the usually prolific striker managed to put the ball over the crossbar – definitely a contender for miss of the season. Another chance for the home side came when Reggie Lamb struck from outside the area but his shot could only find the crossbar. A tense second half ended eventually and City had another point for the tally.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 22

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 2nd January 2016: Yeovil Town 1-0 YORK CITY (Town

Goalscorer: M. Dolan, 40 (pen))

BOOKED: *Town: Roberts. City: Winfield, McEvoy, Carson.*

City Line Up: SF, SO (BG), DW, WB, FI, RP, JB (JC), LSu, DG, VO, BF (KM). *snu's: AS, GS, TH, MI*

York went into this game hoping to get the New Year off to a flying start with a win at fellow strugglers, Yeovil. It was the home side that seemed to start the brightest however and only they looked a real goal threat. A great chance came when Connor Roberts crossed for Josh Sheehan but the latter could only screw his shot directly into the arms of Scott Flinders. And the home side really should have taken the lead a bit later on in the half when the ball fell to Francois Zoko a few yards from goal but his volley could not hit the target, much to the frustration of the striker and the Yeovil fans. The home side were given the ultimate opportunity to take the lead though when Connor Roberts' cross into the box caused a 50/50 battle between City's Luke Summerfield and Yeovil's Francois Zoko. However, the referee saw different and deemed the latter to have been fouled and awarded a penalty. Matthew Dolan then converted the penalty, striking straight down the middle of the goal five minutes before the half time break to give the Glovers the advantage in this bottom of the table battle. City came close in the second half though when Danny Galbraith went on a quick run through the Yeovil half, but his final shot squeezed just round the outside of the post. And City really should have got a goal late on when Galbraith passed to Vadaine Oliver, who then teed up substitute Kenny McEvoy, but he could only hit his shot straight at the goalkeeper. Yeovil did look like they may wrap up their three points when Zoko laid off Tahvon Campbell, but he could only fire his shot at Scott Flinders and the rebound from Zoko was blocked by Dave Winfield. This put an end to the game and City had lost out on a valuable three points.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 24

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 16th January 2016: YORK CITY 0-1 Newport County (County

Goalscorer: A. Collins, 8)

BOOKED: *County: Dymond, Holmes.*

City Line Up: SF, LH, DW, KC, FI, RP, JB, LSu (MCn), DG (NM), VO, KM (BF). *snu's: JC, GS, MD, MI*

Bottom of the table York were up against a Newport side that could yet be dragged into a relegation scrap, however the visitors had definitely improved from September when they became the only side so far in the season to allow City to win away from home. Following the expiry of Mark Kitching, Stefan O'Connor, Jordan Lussey, Kenny McEvoy and Bradley Fewster's loans, Jackie McNamara brought in defenders Luke Hendrie and Kyle Cameron and striker Ntumba Massanka on loan as well as midfielder Matty Dixon from Hull City. He also extended the loan of Bradley Fewster until the end of the season and snapped up winger Kenny McEvoy permanently after his release by Tottenham Hotspur. City were absolutely determined to prove they were not yet down going into this game, but it did not start well as it took less than ten minutes for City 2012 FA Trophy Final opponents to take the lead. Aaron Collins picked up the ball on the edge of the area and somehow managed to fire a shot through two City defenders and past Scott Flinders in the City goal to give the away side an early lead. County continued to look like the only team that would score a goal in this game and came close again when Mark Byrne's 20-yard volley just dipped over the crossbar. City had a trio of chances to equalise before the break however, when Dave Winfield's header from a James Berrett corner was cleared off the line; Luke Summerfield's free kick struck the post and Vadaine Oliver could only divert his header from Femi Ilesanmi's cross wide. City looked like the only team likely to bag in the second half with a further chance coming as the goalkeeper expertly parried Vadaine Oliver's header around the post. Even with the number of chances and half-chances created, City failed to find the target and had been defeated once again, throwing another problem into the survival hopes.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 24

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 23rd January 2016: Carlisle United 1-1 YORK CITY (United Goalscorer: J. Kennedy, 15. City Goalscorer: L. Summerfield, 87)

BOOKED: *United: Raynes. City: Penn, Massanka, Oliver.*

City Line Up: SF, LH, DW, KC, FI, RP (KM), MD, LSu, MCn (DG), VO, NM (BF). *SNU's: JC, GS, TH, MI*

Following the December floods, City had the privilege of being the first team to play a game back at Carlisle's home ground of Brunton Park. And the home side kicked off the game with a goal on fifteen minutes with a goal that City defenders should be ashamed of. When Jason Kennedy picked up the ball on the edge of the area after a Tom Miller throw in, he was allowed to dance his way through five City defenders before slotting the ball past Scott Flinders in the goal, much to the annoyance of the travelling fans, who understandably were fuming at the lack of communication in defence, that had been City's downfall all season. City had a good chance to draw back to 1-1 in the second half though when Vadaine Oliver was allowed to run down the middle of the Carlisle half before he struck his awful edge of the area effort over the stand. Following this though, there was only really one team that looked like they would score the next goal; the home side provided Scott Flinders and the City defence with a real torrid time in the City goal. Undoubtedly though the greatest miss came when Derek Asamoah's cross found an unmarked Jabo Ibehre two yards out, but somehow he managed to screw his header so wide, it almost went out for a throw in. The home side then had a chance that looked a certain goal as Hallam Hope ran one-on-one with Scott Flinders, before Luke Summerfield saved City's skin with a brilliant tackle from behind. And the home side were made to pay for their missed chances when Danny Galbraith's effort struck the post before bouncing out to Luke Summerfield who passed the ball into the net to give City a point to take home.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 24

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 30th January 2016: YORK CITY 2-1 Stevenage (City Goalscorers: K. McEvoy, 15, D. Galbraith, 90+3. Stevenage Goalscorer: K. Keane, 78)

BOOKED: *Stevenage: O'Connor.*

City Line Up: SF, LH, DW, KC, FI, RP, MD, LSu (DG), MCn, VO, KM (NM). *SNU's: JB, LSa, JC, MI, BF*

During the week, City had brought in a second young centre-back on loan from Newcastle in the form of Lubo Šatka. He only made the bench however, while winger Kenny McEvoy was restored to the starting line-up at the expense of Ntumba Massanka, who had done nothing so far to warrant a place in the team. McEvoy could not have got off to a better start either when he finished off a well-worked team goal in the 15th minute. Luke Summerfield set forward Michael Coulson off running before he cleverly played a pass between the two Stevenage defenders to McEvoy, who only needed to take one touch before burying his shot in the bottom corner of the goal. City could have been awarded a second early in the second half when McEvoy's cross was met by Michael Coulson and put in the net, but instead the latter was deemed to have fouled the goalkeeper resulting in a free kick the other way. And eventually Stevenage pulled back an equaliser out of absolutely nowhere when ex-Luton midfielder Keith Keane picked up the ball 30 yards from goal and pulled off an absolute screamer that York goalkeeper, Scott 'Butterflinders' could only spill into the net after failing to catch the ball, causing City heads to drop and the away side to begin searching for a winner. City had another goal disallowed late on when a Danny Galbraith free kick found its way to Vadaine Oliver, via Dave Winfield, who managed to head the ball into the back of the net, but it was ruled out for a wrongly awarded offside. And it looked like City would be made to pay when Aaron O'Connor managed to lob goalkeeper Flinders, but the hero on so many occasions this season, Dave Winfield was on hand to clear it off the line. At long last City got their just rewards when Danny Galbraith went on a late run through the visitors' half before striking into the bottom corner of the goal from 20 yards, rejecting calls of a pass from Michael Coulson. A deserved victory for the Mighty Minstermen.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 24

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 6th February 2016: Northampton Town 2-0 YORK CITY (Town Goalscorers: J-J. O'Toole, 21, M. Richards, 54)

BOOKED: Town: Collins, Cresswell. City: Satka, Penn. OFF: Hendrie (YORK)

City Line Up: SF, LH, DW, KC, FI, RP, MD (LSa), LSu, MCn, VO, KM (JB). **SNU's:** JC, NM, MI, BF, DG

City were still yet to win their second away game of the season and they were definitely second-favourites coming into the game away at title favourites Northampton Town. However, surprisingly to all it was City that almost broke the deadlock early in the first half when Kenny McEvoy won the ball and set up midfielder, Matty Dixon, but he could only strike his effort at goalkeeper Adam Smith, and the rebound from Russell Penn was blocked by the final defender to prevent City from taking a shock lead at Sixfields. The home side almost forged ahead soon after though when Lee Martin's cross was met by David Buchanan, but he could only direct his shot past the near post. The Cobblers did take the lead in the end though when Lee Martin's corner was swung in an unmarked John-Joe O'Toole made a simple flick to put the ball in the back of the net. They very nearly made it two as well when another cross came into the box but Marc Richards' header just missed by a small margin as it flew past the post. Following the break, a dreadful header by City's Kyle Cameron from a couple of yards out was definitely a contender for the goal of the season. City were made to pay for that missed chance when a later counter attack from Northampton ended with a ball being played from Ricky Holmes to Marc Richards, who cut in from the left to shoot with his right foot, round Luke Hendrie and into Scott Flinders' goal at the home end. Things just got worse for City late on when Ricky Holmes was running after the ball but a late two-footed challenge from Luke Hendrie resulted in a red card for the on loan Burnley right back, which would see him suspended for the next three games. This triggered the substitution of Matty Dixon for centre back Lubo Šatka who would fill in at Hendrie's position. Nothing got better here for the Minstermen and they were sent back to North Yorkshire with nothing.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 24

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 13th February 2016: YORK CITY 2-1 Notts County (City Goalscorers: M. Coulson, 24, B. Fewster, 39. County Goalscorer: L. Satka (OG), 63)

BOOKED: City: Coulson. County: Mackenzie, McLeod, Hollis.

City Line Up: SF, LSa, DW, KC, FI, MCn, RP, LSu (MD), DG, KM (JH), BF (RTh). **SNU's:** JB, JC, DR, MI

Following a midweek reserve match, the forgotten man Brad Fewster was restored to the team's line up for this game against the Magpies. It all started well for City too when a long, high ball from Kyle Cameron landed with Michael Coulson who finished perfectly to lob ex-Manchester United goalkeeper Roy Carroll at the away end. City almost got a second when Kenny McEvoy took a dig from 20 yards but could only direct his shot past the post. McEvoy provided the assist for the next goal though when he exchanged passes with skipper, Russell Penn before playing a pass into the middle of the box where the recalled Bradley Fewster was waiting to put it into the back of the net and double City's lead. Notts almost got one back in the second half, but Jon Stead's turn and shot from the edge of the box was driven past the post. They did finally pull one back though when Liam Noble's long ball forward was headed backwards by Lubo Satka, who was making his first start for the club, but instead of heading back to Flinders, he managed to loop the ball over his head and into the back of the net. A disastrous start for the on-loan Newcastle man. Notts did have a few chances to perhaps grab an equaliser, but in the end City proved to be a strong enough team and showed enough character to hang onto the lead that they had, getting what could prove to be an invaluable three points to add to the tally. A true spirited performance from City, just like the Minstermen of old.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 23

(LEAGUE TWO) Tuesday 16th February 2016: YORK CITY 2-0 Exeter City (City Goalscorers: B. Fewster, 35, 64)

BOOKED: *None*

City Line Up: *SF, LSa, DW, KC, FI, KM (DR), RP, JB, MCn (JC), JH (LSu), BF. SNU's: GS, RTh, MD, MI*

Having won three of their last four home games, Bootham Crescent was slowly becoming a scary place for away teams to visit. This game proved to be no different either when the ball found its way to Michael Coulson who managed to manipulate a pass to the newly nicknamed 'fox in the box' Bradley Fewster, before the latter executed a well struck effort on the edge of the area which found its way into the back of the net after taking a slight deflection from the heel of a Grecians defender, to score his second goal in four days. Exeter had a golden chance to equalise though when a long ball forward was aimed perfectly onto the head of Jayden Stockley, but he failed to pay attention to the oncoming Scott Flinders who managed to claim it before Stockley could. Exeter created a couple more small chances in the first half, for example a Lee Holmes cross from the left was headed towards goal, but smothered quickly by Flinders in the City net. Exeter had to pay for their squandered opportunities in the second half when City managed to find a second goal. A through-ball pass from James Berrett managed to find its way to the fox in the box once again and Fewster showed no signs of nerves or hesitation when burying the ball right in the bottom corner of the net to give the home side a two goal cushion. City very nearly made it three when Michael Coulson was let loose down the left hand side of the pitch, but his effort was poked out for a corner by ex-City goalkeeper, Bobby Olejnik. A quiet rest of the game, but City had the three points as well as a first clean sheet since September which was an extra bonus.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 22

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 20th February 2016: Cambridge United 3-1 YORK CITY (United Goalscorers: J. Spencer, 10, J. Coulson, 26, B. Williamson, 60. City Goalscorer: J. Berrett, 33)

BOOKED: *City: Satka.*

City Line Up: *SF, LSa, DW, KC, FI, MCn, RP (JC), JB, LSu, KM (JH), BF (RTh). SNU's: DR, GS, MD, MI*

Going into this game, City were confident they could finally grab their second away win of the season after winning two consecutive games for the first time this season. City began the game well and had the first real chance when a well worked free-kick routine between James Berrett, Luke Summerfield and Michael Coulson culminated in the latter striking from 25 yards but his effort could only meet the bar. The home side soon got on the front foot after this though when Ryan Haynes made a run down the left hand side before putting a cross into the box, which Jimmy Spencer was able to nod into the net after lack of communication between Kyle Cameron and a hopelessly flapping Flinders. And just fifteen minutes later, the lead was doubles for the U's when a corner was swung into the box and again Kyle Cameron was at fault when he allowed Josh Coulson to be unmarked and he had the simple job of just flicking the ball into the back of the net. This was soon followed by a very strong word exchange between Cameron and City skipper, Russell Penn. City did manage to pull back a goal a few minutes later when Cambridge managed to lose the ball in their own half and James Berrett was able to hit a superb strike from 25 yards out to score his fifth of the season and restore some hope for the Minstermen. However, on the hour mark the two-goal cushion was restored when a well struck shot was spilled by Scott Flinders right into the path of an oncoming Williamson who had the simple job of an easy tap in. City's attacking substitutions of Josh Carson, Jake Hyde and Reece Thompson had little impact as the home side continued to run riot. City fans did have something to cheer and laugh about when a penalty from Luke Berry was put over the crossbar following a foul by Dave Winfield, but ultimately City were going home with nothing.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 22

(LEAGUE TWO) Tuesday 23rd February 2016: YORK CITY 1-2 Northampton Town (City Goalscorer: R. Penn, 90+3. Town Goalscorers: J. Collins, 40, J. Marquis, 51)

BOOKED: *None*

City Line Up: *SF, LH, DW, LSA, KC, MCh, MD (RP), LSu, JC (KM), JH (VO), BF. SNU's: DR, GS, RTh, MI*

Though the away side here were sitting comfortably at the top of the table, City came into the game a lot more comfortable than they did for the reverse away fixture, having the knowledge that they had won four out of their last five home games. The game posed some questions for City fans though when the team was announced to see Jake Hyde starting over the perhaps more reliable Vadaine Oliver and even more surprising was to see wing wizard Kenny McEvoy dropped to the bench for Josh Carson who had only played a limited number of games all season. But the first half an hour seemed pretty even with no real chances going for either side. However, eventually when a breakthrough was made, it unfortunately did not go York's way. A cross was put into the box from the right hand side and after Dave Winfield had drifted a bit too far away from his man, leaving on-loan Shrewsbury man James Collins to head in from the centre of the goal. Advantage Northampton going into the break. That advantage was soon doubled in the second half by the Cobblers when City's Lubo Šatka failed to use his strength to withhold goalscorer James Collins, who then proceeded to make a darting run into the penalty area before crossing the ball into the box where John Marquis was waiting for a simple tap in. For any York City fan, it felt like watching the same goal that we've seen the club concede so many times this season. City almost pulled back a goal when Michael Coulson picked up the ball on the edge of the area, but unlike him he failed to put it away and did not put enough weight on the effort. City did get that goal in the end but it was too late by then, however Russ Penn's control and volley from 30-yards out could not have been any better.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 23

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 27th February 2016: YORK CITY 2-3 Luton Town (City Goalscorers: B. Fewster, 62, 82. Town Goalscorers: C. McGeehan, 52, J. Marriott, 74, O. Lee, 90+2)

BOOKED: *Town: McGeehan, Mackail-Smith, Green.*

City Line Up: *MI, LH, DW, WB, KC, DG (RTh), RP, LSu, FI (KM), VO, DR (BF). SNU's: SF, JB, JC, JH*

The two old foes met again, with City knowing their opponents had only beaten them once in the last fourteen meetings. But after a quiet first half, with the only real effort being Derek Riordan's shot wide of the visitors' goal, it was the Luton that forged ahead first when a basic corner from the left was nodded in by Cameron McGeehan of The Hatters. But their joy lived on for just ten minutes, because City equalised when Stephen O'Donnell's dreadful back pass led to Bradley Fewster being able to poke the ball round goalkeeper, Mark Tyler and then into the back of the net. Normality restored for the Minstermen. But the visitors did claim the lead once again twelve minutes later when a driven cross from Stephen O'Donnell was flicked in by Jack Marriott; a goal very similar to what we've seen as York City fans so many times already this term. For the second time in the game though, the fox in the box, Bradley Fewster came to City's rescue when Kenny McEvoy's head forward fell to the striker, he had the task of putting the ball in the back of the net and he did so with style, poking the ball casually through the legs of Luton goalkeeping stalwart Mark Tyler to surely claim a point for the Minstermen. But, for some reason City seemed to sit back on their draw and not try and get that last goal to finish the visitors off. This proved to be the costly blow for the Minstermen as their stand-offish attitude led to Olly Lee being able to run about 25-30 yards with the ball before striking into the bottom corner of the restored Michael Ingham's goal, giving Luton the lead and the three points to take back down soutyh, much to the annoyance of the City fans who saw it as a missed opportunity to take points from a very, very poor side.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 23

(LEAGUE TWO) Tuesday 1st March 2016: Oxford United 4-0 YORK CITY (United
Goalscorers: J. Bowery, 16, C. Dunkley, 72, D. Hylton, 79, K. Roofe, 85)

BOOKED: United: Skarz

City Line Up: MI, LH, DW, WB, KC, RP, LSu, FI (VO), JB (DG), MCn, BF. snu's: SF, JC, JH, MD, KM

City visited an Oxford side that were at present sitting in the automatic promotion places so they were the clear favourites against a side that had won just once away from home all season and sat second-bottom of the league table. And the home side came close early in the first half when striker, Danny Hylton found his way into the left hand side of the penalty area and past Luke Summerfield but he could only blast his effort over the bar after an awkward shot with the outside of his right boot. The home side did pick up the lead 16 minutes into the first half though when Danny Hylton played a pass to the completely unmarked Callum O'Dowda, who's shot was only parried by Michael Ingham right into the path of Jordan Bowery. And though many expected this to be a complete annihilation, City managed to keep the U's at bay and the result stuck to just the one goal ahead for the majority of the game, a further good effort from Danny Hylton was kept out by the Minstermen. But in the 72nd minute, City's defence cracked and a superb corner from arguably the league's best player, Kemar Roofe, was headed in by a powerful Chey Dunkley to double the lead, and it only went downhill for City from here. Just seven minutes later a brilliant solo goal from Danny Hylton made it three for the home side when he took on two City defenders before sliding his shot past Michael Ingham from the corner of the penalty area. The game was truly put to bed six minutes later when Josh Ruffels' shot was parried by Ingham right into the path of Kemar Roofe who had the simple job of an easy tap in to dramatically improve Oxford's goal difference which could be crucial in their promotion push, but for City things didn't look like they'd be getting any better.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 23

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 5th March 2016: Dagenham & Redbridge 1-0 YORK CITY
(Dag & Red Goalscorer: J. Passley, 78)

BOOKED: Dag & Red: Hawkins, Labadie, Hoyte. City: Flinders, Carson. OFF: Penn (YORK)

City Line Up: SF, LH, DW, KC, FI, KM (JB), RP, LSu (JH), DG, VO, BF (JC). snu's: MD, MI, WB

This game was always going to be tight and scrappy with the league's two bottom clubs still fighting for survival. But, the game looked perfectly set up for a draw as City had not won away since early September and Dagenham were yet to win a home game all season. If either of those records were going to change though, it would be today and it could prove to be a vital result in the fight for survival. The home side had a chance to open the scoring early in the first half, but Joss Labadie could only fire his 25-yard effort wide of the recalled Flinders' post. They came even closer later on when Ashley Hemmings struck a powerful effort from the left-hand side of the penalty area, but City's no.1 was able to parry the ball away from goal. The home side looked like the only team to score a goal, coming even closer with a header on goal from a Josh Passley cross, but the header was only directed wide. Dagenham were thrown a chance to take the lead though when a corner caused City defenders to panic and skipper Russell Penn handled the ball on the line, getting himself sent off and earning the home side a penalty in the process. But Flinders was able to save Labadie's soft penalty, which would surely go on to give the away team confidence.

However, it went the complete opposite direction, causing the home side to be even more determined to take the lead and a cross from Ashley Hemmings in the 78th minute was met in the centre of the box by Josh Passley and the Daggers were ahead. And unfortunately for the Minstermen and the 348 travelling supporters, there was no hope of a victory, as City went down 1-0 to the bottom club, putting a severe dent in any survival hopes they may still have and causing the fans to give the players a very abusive send off as they escaped down the tunnel at the end of the game.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 23

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 12th March 2016: YORK CITY 1-1 Barnet (City Goalscorer: L. Alessandra, 20. Barnet Goalscorer: J. Akinde, 37)

BOOKED: *City: Hendrie. Barnet: Champion, Nelson*

City Line Up: SF, LH, DW, KC, FI, SB, MCn (KM), DG (VO), LSu, JH (BF), LA. **SNU's:** JB, JC, MD, MI

Time was running out on City's bid to remain in League Two, so desperate times call for desperate measures. Manager, Jackie McNamara brought in two more loan players to add to his squad, but instead of going for youth like he has done with the majority of his previous signings, he chose to go for two experienced League Two players in the form of striker, Lewis Alessandra from Rochdale and centre-back/midfielder Scot Bennett from Notts County to provide a positive mix of youth and experience in City's starting 11. Another surprise for this game was the recall of striker, Jake Hyde to the starting line-up but last year's top scorer with 10 goals almost got off the mark for the season with an effort from the edge of the penalty area following a good ball forward from Luke Summerfield, but his effort could only hit the post. However, the move wasn't over as waiting to put the rebound into the back of the net was new signing Lewis Alessandra who managed to beat defender Alie Sesay to the ball and grab a goal on his Minstermen debut. Alessandra almost grabbed a second for the Minstermen when Michael Coulson made a positive run through the Barnet half before laying off the on-loan Rochdale man, who was able to dazzle his defenders before unleashing a power blaster, but goalkeeper Jamie Stephens was able to block the ball. Out of nowhere though, Barnet pulled back another goal when a simple cross into the box was tapped in by John Akinde, a goal that City fans had seen so many times this season go against them. City almost restored their lead in the second half through Danny Galbraith, but his left-footed free kick was directed over the crossbar by Stephens. A further chance came when Luke Summerfield met Femi Ilesanmi's cross with his head, but he could only hit the bar and once again City had been made to settle for the one point.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 23

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 19th March 2016: AFC Wimbledon 2-1 YORK CITY (Wimbledon Goalscorers: R. Murphy, 68, J. Reeves, 90+3. City Goalscorer: R. Penn, 38)

BOOKED: *Wimbledon: Barcham. City: Satka.*

City Line Up: SF, LSa, DW, WB, FI, SB, RP, LSu, DG (BF), VO, LA. **SNU's:** JB, JC, DR, MD, MI, KM

City came into this game as undoubtedly the second-favourites and it showed within the early stages of the game; Lyle Taylor showing his early intent with a one-on-one effort that he hit at Scott Flinders. Taylor came close again when he picked up a pass on the edge of the area, but he could only hit his left-footed shot at Flinders in the York City goal. But perhaps surprisingly, somehow it was City that took the lead with one of their first chances of the game. Vadaine Oliver took a shot from the edge of the penalty box, but this rebounded out to captain Russell Penn and he was able to steer in a cool finish into the goal to net his second goal of the season and his fourth for the club. City had the advantage going in at the half-time break, but once again it was the home side that came out fighting and looked most likely to score. And score they did. Dannie Bulman's cross in the box was collected by Flinders, but spilled into the path of Rhys Murphy who had the simple job of taping in from a few yards out. It was almost another for Wimbledon when City foe Adebayo Azeez got the better of York defender Dave Winfield in the penalty area but he could only scuff his effort past the post. The home side did claim the victory in the end though in the third minute of injury time when a clearance from William Boyle fell to Jake Reeves 30 yards out and he managed to produce a chested control and a volley that absolutely no goalkeeper in the world would be able to stop right into the top corner of Scott Flinders' goal to deny City their first away point since January 23rd and to be frankly realistic – it was not looking good for the Minstermen in their survival bid.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 23

(LEAGUE TWO) Friday 25th March 2016: YORK CITY 2-2 Crawley Town (City Goalscorers: L. Summerfield, 30 (pen), M. Coulson, 69. Town Goalscorers: M. Harrold, 5, L. McAlinden, 48)

BOOKED: *Town: Walton.*

City Line Up: SF, LH, DW, WB, FI, SB (MCn), RP, LSu, DG (KM), VO (RTh), LA. *SNU's: JB, DR, MD, MI*

City faced the side that beat them by a narrow 1-0 victory earlier in the season in Richard Cresswell's only game as caretaker manager. This time though, City had a lot more to play for and were hoping to gain three points to go towards their Football League survival bid. But, it did not go to plan as it took just five minutes for the visitors to take the lead when a free kick swung into the penalty area for some reason was seen by Scott Flinders as a cue to come rushing out of goal and as a result, Matt Harrold was able to lob the City keeper to give Crawley the lead, much to the anger of City's fans, who directed their frustrations towards both Flinders & manager Jackie McNamara. City came close to an equaliser through Danny Galbraith, but his free kick was stopped by goalkeeper Callum Preston. City did get the chance to restore level measures though when Lewis Alessandra was tripped in the penalty area after a darting run. Luke Summerfield was then able to convert for his third penalty goal of the season, belting it into the bottom left hand corner. City should have taken the lead just before half time when Lewis Alessandra played in Vadaine Oliver, but he was unable to put the ball into the back of the net, belting it wide from 8 yards. But, just as it seemed like City had taken the front foot, an early throw in in the second half caused havoc in the City penalty area, allowing Liam McAlinden to tap the ball past Flinders to give Town the lead once more. City should have had an equaliser when Luke Summerfield received a ball from Vadaine Oliver 8 yards from goal but his thunderbolt volley was somehow stopped by Preston – a save of the season contender. City did equalise through the departing Michael Coulson when he curled in a spectacular shot from the corner of the penalty area, but City were to be allowed no more glory and frankly one point was still not good enough.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 23

(LEAGUE TWO) Monday 28th March 2016: Plymouth Argyle 3-2 YORK CITY (Argyle Goalscorers: J. Matt, 21, R. Reid, 31 (pen), W. Boyle (OG), 42. City Goalscorers: R. Penn, 52, L. Summerfield, 86 (pen))

BOOKED: *Argyle: Forster City: Fewster*

City Line Up: SF, LH, DW, WB, FI, SB (DR), RP (JB), LSu, MC, BF (VO), LA. *SNU's: MD, MI, KM, DG*

City faced promotion hopefuls Plymouth as major outsiders and it soon showed as Argyle dominated the whole first half. Their first of three first half goals came on 21 minutes when a high ball into the box found Reuben Reid who laid off his strike partner and ex-York transfer target Jamille Matt who buried his shot into Flinders' York goal. The second followed ten minutes later when Matt was clumsily brought down by Dave Winfield and Reuben Reid was able to convert the spot kick to double the deficit. The home side's third goal came in the 42nd minute when a free kick was dreadfully headed into his own goal by young defender William Boyle, which capped off a truly dreadful half for the defender, who had been run ragged all day by both Reuben Reid and Jamille Matt. To the shock of everyone in the stadium though, it seemed like a completely different York side in the second half with Russell Penn getting his second goal in successive away matches from 20 yards to reduce the deficit to two goals. City still had a lot of work to do however. And late on in the half they had hope of achieving it when William Boyle was brought down in the penalty area, earning himself a penalty, which City's master penalty taker, Luke Summerfield, was able to convert to grab his sixth goal of the season. Bad news came for City late on though when Russell Penn was involved in a challenge that had him thumping the ground in agony – it looked like he would be out for the season at the least. Things were just getting worse for City.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 23

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 2nd April 2016: YORK CITY 1-1 Leyton Orient (City Goalscorer: B. Fewster, 17. Orient Goalscorer: L. James, 75)

BOOKED: *City: Boyle, Berrett, Alessandra, Galbraith. Orient: McAnuff, Ramage, James.*

OFF: Boyle (YORK)

City Line Up: *SF, LH, DW, WB, FI (DG), SB, JB, LSu, MCn (VO), BF, LA. SNU's: DR, JH, MD, MI, KM*

Given how many points City were off League Two safety with just seven games of the season remaining, this was a must win game for the home side. City started very positively though and it took just 17 minutes for them to take the lead. A cross into the box from Luke Summerfield was met by a sliding Bradley Fewster to score his seventh goal of the season for the Minstermen. The away side had a golden opportunity to make it 1-1 though when William Boyle decided to bizarrely handle the ball inside his own penalty area, giving away a penalty to the away side and he was very lucky not to have been sent off for his offence. However, ex-Premier League star Jobi McAnuff could not convert, lashing his penalty against the post and City were still in the lead going into the break. In the second half, Orient came close to getting that goal back though when a ball in from Lloyd James was met by another ex-Premier League star, Kevin Nolan, player-manager at Orient, but his header was tipped over the bar by Scott Flinders at full stretch. Soon though, things got tense for the Minstermen when William Boyle was sent off for a second yellow card awarded for what the referee claimed to be diving, however it's clear that Boyle did not dive and simply tripped as he showed no signs of claiming a foul or a penalty, leaving City fans fuming with the shambolic performance that had been put in by the referee so far. And ultimately this was City's downfall as going down to ten men was a huge drop in confidence and just a couple of minutes afterwards, Nicky Hunt's throw in found Lloyd James on the edge of the penalty area who struck a shot that deflected off Scot Bennett and into the back of Scott Flinders' net. The score remained 1-1 for the rest of the game, but City had been robbed of a vital home victory by an absolutely shambolic refereeing display that could prove to be very costly by the end of the season.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 23

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 9th April 2016: YORK CITY 1-1 Wycombe Wanderers (City Goalscorer: V. Oliver, 35. Wanderers Goalscorer: M. Bloomfield, 88)

BOOKED: *City: Berrett, Alessandra. Wanderers: Jombati.*

City Line Up: *SF, LH, DW, SB, KC (JC), MD, JB, LSu, VO (DG), BF, LA. SNU's: DR, JH, RTh, MI, KM*

Once again City came into a game as the favourites for defeat as they faced a Wycombe side fighting to get themselves into a play-off place. But City had lost just two of their last eight home games, suggesting that their home form could see them through this game. City almost went ahead when Lewis Alessandra was played in by James Berrett, but he could only lift his shot onto the goalkeeper, Matt Ingram. And in the 35th minute, City did take the lead when good hold up play from Lewis Alessandra meant he made time for a run from Vadaine Oliver, before slipping him through and Oliver took a large touch before finishing coolly underneath Ingram into the back of the net to grab his tenth goal of the season, but his first goal since mid-December. City almost got another before half time when Bradley Fewster went on a run through the opponent's half before passing to Luke Summerfield, but he could only belt his shot at Ingram. However, after a quiet second half, typical York City managed to throw away their lead right at the end of the match in the 88th minute when a powerful shot from Anthony Stewart was stopped by Flinders but was pushed out right into the path of Matt Bloomfield who managed to bundle the ball into the back of the net and showed great desire for the cause as he managed to break his arm in the process. However, none of that mattered to him as he had snatched two vital points away from the Minstermen and this meant that City's small hopes of survival were crumbling fast.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 23

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 16th April 2016: Hartlepool United 2-1 YORK CITY (United Goalscorers: N. Thomas, 24, M. Woods, 74. City Goalscorer: K. Cameron, 45+1)

BOOKED: United: Thomas. City: Winfield, Dixon. OFF: Winfield (YORK)

City Line Up: SF, LH, DW, SB, KC, MD (DG), RP, LSu, VO (FI), BF, LA. **SNU's:** JC, DR, RTh, MI, KM

City went into this game knowing that they could be all but relegated by 5 O'Clock, but this didn't stop players and staff alike claiming that they would give it their all going into the game to fight to keep York City in the Football League. City were boosted going into it though, knowing that Russell Penn would return to the side earlier than expected having been sidelined with the knee injury he picked up at Plymouth three games prior. The home side seemed to get off to the brightest start though when Nathan Thomas made a darting run into the box before firing his shot at ex-Pools shot stopper and captain Scott Flinders. Thomas did get his goal though when a corner found its way to him in the centre of the penalty box and he was able to lash the ball in the back of the net with all four surrounding defenders making no attempt to stop him. Hartlepool continued to dominate the first half and things just got worse for City when Dave Winfield brought down Nathan Thomas, leaving the referee to dish out a red card to the City defensive colossus. The Pools continued to dominate and grew in confidence after City were reduced to ten men but still could not get their second goal. Out of absolutely nowhere though, it was City that grabbed the next goal. A Luke Summerfield corner was met by the head of recalled defender Kyle Cameron, who scored his first goal in professional football to equalise for the Minstermen. The style of the game did not change after the break though, as Hartlepool continued to be the dominant side and went close with a number of chances, before finally bagging their second goal when a simple cross from Michael Duckworth was met by the head of Michael Woods in the 74th minute. City failed to find another and they had now been all but relegated from the Football League.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 23

(LEAGUE TWO) Tuesday 19th April 2016: YORK CITY 3-1 Portsmouth (City Goalscorers: B. Fewster, 30, L. Alessandra, 34, L. Summerfield, 48. Portsmouth Goalscorer: G. Evans, 55)

BOOKED: City: Summerfield, Carson. Portsmouth: Davies.

City Line Up: SF, LH, KC, SB, JC, RP, JB, LSu, DG (KM), BF, LA. **SNU's:** DR, GS, RTh, MD, MI

City went into this game with the promotion hopefuls knowing that anything less than a win would see them relegated from the Football League and if Newport County won in their game, even a win would not be good enough to keep City's survival hopes alive. And having lost 6-0 to Pompey earlier in the season, it did not look set up well for City to get a win. Nevertheless, despite all the doubters, it was City that took the lead when a Luke Summerfield corner was flicked on by Scot Bennett to Bradley Fewster at the back post and the fox in the box had an easy header into the goal from about a yard out. And the dream of a miracle escape continued when four minutes later City's lead was doubled. Great work from Bradley Fewster and Luke Hendrie resulted in a Hendrie ground cross into the box for Lewis Alessandra to come sliding in and grab his second goal in City colours since joining from Rochdale. City went into the break two up and came out of it with exactly the same mentality. It only took three minutes until City's lead was increased to three goals with a spectacular 25-yard curling effort from Luke Summerfield into the back of the net to get his seventh goal for the season and his eleventh in City colours. City's inability to keep a clean sheet continued though when Gareth Evans' shot was spilled into the back of the net by Flinders. However, the rest of the game was goalless and with the news that Newport County had failed to win in their respective game, City were delighted to hear that their survival hopes were still hanging by a very very loose thread. The players could hold their head up with pride following a heroic display, but City fans remained confused as to why that performance hadn't been put in more often throughout the course of the season.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 23

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 23rd April 2016: Accrington Stanley 3-0 YORK CITY (Stanley Goalscorer: T. Fosu-Henry, 35, J. Windass, 69, 90+2)

BOOKED: *Stanley: Fosu-Henry City: Summerfield, Hendrie.*

City Line Up: SF, LH, KC, SB, JC, RP, JB, LSu, DG (DW), BF, LA. **SNU's:** DR, GS, RTh, MD, MI, KM

City went into this game with a positive mentality following the 3-1 victory at Portsmouth midweek; however they would have to gain their first away victory since Newport in early September and hope that Newport didn't pick up anything at Luton if they were to keep their survival hopes alive for at least another week. It didn't look good for City though when Scott 'Butterflinders' managed to spill another ball, this time it was a Sean McConville cross right into the path of Tarique Fosu-Henry who had the job of taping it into the back of the net, which he managed to do with ease. It remained 1-0 to Stanley going into the half-time break and City had 45 minutes to save their Football League status. As the sides begun playing in the second half it was difficult to recognise that this City side was the same team that beat Portsmouth 3-1 earlier in the week with a stunning performance as this side lacked fight, passion and commitment and certainly didn't look up for the challenge of preserving the club's hard-earned Football League status. Accrington went close to doubling their lead a few times early in the second half but failed to do so. However, in the 69th minute it looked all but over for the Minstermen when Glasgow Rangers-bound midfielder Josh Windass doubled the home side's lead with a volley from outside of the penalty area. City almost got a goal back when Lewis Alessandra crossed for Bradley Fewster, but the young forward could not turn quick enough to finish his shot. The killer blow was ultimately dealt for the Minstermen though in the second minute of injury time when Josh Windass grabbed his second goal of the game with a deflected shot from the middle of the penalty area, giving the home side a boost in their promotion bid and York City had been relegated back to the National League.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 23

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 30th April 2016: YORK CITY 1-4 Bristol Rovers (City Goalscorer: K. McEvoy, 81. Rovers Goalscorers: B. Bodin, 19, 71, J. Easter, 80, L. Mansell, 88)

BOOKED: *City: Berrett, Penn, Galbraith.*

City Line Up: SF, LH, DW, SB, KC, RP (JC), JB, LSu, DG (KM), BF, LA. **SNU's:** DR, GS, RT, MD, MI

City came into this game with absolutely nothing to play for, with their relegation having already been confirmed. However, their opponents were still aiming for back-to-back promotions to get them up to League One, so they were bound to see this as an opportunity to boost their promotion bid. As expected it was the away side that looked like they would bag the win and they did grab the first goal just before the 20 minute mark when Billy Bodin was able to cut in from the right and strike a shot with his left foot into Scott Flinders' goal and give Rovers the lead. Though many may have expected a thrashing, it did not look like that was where the game was heading, as the game seemed pretty close for the rest of the first half and early second half. That was until Bodin grabbed his second on 71 minutes with a run through the City half before taking it round Flinders and cleverly finishing into the net. It looked like the thrashing could be on the way when Jermaine Easter made it three with a simple finish round Flinders in the 80th minute. But it took just nine seconds from the resulting centre or City to grab a consolation goal when a Bradley Fewster cross was met by Kenny McEvoy sliding in to give York fans something small to cheer about and grab his second of the season. City were finished off in the 88th minute though when an edge of the box effort from Lee Mansell was powerfully struck into Scott Flinders' bottom corner to boost Rovers' promotion push and end City's home season badly.

LEAGUE POSITION AFTER GAME: 23

(LEAGUE TWO) Saturday 7th May 2016: Morecambe 1-1 YORK CITY (Morecambe Goalscorer: J. Devitt, 51. City Goalscorer: L. Summerfield, 45+1)

BOOKED: *Morecambe: Miller.*

City Line Up: MI, LH, DW, SB, KC, KM, JB, LSu, JC, BF (VO), LA. **SNU's:** SF, FI, DR, GS, MD, DG

Two teams with nothing left to play for except personal pride met on the final day of the season to try and end it on a high. With rumours already flying around regarding potential incomings and outgoings at the end of the season, most City fans were just looking forward to the diabolical season ending end the club being able to rebuild in the summer. Still, the game had to be played and it was. The home side almost took the lead when a bad back pass by Dave Winfield was pounced upon by Aaron Wildig, but recalled City goalkeeper Michael Ingham was able to stop it in the one-on-one situation. The follow up effort from the right hand side was also stopped by the veteran City goalkeeper. Ingham was continued to be worked very hard in the City goal and had a number of significant saves to make during the first half that kept City in the game and they paid off as towards the end of the first half, City were able to take the lead. Luke Summerfield retrieved a pass from James Berrett before passing a 20-yard effort into the bottom corner of the goal to give City the lead and maybe they would be able to finally get that long awaited second away win of the season on the final day. Morecambe restored equal measures in the 51st minute though when Jamie Devitt unleashed a brilliant 25-yard effort that even the best goalkeeper in the world would struggle to save. Morecambe looked like they could go on and win the game, but Michael Ingham really was on top form and continued to be kept very busy in the York City goal, making save after save like he had been doing for the Minstermen for years. City fans voiced their disapproval towards both player and manager when Jackie McNamara made the puzzling decision to bring Vadaine Oliver onto the pitch late on, but by then it was too late. City finished the season with just one away win and worst of all was that on the final day, City had dropped to the absolute foot of the Football League going down as the bottom team.

FINAL LEAGUE POSITION: 24

FINAL LEAGUE 2 STANDINGS:

	Team	P	GD	Pts
1	Northampton	46	36	99
2	Oxford Utd	46	43	86
3	Bristol Rovers	46	31	85
4	Accrington	46	26	85
5	Plymouth	46	26	81
6	Portsmouth	46	31	78
7	Wimbledon	46	14	75
8	Leyton Orient	46	-1	69
9	Cambridge	46	11	68
10	Carlisle	46	5	67
11	Luton	46	2	66
12	Mansfield	46	8	64
13	Wycombe	46	1	64
14	Exeter	46	-2	64
15	Barnet	46	-1	62
16	Hartlepool	46	-23	51
17	Notts County	46	-29	51
18	Stevenage	46	-15	48
19	Yeovil	46	-16	48
20	Crawley	46	-33	47
21	Morecambe	46	-22	46
22	Newport	46	-21	43
23	Dag & Red	46	-35	34
24	York	46	-36	34

2015-16 APPEARANCES AND GOALS CHART

PLAYER NAME	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL	
	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals
Lewis Alessandra	11	2	0	0	11	2
Scot Bennett	11	0	0	0	11	0
James Berrett	33+3	4	4	1	37+3	5
William Boyle	12	0	0	0	12	0
Kyle Cameron	18	1	0	0	18	1
Josh Carson	6+16	1	0+3	0	6+19	1
Michael Collins	7	0	3	0	10	0
Michael Coulson	20+2	5	3	2	23+2	7
Matty Dixon	6+1	0	0	0	6+1	0
Bradley Fewster	18+6	8	0	0	18+6	8
Scott Flinders	43	0	5	0	48	0
Danny Galbraith	14+7	1	0	0	14+7	1
Ben Godfrey	5+7	1	2+1	0	7+8	1
Jonathan Greening	2+1	0	0	0	2+1	0
Taron Hare	0	0	0	0	0	0
Luke Hendrie	18	0	0	0	18	0
Jake Hyde	4+7	0	0+3	0	4+10	0
Femi Ilesanmi	35+2	0	4	0	39+2	0
Michael Ingham	3	0	0	0	3	0
Mark Kitching	1	0	0	0	1	0
Keith Lowe	15+1	1	4	0	19+1	0
Jordan Lussey	1	0	0	0	1	0
Ntumba Massanka	1+2	0	0	0	1+2	0
John McCombe	5	1	1	0	6	1
Marvin McCoy	14	0	5	0	19	0
Kenny McEvoy	10+9	2	0	0	10+9	2
Bryn Morris	3	0	1	0	4	0
Eddie Nolan	11+4	1	3	0	14+4	1
Stefan O'Connor	4	0	0	0	4	0
Vadaine Oliver	31+6	7	5	3	36+6	10
Russell Penn	32+2	3	3	0	35+2	3
Tom Platt	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derek Riordan	1+3	0	0	0	1+3	0
Callum Rzonca	0+1	0	0+1	0	0+2	0
Lubo Satka	5+1	0	0	0	5+1	0
Emile Sinclair	3+9	0	2	0	5+9	0
Anthony Straker	6+5	0	1+1	0	7+6	0
Luke Summerfield	33+1	7	2	1	35+1	8
George Swan	3+1	0	1	0	4+1	0
Reece Thompson	9+4	3	2+1	0	11+5	3
Rhys Turner	5+4	1	0+1	0	5+5	1
David Tutonda	7+5	0	1+1	0	8+6	0
Dave Winfield	36+1	2	2+1	0	38+2	2
Stéphane Zubar	4	0	1	0	5	0

TOP GOALSCORER LIST 2015-16

1. Vadaine Oliver – 10
- =2. Bradley Fewster – 8
- =2. Luke Summerfield – 8
4. Michael Coulson – 7
5. James Berrett – 5
- =6. Reece Thompson – 3
- =6. Russell Penn – 3
- =8. Dave Winfield – 2
- =8. Lewis Alessandra – 2
- =8. Kenny McEvoy – 2
- =11. Eddie Nolan – 1
- =11. Josh Carson – 1
- =11. Rhys Turner – 1
- =11. John McCombe – 1
- =11. Keith Lowe – 1
- =11. Ben Godfrey – 1
- =11. Danny Galbraith – 1
- =11. Kyle Cameron – 1



Reece Thompson (3) and Vadaine Oliver (10) both spent time at the top of City's goalscoring charts



Bradley Fewster was rewarded for his 5 goals in February with the League Player of the Month award



John McCombe is pictured here with James Berrett celebrating his final goal for the club against Cambridge United

WHAT WENT WRONG?

From previous pages, it's clear to see for all that City have not lacked ability to score in front of goal. However, unfortunately the defence has not quite been up to the same standard and that has ultimately been the club's downfall.

At the beginning of the season, the club begun playing a 3-5-2 formation and with four good, experienced centre backs in Keith Lowe, Dave Winfield, Stéphane Zubar and John McCombe as well as youngsters George Swan and Taron Hare waiting in the wings, the club looked like they had a defence set up for the season. However, after a season-ending injury for Zubar, Keith Lowe and John McCombe having fallen out of favour by Jackie McNamara's reign and ultimately being released, Swan being deemed 'not ready' and Taron Hare being carted out on loan to Stamford, City were stuck with one good centre back in Dave Winfield.

Femi Ilesanmi was forced to cover in the centre-back position a number of times, but when McNamara finally decided to draft in some centre halves they proved to be the wrong ones. The likes of Stefan O'Connor and Lubo Satka are just a couple of examples of young defenders that have not flourished at the club this season. Although, William Boyle did look a class act when partnering Winfield at the back, but when he was recalled to Huddersfield, Kyle Cameron was drafted in as the direct replacement and he failed to live up to Boyle's standards. Boyle returned later on in the season, but never looked the same player as he was during his first spell at the club. Scot Bennett was drafted in towards the end of the season, but was only really played in midfield before it was too late. However, when partnered at the back with Winfield, he really did look the full package.

So, what exactly was wrong with the centre of City's defence? Well towards the beginning of the season, it was hard to pinpoint exactly what was the cause of the Lowe and McCombe downfall, but neither managed to force their way into the new manager's plans. The pair both seemed to have lost a yard of pace and fitness; two things that had always been two of Lowe's greatest qualities. Meanwhile, George Swan benefited from the two being dropped as he earnt his first appearances for the club. His debut at Barnsley was memorable as he showed City fans the fight and desire they'd been missing at centre-back all season. But he failed to show the same form again and after being involved in the 6-0 demise at Portsmouth and the 5-1 defeat at home to Accrington, it's not hard to believe that he never played for the club again before his end of season release. Taron Hare, meanwhile never managed to force his way any further than the subs' bench after his questionable signing by Russ Wilcox in the summer of 2015 and was also released at the end of the season.

Even when new defenders were brought in though, the same mistakes seemed to be made. The most obvious one seemed to be the lack of ability to stop a simple cross. So many times this season, we have seen a simple ground cross put in from the wing that defenders should be clearing in their sleep, but City's defenders seem to have always struggled, which is definitely a key reason for the downfall of City's defence this season. The lack of pace and fitness seen with Lowe and McCombe were also replicated with the likes of Stefan O'Connor and Mark Kitching, who were drafted in prior to the Accrington game. These all seem to be qualities that City have

not been able to get rid of all season, apart from at the back end when Dave Winfield was partnered in defence with Scot Bennett, but by then it was too late.

Furthermore, it's not only the centre backs that have suffered this season. The full backs at times have been no better. When the 3-5-2 system was being played City started the season with loanee David Tutonda and the transfer-listed Marvin McCoy in the two wing-back roles. The fact that Wilcox had to settle for what he had with McCoy showed that there was not much hope for the club. Tutonda however seemed to show promise, but too often he would much rather pull out a stepover instead of a killer pass, which didn't help his case and was a reason for his early return to Cardiff. Another incumbent of a full back role this season was Eddie Nolan, who filled the right back role ahead of McCoy a number of times, although Nolan often found himself playing in midfield at times too. He was another frustrating player, with glimpses of talent definitely being shown, but he seemed to put on a bit of 'timber' during his time at the club, which resulted in him being dropped early in McNamara's reign and he was another one that failed to survive the new City's manager's mass cull of experienced players.

Femi Ilesanmi spent the majority of the season filling the left back role and similarly to Tutonda he was a frustrating one. He showed ability and passion when bursting forward down his left wing and rarely lost the ball when bursting in to the opposing penalty area. However, too many silly mistakes and failures led to him receiving a bit of abuse from the City faithful. Similarly to McCoy, he also began the season on Wilcox's transfer list but managed to find his way into the team.

Another full back to have spent a long time playing in their position was Luke Hendrie, who was drafted in from Burnley on loan after the expiry of Stefan O'Connor's loan. Hendrie was a virtual ever-present for the rest of the season apart from when he received a three game ban and also confusingly lost his place to Lubo Satka for the away game at AFC Wimbledon. He was one of the bright sparks in City's team this season though for the time he spent in the side. His ability to put in a cross and make a run forward was high and he certainly provided moments of excitement for City fans. A number of fans were reminded of ex-loanee Bradley Halliday when watching the full back play. Hendrie is one of the few loanees that would definitely be welcome back at Bootham Crescent.

Josh Carson, Anthony Straker, Kyle Cameron, Jordan Lussey and Lubo Satka all also filled in at full back at various points throughout the season, but all managed to prove why that is not their first choice position. And all the chopping and changing from McNamara in the defence certainly won't have helped the side to gel or grow in ability, which is a major reason for the club's downfall this season.

In conclusion, the club has suffered massively this season from the defence. The likes of Bradley Fewster and Lewis Alessandra have kept the forward line up and running, but the back line has suffered from lack of experience, lack of ability and lack of match fitness. But the largest reason has to be the lack of passion, pride, commitment and desire. Only few players have looked proud to wear the City shirt this season and put in enough effort to make the fans recognize how much the club means to them. And a note to Jackie, there is absolutely no excuse for players who do not care. As far as we fans care, send them back to their respective clubs or get rid; there is no place for laziness and lack of pride at York City Football Club.

PLAYER RATINGS

Scott Flinders (5/10) – Played all but three games throughout a tough and torrid season for City's defence and though he has pulled off a few remarkable saves, he has done more bad than good; letting in way too many shots that have simply spilled through his hands, hence why City fans dubbed him 'Butterflinders' by the end of the season

Marvin McCoy (2/10) – Began the season on Russ Wilcox's transfer list, but managed to find his way back into the team, much to the confusion of City's supporters. His lack of ability was clear for all to see and he was always reliable to give away silly chances. Sent packing early in McNamara's reign.

Femi Ilesanmi (4/10) – Another one that began the season on the transfer list, but unlike McCoy, Femi found his way off it and lasted the whole season at the club. After an up and down first season, he was determined to right all of his wrongs and he looked like he may do that with a few stunning performances in which he looked as much an attacking threat as he did a defensive rock. However, he returned to his old self in the second half of the season, giving away silly balls and clearly lacking in ability and fight.

James Berrett (6/10) – One of Wilcox's more successful signings of the summer; Berrett was a real attacking threat from midfield. After scoring three goals early on in the season though, he seemed to quiet down a bit and was dropped a couple of times in McNamara's reign. Always a reliable midfielder though and though he had his quiet matches, he was usually one of the team's more consistent men.

John McCombe (3/10) – Spent 9 of the first 12 games of the season as an unused substitute and the other three not in the matchday squad at all. However, took his chance when offered it, scoring a goal on his first game of the season and gaining him a run of six games in the team. He was dropped after this though and due to lack of match fitness, he never made a McNamara matchday squad and was released early into his time as manager.

Scot Bennett (6/10) – A calm, experienced head in midfield and at the back for the club, but was not brought in early enough to really make a difference, as McNamara had preferred to sign the likes of young players such as Kyle Cameron and Matty Dixon. He was a reliable player though and looked comfortable playing in both midfield and defence. It's a massive shame that he wasn't at the club all season to really make an impact.

Eddie Nolan (3/10) – One of Wilcox's poor summer signings. He featured in both midfield and right back for the Minstermen, but looked equally unfit and uncomfortable at both, and besides a goal of the season contender at Stevenage, he did little to justify his selection in the City shirt. Another one to be booted out by McNamara.

Lubo Satka (2/10) – One of the poor loan signings brought in by Jackie McNamara. Lubo looked absolutely terrified every time he received the ball and he lacked strength, pace and fight. He doesn't look to have a massively bright future in the game unless he improves these aspects, which could perhaps improve as he grows in maturity and experiences a bit more of the professional game.

Michael Coulson (6/10) – Has been so consistent over his four seasons at the club, but once again his season was thwarted by a series of injury setbacks. Despite this, he still managed to grab his joint highest goals tally in a season for the club with 7 goals and was always able to pull a stunner out of absolutely nowhere. For big parts of the season, he was City's brightest attacking threat going forward and it's no doubt that when he was injured, City's performances were affected.

Luke Summerfield (6/10) – Perhaps unfairly, Luke has been the target of a lot of abuse from fans this season, but the fact that he is one of the more experienced players in the squad will have contributed to this. One of the squad's more creative players; he is usually able to pick out a pass from almost anywhere on the pitch. He seems to have suffered a lot set-piece wise this season however, compared to the quality of his free kicks and corners last season. He still managed to end the season joint second in City's goalscoring charts however with 8 goals, albeit four have come from the penalty spot.

Vadaine Oliver (4/10) – Begun the season very well forging an old fashioned front two big-little partnership with Reece Thompson. He is always reliable to win everything in the air, which is perhaps why he suffered under Jackie McNamara's footballing style of fast flowing football. However, he lacked energy or effort when given sporadic appearances under McNamara and was always the first man for criticism in the manager's post-match interviews. He scored just one goal in nearly five months in the second half of the season, but still finished top of the goalscorer charts, which explains how well he did under Russ Wilcox in the first half of the season.

Russell Penn (6/10) – Similarly to Summerfield, the reliable skipper came under a lot of criticism from areas of the City ground at the end of the season. This could also be judged unfair as he showed the same command of City's midfield that he's shown for the last three years in a City shirt and even discovered his goalscoring boots towards the end of the season, scoring 3 goals in 7 appearances, when prior to that he had managed just 2 goals in 94 Minstermen appearances.

Josh Carson (4/10) – He began the season with City fans expecting him to be the regular starter in left wing back in Wilcox's 3-5-2 wing back system. However, this wasn't to be and he suffered from injury, lack of form and lack of match fitness. Never lost his passion and fight for the club when given the chance though, but he has never looked quite the exciting player he looked in 2013/14 before he picked up his cruciate injury away in the 1-0 victory at Portsmouth. Most City fans still seem to have respect for his massive efforts that he put in both on and off the pitch, even when sometimes his ability didn't quite match up to his effort.

Bryn Morris (4/10) – He was the only signing of the one-game Richard Cresswell reign and looked to add a lot of attacking threat going forward. Unfortunately, City fans only got to see him in four games before McNamara sent him back to parent club, Middlesbrough to free up space for his own loan signings. Definitely a name to look out for in the future though.

Derek Riordan (1/10) – Undoubtedly the most puzzling and bizarre signing of the season by manager Jackie McNamara was to bring in this guy from Scotland. He hadn't had a club for a year and had scored just five professional goals in as many years, thus causing confusion between City fans. His on-pitch ability was no better, and he did absolutely nothing in the 3 substitute appearances and one start he made for the club.

Anthony Straker (2/10) – Following a three-month loan spell at Motherwell at the back end of the 2014/15 season, he returned to the club determined to fight for the left wing back spot with the likes of David Tutonda, Femi Ilesanmi and Josh Carson. But he never really made his mark all season and though he assisted a couple of goals, he was another that was carted off early into McNamara's reign.

George Swan (2/10) – Was signed by Wilcox, but failed to make an appearance under him. He was finally given his chance by McNamara though in the away game at League One Barnsley and staked a huge claim on the centre back position for City, but his performances spiraled downwards from there, with him being part of the defence that lost 6-0 at Portsmouth and 5-1 to Accrington.

Keith Lowe (3/10) – City's Mr. Reliable came into the season as the newly crowned 'Clubman of the Year'. He began the season as the first name on City's team sheet for this reason, but he seemed to lose confidence for some reason and ended up being the first of the many experienced players to not survive McNamara's mass squad cull. Perhaps unfairly treated to some extent, but there's no doubt that some of his performances this season were absolute shockers.

Kyle Cameron (4/10) – One of McNamara's more successful young loanees. Along with Satka, Cameron arrived from Newcastle United, but unlike his fellow Toon, Cameron managed to find a regular starting spot in the team, flicking between centre back and left back. He lacks in experience, which certainly explains some of his blunders, of which he made a fair few, but overall he certainly has the potential to go on and achieve good things. Another one that could be a name to remember. Don't be surprised if we see him playing on loan at perhaps a top-half League One side next season.

Dave Winfield (7/10) – He's been City's one rock at the back all season. Begun the season as the main centre half and despite McNamara's mass mid-season cull of experienced defenders, he managed to survive and remained the main centre half by the end of the season. He has saved the club a number of points this season, with incredible last ditch blocks and tackles, deservedly earning him the Clubman of the Year award. Definitely been a bright light in a very very dark room for City this season.

Jake Hyde (2/10) – The club top scorer in 2014/15 was expected by fans to kick on during this season and improve on his tally of 10 goals from the previous year. However, the complete opposite happened and instead of improving he actually got worse. He spent more time injured than he did on the pitch and even when he was on the pitch, the only positive moment we can easily recall was a shot against the post. One of City's major disappointments this season.

Michael Collins (4/10) – Brought in by Russ Wilcox as an experienced replacement for the concussed Luke Summerfield in early October. He showed his experience in keeping a cool head in midfield. However, he would often drift out of the game and we would fail to see much of him. Still, he had the ability and was certainly not one of the worse signings of the season.

Ntumba Massanka (1/10) – This guy, however, undoubtedly was one of the worse signings of the season. He came in with an impressive goalscoring record at Under-21 level for Burnley, however he failed to adapt to the requirements of professional football, explaining why he only got one start and two substitute appearances before being sent back to his parent club before the proposed end of his move.

Reece Thompson (3/10) – He was an excitable prospect when he arrived on trial from North Ferriby United and the start of his season was brilliant after scoring three goals early on and forging a strong partnership up front with Vadaine Oliver. However, a 'long-term illness' and 'personal issues' caused him to be out for a long time and when he finally returned, his substitute appearances never quite lived up to the standards he set at the beginning of the season.

Rhys Turner (3/10) – Another one of Wilcox's loan signings that was returned to his parent club at the start of McNamara's reign to free up loan spots. He began quite nervous and shy in front of goal, but after grabbing an open goal in the home match against Oxford United, he grew in confidence and was looking the real deal before being sent back to Oldham Athletic to be replaced by the much more lethal forward man, Bradley Fewster.

Matty Dixon (2/10) – Following the sale of Ben Godfrey, Jackie McNamara brought in Hull City midfielder, Dixon as a direct replacement. However, he never lived up to Godfrey's standards and always looked nervous and failed to make an impact when receiving the ball, explaining why he was limited to just a handful of appearances.

Michael Ingham (4/10) – Now in his eighth season with the club, the long serving fans favourite has taken the role of second-choice goalkeeper over the last couple of years. This year was no different as he only actually played three games, letting in 7 goals in the first two. However, he showed more of his old self on the last day of the season to make a few wonderful saves and keep the score to 1-1. His passion, pride and commitment for the club can never be doubted.

Callum Rzonca (3/10) – Very hard to judge someone that made just two substitute appearances all season before being sent out on loan, but in both of them and pre-season he showed a lot of energy and promise to present a lot of potential to the City faithful. Will perhaps progress in the coming years.

Ben Godfrey (4/10) – Another one that progressed through the youth academy, but unlike Rzonca, Godfrey earned himself a good run in the team. He perhaps lacked attacking threat at times and showed a lot of nerves. But with the more games he played, he seemed to grow in confidence and ability and eventually he earned himself a move to Premier League, Norwich City in a deal that could rise up to £1 million for the Minstermen.

Lewis Alessandra (7/10) – A truly class act. City fans were delighted when the loan signing was announced of the experienced League forward man. He showed why City fans were so excited by scoring on his City debut and though he only scored one more goal in his next ten games for the club, he showed energy, creativity, hunger and fight which was something City's forward line had been lacking all season. Like Scot Bennett though, it was a shame that he came into the team so late as it turned out to be a bit too late to make the massive difference that was needed to keep the club in the Football League. He would be a huge coup if City could keep him for next season though in the National League. It seems unlikely however, given his experience and ability at League Two level.

David Tutonda (2/10) – Following the placing of Femi Ilesanmi on the transfer list, Tutonda was meant to be the main left back for the season. However, he was sent back to parent club, Cardiff early into McNamara's reign. His major downfall has to be the fact that instead of making the crucial final pass, he'd much rather whip out an unnecessary stepover. This will surely improve as he gains more experience.

Luke Hendrie (5/10) – One of McNamara's more successful signings was Burnley right back Hendrie. After releasing both McCoy and Nolan, while O'Connor's loan had expired, Hendrie came with little to live up to. Though he made a few silly mistakes, these were clearly due to lack of experience and on his day he could destroy a winger, as he was strong in the tackle and had a lot of pace. Just like Kyle Cameron, don't be surprised if you see him on loan at perhaps a League One side this time next season.

Emile Sinclair (1/10) – City fans were amused at the start of the season when manager Wilcox branded Sinclair, Hyde and Oliver as 'top-class strikers'. But following Sinclair's performances during the second half of last season, City fans saw this as a laughable comment and they were proved right as Sinclair did absolutely nothing to warrant a place in the team. Luckily, he was injured a lot of the time and for the second half of the season he was out on loan at National League Guiseley. In other words – absolutely hopeless.

Jonathan Greening (3/10) – Ex-Premier League star Greening, who had been on the City books as coach for a number of months, was asked to come out of retirement by boss Jackie McNamara and it was very easy to see why. His command in the centre of midfield along with his experience and ability made a massive difference to the club in the few games he played, before getting sent off at Portsmouth. And just before his suspension was due to run out, he left the club mysteriously by 'mutual consent' and would never play again.

William Boyle (3/10) – Boyle was the first loan signing by manager McNamara, being drafted in from Huddersfield. He started off nervously, but eventually grew into his game and forged a good partnership at the back with Winfield. However, unfortunately his loan was cut short and though he returned later in the season, he never quite hit the same heights he'd reached during his first spell.

Bradley Fewster (7/10) – Such were the quality of his performances during the second half of the season, it's hard to believe that he didn't actually join the club until late-November. Still, Fewster gave the attack what they had been missing all season in the form of a calm head in front of goal and after scoring 5 goals in February playing in a very weak City side, he even managed to earn himself the League Two Player of the Month award. Although he drifted out of games at times and sometimes wouldn't be seen for a good portion of the game, he possessed the raw talent that has been rare from loan players at City throughout the season. Undoubtedly he has a huge future ahead of him and it really wouldn't be surprising to see him ripping nets in the Premier League within the next 3-5 years.

Kenny McEvoy (4/10) – McEvoy was one of the five loan players brought in by McNamara prior to the 5-1 thrashing by Accrington Stanley. However, unlike some of those five, McEvoy showed some serious talent and had the pace that could terrorize any defence on his day, hence why McNamara made him loan move permanent in the January transfer window. He enjoyed a good run in the team, however was very harshly treated by McNamara at the end of the season, who claimed that McEvoy 'lacked the fight for first team football', which baffled many City fans.

Mark Kitching (1/10) – Similarly to McEvoy, Kitching was one of the five loan players brought in before the Accrington game by McNamara. However, it's hard to judge his quality since he played just one game and that was at left back in a 5-1 defeat, so clearly a defence letting in 5 goals in one game justifies getting a score of just one out of ten.

Stefan O'Connor (2/10) – O'Connor came in with a good reputation after making a Champions League appearance for Arsenal against Galatasaray just a year before. However, after being one of the young defenders in the defeat against Accrington, no doubt his confidence was knocked. Unlike Kitching, he did feature again though at both centre back and right back, but never instilled much confidence to City fans as he lacked pace, energy, effort and strength; all necessary features of a defender.

Jordan Lussey (1/10) – Lussey is in the same boat as Mark Kitching, in that they both played just once in the defence that let in five goals against Accrington Stanley. But, he didn't even last all game before getting injured, so it's impossible to judge this guy on anything apart from the fact he was part of a defence that conceded five goals in a game.

Danny Galbraith (4/10) – Galbraith was Jackie Mac's first permanent signing, being brought in to add excitement into City's wide areas along with Kenny McEvoy. Galbraith didn't provide much hope for City fans. But, he did grow and after a stunning last minute winner at Stevenage, he seemed to improve and grow into the team. But, towards the end of the season he seemed to fall back into his old habits of losing the ball easily and drifting out of the game. Still, if he can put right some of his small mistakes, he undoubtedly could do well for the club in the National League.

Stéphane Zubar (4/10) – Following a great first season on loan from Bournemouth, City were delighted to get Zubar back on loan. And though he scored an own goal in the first game of the season, he still managed to get back to how he played last season and City fans were gutted when his season was cut short by injury just four matches in and he was sent back to his parent club. When he gets back to full fitness though, I'm sure he'd be very welcome back at Bootham Crescent at any point.



The three highest rated players, Bradley Fewster (above), Lewis Alessandra (top right) and Dave Winfield (right)

END OF SEASON RETAINED LIST

On Contract:

Scott Flinders
James Berrett
Reece Thompson
Matty Dixon

Transfer Listed:

Vadaine Oliver
Jake Hyde

Offered New Contract:

Dave Winfield
Michael Ingham
Callum Rzonca
Danny Galbraith

Rejected New Contract:

Russell Penn
Luke Summerfield

Offered First Team Contract:

Nick Kennedy
Tyler Walton

Released:

Femi Ilesanmi
Michael Coulson
Josh Carson
George Swan
Taron Hare
Ben Hirst
Emile Sinclair
Kenny McEvoy

Awaiting Confirmation:

Derek Riordan

Returning to Parent Club:

Scot Bennett
Lubo Satka
Kyle Cameron
Lewis Alessandra
Luke Hendrie
William Boyle
Bradley Fewster



Winger Danny Galbraith is offered the chance to stay at the club for a second season



Josh Carson and Michael Coulson's four year stays at the club will both be coming to an end

FINAL NOTE

THANK YOU FOR READING THE REVIEW,

It's fair to say that this has been a poor season for everyone associated with the football club. Hopefully, following successful summer of recruitment the whole team will be able to go again next season in an attempt to get straight back into League Two.

From a personal point of view, I would just like to say thank you very much for reading my season review. Though it is a bit of a disappointing read, I just felt I needed to do it to build up my experience in the field of sports journalism. Feel free to leave any comments or contact me to give me any improvements or critiques.

Anyway, thanks again for reading and let's hope for a much better and cheer-worthy season next year with a potential promotion on the cards. With the new stadium on the horizon, promotion really is a necessity! So sing loud, sing proud and represent this wonderful City. Keep the faith, WE ARE YORK.

-Tom

PHOTO GALLERY



BY Tom Ibbott