

Fans flood streets to see their new heroes

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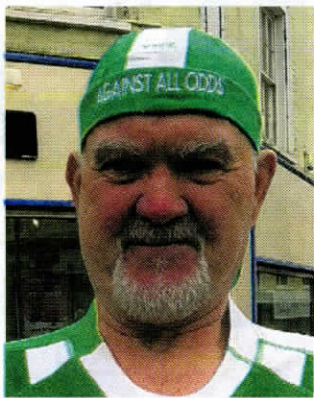
YEOVIL was awash with green and white on Tuesday as thousands of loyal fans and new supporters flooded the streets to catch a glimpse of their Wembley heroes.

Yeovil Town Football Club celebrated promotion success with an open top bus tour around the town.

Fans cheered as their idols drove past with the play-off winners trophy on a double-decker bus, provided by First Group and organised by the *Western Gazette*.

Rodney Marsh, 30, of Montacute, a Yeovil fan for 22 years, skipped work for the afternoon to make sure he could be at the homecoming in person. He said: "I'm meant to be in work but I told them I had a doctor's appointment."

He stood on High Street with his father Harold Marsh, 70, also of Montacute, who described the play-off final as "brilliant". He added: "I feel ecstatic. If Gary Johnson hadn't come back when he did, I don't think we would even be in the league."



'MY HEROES': Bernard Baker, 69, of Yeovil, paid tribute to Gary Johnson.



LONGTIME FAN: Harold Marsh, 70, of Montacute, went to the final at Wembley on Sunday.



GREAT SUCCESS: From left, Milford Junior School pupils Aaron Van Holland, 8, Callum Smalley, 8, James Whitfield, 9, and Samuel Bambury, 8, cheer on their heroes with Samuel's parents Steve and Janine Bambury, of Yeovil.



DEDICATED FOLLOWERS: Richard Caines, 56, of Yeovil, with daughter Kara and wife Julie, cheer from the Borough.



TRUE GREENS: Friends Liberty Cairns and Shannon Crocker, both 16 and of Yeovil, said the success was "overwhelming".



HISTORIC DAY: From left, Sophie Tyrrell and Abbie Brooks, both 13 and of Yeovil, with Abbie's mum Mel Brooks.



GLOVER FEVER: Friends Nigel James, 37, and Simon Brown, 25, both of Yeovil, turned out to show their appreciation.

YEovil TOWN F.C.
'On Sunday we made history'

Donning her favourite Yeovil Town football shirt, Mel Brooks, 42, of Yeovil, said she collected her daughter from school to make sure she did not miss out on the momentous day.

She said: "The school wouldn't let them out so I went and got them out. I sweet talked the headmaster."

Her daughter Abbie Brooks, 13, said she has green and white flags hanging outside her house in support of her favourite team. She added: "I go to a lot of their matches and follow them all over the country. I'm over the moon to be here."

Another young fan Jasmin Goddard, 9, of Yeovil, said she was hoping top-scorer Paddy Madden would sign her Yeovil Town scarf. She added: "I'm really happy that they won."

Yeovil father Edd Budzynski, 33, who wrote a song for the Glovers, brought his two-year-



old daughter Daisy to cheer on the team. He said: "I was four or five when I went to my first game with my dad at the original ground. It was lovely to see the lads do it this time."

Richard Caines, 56, of Yeovil, said the promotion will "put Yeovil on the map". He added: "We have friends who support Brentford so we will no longer be able to stay with them on away games."

Janine Bambury, 40, of Yeovil, who went with her son to

see the bus tour, believes the Glovers' success is great news for the local economy. She said: "This is amazing. It's brilliant. Hopefully it's going to bring more people to the town and will be beneficial for the shops and mean more jobs."

Lifetime fan Bernard Baker, 69, of Yeovil, called Gary Johnson his "hero". He said: "On Sunday we made history and it's all down to him."

Brian Crocker, 51, of Yeovil, said: "I never thought it was going to happen until the final whistle. It's hard to believe what they have achieved."

Friends Nigel James, 37, and Simon Brown, 25, both of Yeovil, stood on High Street wearing green and white jester hats.

Mr James said: "I am shocked they got this far. They might find it difficult in the Championship - there's some strong teams in there - but I reckon they are going to give everything they've got."



'BRILLIANT DAY': Tom Gray, with wife Kirsty and daughter Ruby, travelled from Glastonbury.



YOUNG SUPPORTERS: Jasmin Goddard, 9, and Leah Malcolm, 10, both of Yeovil.



FAMILY FANS: Edd Budzynski, 33, of Yeovil, with two-year-old daughter Daisy.