

...shiners and club officials held it aloft, while high above, banners blowing from office windows proclaimed the Glovers: "The Pride of Yeovil."

Addressing the adoring fans in a voice hoarse after two days of interviews, Johnson said: "Thanks very much for turning up for our team today. We really appreciate it. We feel very humble up here."

"This is the sight that I asked these boys to imagine at the start of the season so thank you for making all their dreams and our thoughts come true by seeing you here today."

And then the heroes, including goalscorers Paddy Madden and Dan Burn, descended to meet the fans, sign autographs and pose for pictures that will be precious mementoes in many homes for years to come.

Among the fans was one who used to be able to watch the team play from her bedroom window. Pearl Trevett, standing with husband David, said: "When we lived in Queen Street and the ground was at

Happy underdogs

Yeovil Town chief executive Martyn Stames believes their underdog tag may help them in the Championship next year



SPORT, PAGE 47

seeable future. He's a gentleman and the whole team are great. It is such a family-friendly club."

Jack Knight, aged nine, was there with parents Michelle and Danny, hoping to get his hero Paddy Madden's autograph. "I've followed Yeovil for two seasons and I've got my new season ticket already," he said with pride.

Barbie Mitchell, aged 52, from Wincanton, and her

are regular Yeovil Town supporters and both had followed their heroes to London. Even Rio's little sister Katie, aged nine months, sported a green and white playsuit.

Three Dorset friends who have followed the team for 40 years were among the crowd. Jethro Hill and Chris Warren of Stalbridge, and Geoff Jeans of Marshull, are all co-founders of the local Disability Sports Association. "We always hoped this day would come," said Geoff. "I always had faith that we could do it with Gary Johnson. He has brought tremendous success to Yeovil, and the following to go with it with his vision and drive."

Lewis Cooper, aged 16, a student at the town's Westfield Academy, had painted his face with the legendary date 19/5. Elliott Goddard, aged 13 weeks, was possibly the youngest there. His mother, Donna, says she will take him to his first game next season.

And who knows how much more Yeovil Town success he will witness as his life unfolds?



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