

# Loan defender is keen for a second spell at Huish Park

**Yeovil Town**  
by **CHRIS SWEET**



FULHAM defender Dan Burn would be keen to return to Yeovil Town next season if both parties could agree a deal.

The imposing centre half capped an impressive loan spell with the Glovers by heading home the second goal in Sunday's 2-1 npower League One play-off final success over Brentford at Wembley.

Burn, who started his career at Darlington before being snapped up by the Premier League giants, played 41 times for Gary Johnson's men last season, forming a rock solid with Byron Webster at the back.

His performances also caught the eye of his parent club who last month said they would be willing to consider a second temporary switch for the 21-year-old to a club in the Championship.

With the Glovers now in the second tier of English football, Burn could be in line for another Huish Park spell, an idea that appeals to him.

Burn said: "I don't think I'll reflect on my progress until I come back next season. It's been unbelievable and one of the best seasons of my life. I've made some brilliant mates, played under some excellent management and I've loved playing for Yeovil. I don't want to leave."

"I'll go back to Fulham, do pre-season with them and then see what they're thinking of my progression and what they want to do with me. But I'd love to come back here, I'd never turn down a move here. I'll go back and see what happens after a few holidays."

The arrival of Middlesbrough midfielder and fellow Northerner Matt Dolan at the start of the year boosted Burn's enjoyment of life in the



**HAPPY DAYS:** Dan Burn, centre, celebrates Yeovil Town's promotion to the npower Championship with striker Paddy Madden and keeper Marek Stech. The Fulham loanee has said he would be happy to return to Huish Park. Pictures by Len Copland

WGLC20130520B

South West, but he said it took little time to settle with Yeovil.

"In my first game I scored a goal and an own goal so that didn't really go to plan," he said. "But I've always felt part of the team here. I've loved going into training every day and seeing the lads, there's always something happening."

"I've lived with Matty Dolan since he signed so we get on really well and I love it. He's in the same situation as me where he's come on loan and we've really bonded, we're really good mates."

Burn towered above three Brentford men to nod in Ed Upson's corner on Sunday and give the Glovers a two-goal

cushion. Harlee Dean struck early in the second half to crank up the tension, but Yeovil held on.

Burn revealed he had already warned manager Gary Johnson that he was going to net at the national stadium and would still claim the goal regardless of James Hayter stating he got the final touch.

He said: "I told the gaffer on Saturday I was going to score and he laughed at us. Hayts said he got a nick on it but even if I did I'm still taking it. It's been an unbelievable day and it hasn't sunk it yet but I'm sure we'll have a good night before looking back tomorrow and smiling at it."

Defensive partner Webster

added Burn was destined for a big future, believing the start of his career had left him particularly grounded.

"Dan's going to be a really good player," said Webster. "He's come from Darlington where he's had the lows and he's gone to the top and isn't taking anything for granted."

"I went to Fulham for treatment when I had done my hamstring towards the end of the season and the facilities are a different world."

"He's come to Yeovil where no disrespect there aren't the same facilities."

"He doesn't act like he's part of the big time, he's a really good footballer and has a big future."

## Players believed glory was possible from start of the year

YEovil Town believed they could achieve promotion glory from the start of the year according to defender Byron Webster.

The Glovers will compete in the second tier of English football next season having beaten Brentford 2-1 in the npower League One play-off final at Wembley to book their place in the Championship.

Webster arrived at Huish Park last summer and has fast become a fans' favourite thanks to his no-nonsense style of defending and commitment in the air and in the tackle.

Gary Johnson's men have confounded critics to earn climb clear of League One but Webster said it was something they were quietly confident of doing for some time.

"Football is a funny old game," he said. "I can remember watching the Football League Show and one of the presenters said there's always one surprise package and luckily enough it's been us this year."

"From the start of the year, Terry, the gaffer and Daz have been on to us to say we've got a



**PROUD MOMENT:** Byron Webster jumps for joy after defeating Brentford with Yeovil Town.

WGLC20130520A

good group of lads, we will be there or thereabouts.

"We haven't talked about it, we've kept it in house and we've let other people come to our place, underestimate us and we've got the results."

"That was the third time we've beaten Brentford and

they're no mugs at all. We're going in the right direction."

Yeovil will now lock horns with the likes of QPR, Blackburn Rovers and Wigan Athletic for the first time and Webster said hard work had earned them that right.

He said: "Everyone says

we're 'little old Yeovil' and little old Yeovil are going to Loftus Road next year. This is why we play football, for these dreams. We will go away now and have a lovely break before the hard graft starts again."

"We have been grafting so hard since the Sheffield United game (play-off semi final second leg) and there hasn't been tension but we have been on at each other and nobody has let anyone slip. That showed on Sunday."

"We knew that if we could get a good start we could defend well and we've done that all season. We got a two-goal start and got the win in the end. We showed two different halves where we can play and also grind out a result."

Both Webster and striker James Hayter gained Championship experience whilst with Doncaster Rovers, with the centre half stating the pair are both back where they belong.

"Hayts had to drop down, I was at Donny as well and had to drop down," he said. "We're back where we want to be and both where we believe we should be."

## Boss plans talks with club over his deal future

GARY Johnson has said he is looking forward to sitting down with the Yeovil Town board to discuss his future at Huish Park amid reports linking him to Millwall.

The manager guided the Glovers to the npower Championship for the first time in their 118-year history on Sunday but is already being connected with one of their future rivals.

It is understood that Johnson - out of contract this summer - is among a shortlist of candidates the Millwall hierarchy wish to speak to having astounded critics by beating the odds to win promotion via the play-offs.

The Londoners have been searching for a new manager since the end of the season after Kenny Jackett left following six years in charge.

Johnson said: "I'm looking forward to sitting down with our club and the chairman and discussing the future. I'm aware of the interest but there hasn't been any contact."

Assistant Terry Skiverton and technical coach Darren Way are also without deals for next season. The trio opened tentative negotiations with the board before the trip to the national stadium but will now attempt to thrash out new deals with their league status determined.

After joking that the prize for winning promotion will cover his salary, Johnson then suggested initial figures would not be sufficient to compete at the second tier of English football.

"They've got £4M now to spend and that will be my salary. I don't know what they will do with the rest," he said.

"I'm sure we will be sitting down to talk, we haven't really spoken about anything. I've seen a few figures but on those we will need bucket collections all around. We'll have to up the figures a bit."

The boss added he would also soon turn his attentions to strengthening his squad for 2014-15 with brother and scout Pete.

Johnson said: "Probably me and my brother will sit down as he does a lot of our recruitment. Terry and Darren, we sit down and see what he's brought in."

"He's an unsung hero for us that doesn't need any publicity but he's out there and he often recommends players, we have a look and this is what happens. We will probably have a chat soon."

SEE P8-25 and the centre pages of this week's *Western Gazette* for your souvenir coverage, marking Yeovil Town's historic Wembley win. Relive the day with our comprehensive pictorial review of the play-off success.



**View from the dugout**  
Yeovil Town FC manager **GARY JOHNSON** writes...

I FEEL fantastic. The boys done us proud and the club have done us proud. The supporters out there sung their hearts out at the right time and the boys dug in when they had to dig in.

That's for the whole club, it's for the directors and it's for our supporters. It's for everyone at the whole club that has done a tremendous job over ten years.

Sometimes they are unsung heroes and I'm very pleased for them because they bought into this commitment and this ambition to get to the Championship.

They all believed it and I said I'd try and direct that ship to the Championship and we've done that. I said we'd get the players and we've done that. We all visualised winning at Wembley and that's what's happened so my dreams have come true.

I really did feel calm and cool. I felt it was important to do that because Terry is there to scream and shout and with Darren I've got a couple of Rottweilers if I need them. All we need to do is discuss things and they can't hear you anyway.

At the end both sets of supporters were giving it a go so I was right at the edge of the technical area if they needed to look over for advice. They saw it through and we won it in the first half. I trust them so much I let them get on with it.

### MATCH FACTS

**GOALS:** Yeovil - Madden 6, Burn 42. Brentford - Dean 51.

**PITCH:** Excellent.

**WEATHER:** Dry and warm.

**MATCH RATING:** \*\*\*\*

**TEAM RATING:** \*\*\*\*

**ATT:** 41,955.

**BOOKINGS:** Yeovil - Upson (foul), Dawson (disent), Williams (time wasting).

**VERDICT:** An unforgettable season ended in an unforgettable fashion with a history-making victory. Two early goals sent the Glovers into dreamland at the break before defensive resolve shone brightest. Yeovil's superior finishing and cutting edge in the final third won the day as Brentford were unable to get past a dogged Glovers' back line. The Glovers' heroes have entered club legend with their achievements.

**REF WATCH:** Andy D'Urso (Essex) - Had very little to do but missed a penalty that could have provided daylight for the Glovers.

**WESTERN GAZETTE MAN OF THE MATCH:** Marek Stech (Yeovil Town) - Time and time again Stech has shown he was the best keeper in the division and his heroics mean he will now be able to pit his wits in the Championship. When Brentford did get through a rock solid Yeovil defence they found a Czech Republic stopper in 'aperious form, blocking their way. Another win where Stech has been outstanding.

**STAR RATINGS (out of ten)** are not given to Yeovil players making an appearance of fewer than 20 minutes. YEovil: TOWN (4-4-2) - Stech 9; Ayling 7; Webster 8; Burn 8; McAllister 8; Dawson 7; Upson 8; Edwards 7; Foley 8; Hayter 7; Madden 8. Subs: Stewart (unused), Hinds (unused), Maksimenko (for McAllister, 77), Dolan (for Hayter, 88), Young (unused), Balanta (unused), BRENTFORD (4-3-3) - Moore; Logan, Craig, Dean, Bidwell; Forshaw, Adeyemi, Diagouraga; Forrester, Trotta, Donaldson. Subs: Gounet (unused), Hodson (unused), O'Connor (unused), Saunders (for Forrester, 67), Douglas (unused), Wright-Phillips (for Trotta, 62), Hayes (for Diagouraga, 82).

MATCH STATS	YFC	BFC
Shots on target.....	3	6
Shots off target.....	1	7
Corners.....	3	6
Offsides.....	2	2
Fouls.....	12	14