

# Stadium plans can establish Glovers

BY CHRIS SWEET

Yeovil Town chairman John Fry believes bringing to fruition development plans for Huish Park poses as big a challenge as reaching the Football League. However, he knows realising ambitions to build a retail park and new 3,500 all-seat stand are vital for the club's future.

The Glovers this week announced a partnership with Devon-based businessman Chris Dawson. The parties want to develop retail units on more than five acres of land currently used for training pitches, which in turn will fund a stand boasting community facilities to replace the Copse Road end terrace.

Fry said: "I have been here now for 18 years and this is one of the most important developments that I have been involved with at Huish Park.

"It is going to be as big a challenge as getting out of the Conference and into the Football League. This is the next stage of our development and it would be my dream to see far better facilities here at Huish Park. There is no reason why this football club should not be one of the major forces in the South West."

Fry admitted current training pitches and other facilities were "run down" and said the proposals that would form a planning application would increase the club's income.

"If people want a football club in the higher leagues in Yeovil, and there is no reason we cannot go higher than we are, we need to urgently develop the site," he said.

"It is well over ten years overdue but the plans will be negotiated extremely carefully. We are going for better facilities to meet Football League criteria and we are doing it to get better football resources."

Fry added that the Glovers were in talks with South Somerset District Council about possible other training venues in the town, as well as developing land at Huish Park.

Manager Terry Skiverton has urged the town of Yeovil to back the plans. "This club is really taking off, and it is at a time where finances have been tight and clubs have been folding," he said.

"We have caught up maybe 15, 20 years on these clubs in the space of ten years and we have now got to progress. We cannot stay stagnant."