

Championship big boys await after 'little old Yeovil' triumph

npower League One play-off
Jacob Steinberg Wembley

Brentford 1

Dean 51

Yeovil Town 2

Madden 6, Burn 42

The likes of Leeds United, Nottingham Forest and Queens Park Rangers will be among the visitors to Somerset next season. Sixteen years after making it out of the Isthmian League, Yeovil Town have reached the Championship for the first time in their history after surviving a spirited comeback from Brentford to win the League One play-off final. That achievement only becomes more remarkable when it is taken into account that the wage bill for their playing staff is less than £1m and they average crowds of 4,000 at Huish Park.

Gary Johnson has worked wonders with the tiny club and this victory was particularly sweet for him given the pain he endured when his Bristol City side were beaten in the Championship play-off final by Hull City five years ago. Now, thanks to a performance of great maturity and dogged resistance, he has success at Wembley to savour.

"It's a fantastic achievement for our football club and at times like these you do think of the people who have helped you along the way," Johnson said. "That is a great achievement for little old Yeovil. But we're going to need a whip-round for the Championship. We'll be going round with a bucket later."

As for Brentford, they only have themselves to blame. Uwe Rösler's side fought

Brentford 4-5-1

Moore; Logan, Dean, Craig, Bidwell; Donaldson, Diagouraga (Hayes 82), Adeyemi, Forshaw, Forrester (Saunders 67); Trotter (Wright-Phillips 62).

Subs not used Gounet, O'Connor, Douglas, Hodson

Yeovil 4-4-2

Stech; Ayling, Webster, Burn, McAllister (Maksimenko 77); Dawson ●, Upson ●, Edwards, Foley; Hayter (Dolan 88), Madden.

Subs not used Stewart, Hinds, Williams, Young, Balanta

Referee Andy D'Urso

gamely in the second half yesterday, but they were left to rue their inexplicable inertia in the opening period. Rösler's task now is to keep this team together, although the German was cheered by the words of encouragement the club's owner, Matthew Benham, offered in the dressing room after the final whistle.

Yeovil, who had twice beaten Brentford in the league this season, were the more composed side in the early exchanges and it was not a surprise when they took the lead after six minutes with a goal that would have graced any previous Wembley final. A loose ball fell to Paddy Madden, a £15,000 signing from Carlisle, just outside the area and, demonstrating outstanding technique and imagination, he stabbed an instinctive shot into Simon Moore's top-right corner with the outside of his right foot. It was the Irish striker's 23rd goal of the season. "He's had this vision for a while now that he was going to score at Wembley," Johnson said. "It was a sublime piece of ingenuity."

Brentford were gripped by nerves and after 42 minutes, Yeovil doubled their lead. Sam Foley swung a corner to the far post and Dan Burn sent a downward header into a packed six-yard box. James Hayter and Moore both went for it but neither made contact and the ball crept over the line despite Shaleum Logan's efforts. "The second goal was unacceptable," Rösler said. Harlee Dean halved the deficit after 51 minutes, heading in Harry Forrester's corner. Suddenly Marek Stech was performing heroics, saving from Clayton Donaldson, Adam Forshaw and Bradley Wright-Phillips.

"It's very tough," Rösler said. "We couldn't find the cutting edge for the second goal. We had them on their knees." In the end, though, Yeovil were on the rise.

Man of the match Dan Burn (Yeovil)



Dan Burn, scorer of Yeovil's second, celebrates with the play-off trophy