

A TURF ORDER STARTS BUSY WEEK

AS Roger Brinsford walked into his office on Monday the phone rang. It was a man at Sidmouth. "I hear you are selling the Huish turf", he said. "Put me down for £50 worth".

It has been that sort of week for Yeovil Town's general manager. A flood of applicants for tickets, the commemorative postal covers, and turf have kept him and his staff working flat out.

There can be few people now who do not know that on Saturday Yeovil will be leaving Huish, their home for the past 70 years, to move to a new stadium at Houndstone. And at a conservative estimate 4,000 will be there to watch the final game against Telford which, under normal circumstances, would

have attracted less than half that figure. (It is NOT all-ticket, incidentally. There will also be admission on the day in the usual way).

And from 2 pm when Birchfield Jubilee Majorettes start the entertainment until 5.30 when the Yeovil Town flags will be ceremonially lowered, a busy programme is lined up.

After the final whistle there will be a musical interlude by the Kingsbury Episcopi Band, followed at 4.55 by various presentations, including the Gazette Merit Marks trophies and cash to the winner and runner-up.

Telford will make a presentation to the club, and Yeovil themselves will present

framed photos of Huish to the Town and District Councils.

At 5.15, Yeovil Community Church leader David Bishop will conduct a short service, and the singing of Abide with Me will precede the lowering of the flags.

All the media are pulling out the stops to do the event justice, but supporters might well want to video "Farewell to the Slope", a half-hour HTV documentary which will be going out at 3 pm on Sunday, featuring the likes of Alec Stock and Eric Bryant.

It was a labour of love for producer Stan Hazell. HTV's news editor, who was born in Yeovil and played on the slope for Yeovil Schoolboys. He was also on the terraces for the Sunderland match.



PETER CONNING bangs in the late goal for Yeovil that clinched the cup last night.

DOUBLE BOOST FOR CHRIS TAVARE

SOMERSET, despite being without front line bowlers Adrian Jones and Neil Mallender, recorded an amazing seven-run win in Tuesday's Benson & Hedges Cup clash with Derbyshire at Taunton.

And it followed a 24-point win over Gloucestershire in the County Championship on Saturday — the first time Somerset have won their opening fixture for 20 years.

It all added to a fabulous week for new skipper Chris Tavare.

In a sun-drenched, run-drenched day at Taunton, Somerset rattled up 310 for 3 off their 55 overs, with Jimmy Cook (66) and Jon Hardy (109) putting on 126 for the first wicket. Graham Rose then weighed in with 64



GRAHAM ROSE — gold award

off 46 balls (two sixes, eight fours). This, coupled with two wickets, earned him the gold award.

Derby had two century makers in John Morris and Peter Bowler and needed only 56 runs off 10 overs. But they ran out of steam leaving Somerset, for once, on the right end of a cliff-hanging result.

Highlights of the 10-wicket win over Gloucestershire in a four-day match included a five-wicket haul for new bowler, Dutchman Roland Lefebvre, and a career-best 166 from Neil Burns.

Canaries pick up a second trophy

CANARIES collected their second Yeovil Sunday Morning League trophy when they won the Jon Russell Cup by beating Sunrises 2-0 at Shepton Beauchamp.

Goals from Robbie James and Paul Cable gave the Crewkerne-based side victory to go alongside the Division Four Cup which they won earlier in the season.

In the league, goals from Brad Goodman and Chris Burgess gave Sun Inn a 2-0 win over leaders Saracens and they remain unbeaten in the league since September. It may not be enough however to give them the championship as Saracens' 2-1 win at Royal Oak Rangers in midweek seems certain to give them the title for the second season running.

Houndstone's point in the 1-1 draw at Hornets is enough to keep them in the First Division next season and relegate Langport Dolphin with Hambridge Hammers.

The Third Division title is still far from clear with Barwick and Stoford Sports, 9-0 winners over Yeovend, and Foresters Arms, 2-0 winners over Lamb, looking like having it between them, although Sunrises still have an outside chance of second spot.

Barcelona won 6-2 at Melbury Reserves to almost wrap up the Fourth Division title. Chris Higgins scored twice to take his tally to 43 for the season and Martin Higgins, Gary Morice, Steve Judd and Simon Holden had the others.

Printed and published by THE WESTERN GAZETTE CO LTD at Sherborne Road, Yeovil, Somerset BA21 4YA. Tel Yeovil 74551. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

The 'Route One' way for glory!

AFTER nearly 20 years in the doldrums Yeovil Town are taking Route One to success. And as he cradled the Bob Lord Trophy last night — the third significant cup Yeovil have won in the three years since Brian Hall took over as manager — their outstanding young centre-half Mark Shail promised fans "There'll be more to come".

Shail, the 22-year-old university student who joined Yeovil last season from Worcester City, said after the two-legged aggregate victory over Kidderminster: "It will be nice to show off the trophy at Huish on Saturday. Our fans have suffered a bit this season".

He added: "We are all bitterly disappointed we haven't performed better at home. But it's no use the fans blaming the manager. It's our fault."

Shail's done a tremendous job in a tactical sense. He and Budgie Rodgers have done their bit with the coaching but there have been several times we have let them down.

"It's probably because we have been so desperate to do well. We have gone out at Huish and been too tense. That's obviously why we have played our best football away from home."

Shail's comments come in the wake of some outspoken notes by Brian Hall in the club programme on Monday. He says "the slow handclapping on the terraces, and the slow foot-stomping in the stand (when the team played Fisher a fortnight ago) was nothing less than disgraceful."

"Perhaps it is thought that such behaviour motivates the team. I am sure that all that happens is that they become frightened to attempt anything of an improvised nature for fear of making a mistake and merely pass responsibility over to another team member. Thus team work disintegrates and confidence drains."

Hall isn't the only one whose pen has made scores on the Basildon Bond this week. Two and a quarter angry fans wrote to me on the same day...

Steve Braddock of 6, Ivy Walk, Rowan Way, Yeovil, says that for the past three years it has been his misfortune to witness "what can only be described as the worst display of skill and temperament ever seen at Huish by a

JOHN LUKINS' soccer scene



team masquerading under the banner of Yeovil Town". There is only one thing worse, he says — my "awful, self-opinionated column".

J Mogg, from 247, St John's Road, says much the same thing, and concludes: "The average supporter does not expect the team to win every game, but all we ask is to be entertained, and perhaps to see the ball passed around and not continually booted up the field. I am sure if this standard is played after this season, Gerry Lock will have his new stand all to himself".

It is perhaps generous to label K J Blackmore of Norton-sub-Hamdon a "quarter of a supporter" because he has watched only one match. And that was a freebie as he was guest of the sponsors against Fisher.

He obviously saw enough in 90 minutes to write of "unentertaining, unimaginative football" and suggests Mr Hall picks up some ideas from the Farn-

borough Air Show. "It will be interesting to see the ball loop the loop with coloured smoke coming from the back of it".

The last time I can recall a Yeovil manager getting such abuse was 25 years ago — Ron Saunders. As we all know, he left Huish and led Aston Villa to the First Division title and built their European Cup winning team.

Breakdown

He was hated on the terraces and his players got rough treatment. One of the best was supposedly on the injured list for two months, but the truth was never told. He was driven to a nervous breakdown by the boo boys.

Hall, like Saunders, is a thorough pro and knows how to win. If it comes to a choice between pretty football in the Vauxhall-Opel League, or Route One on the way to the GM Vauxhall Conference high-spots, then I am "self opinionated" enough to want

the latter. Don't you?

Route One — basically getting the ball from one end of the field to the other as quickly as possible — has got Wimbledon into the First Division, and now Sheffield United look like following them. It has brought success for a host of other teams, and since Hall's arrival at Yeovil, has got an ailing club out of the Vauxhall-Opel League and put us in the top bracket of the Conference.

Hall believes that if Yeovil were pushing for promotion to the Fourth Division — and, who knows, but for those injuries they might have been — there would have been near-capacity crowds at Huish recently whether Yeovil played Route One, Route Two or standing on their heads.

"It's all about results", he says.

And, following this week's Bob Lord Trophy triumph, it may be the time to remember, as Hall points out in his programme piece, that Yeovil's motto is "Achieve by Unity".

As he says, it is "never too late to remedy faults or cement relationships. To Achieve by Unity is a total joint effort".

BYE, BYE, JIMMY!

JIMMY Quinn, sent off four times in his Yeovil Town career, was ordered off again at Huish on Tuesday when he returned in Enfield's colours for a GM Vauxhall Conference match.

And Quinn's 79th minute dismissal sparked a bad-tempered finale in which two more players were sent packing after a free-for-all, Yeovil's Neil Cordice and the Enfield substitute Frank Coles.

Although four Enfield players had been booked earlier, including the ex-Yeovil pair Gary Donnellan and Curtis Warmington, the game had apparently been heading for a happier conclusion, with Yeovil playing competently and building up a 3-1 lead.

And Quinn, apart from two fouls which the referee saw, and one "foot up" which he didn't, had behaved himself. Then Micky Spencer, trying an overhead kick, clipped Quinn's chin. The referee gave no foul and this infuriated Quinn.

Sixty seconds later, probably after learning several new Scottish swearwords, referee Barry Priest sent him off.

Yeovil scored all four goals. Andy Wallace and Peter Conning made it 2-0 at half-time; Steve Rutter lobbed his own keeper Len Bond to revive Enfield's hopes, and Robbie Carroll made it 3-1 in the 64th minute.

Manager Brian Hall has never seen one of his teams win at Runcorn, but he reckoned that another five minutes on Saturday and Yeovil might have achieved better than a 1-1 draw.

Even so, it was a good result against a side which included ex-Yeovil star Micky Doherty, and which needed a victory to equal the Conference record of home wins in a season.

Yeovil fell behind in the closing stages of the first half, but levelled in the 77th minute when Micky Spencer snapped up the rebound after Andy Wallace's penalty had hit the crossbar.



"WE'VE WON the cup". Yeovil Town players celebrate after their 4-1 aggregate win over Kidderminster in the final of the Bob Lord Trophy last night.

CONNING IS THE LAST GASP HERO

YEovil Town had just two dodgy moments last night en route to winning the Bob Lord Trophy — the first major competition they have ever won at GM Conference level.

Both came immediately before half-time. In the 44th minute a rather generous refereeing decision gifted Kidderminster a penalty and gave them some chance of cancelling out the three goal deficit from Huish last week.

Jeff Sherwood was judged to have pushed Mark Whitehouse on the edge of the box, but it was doubtful whether it was a foul, and also doubtful whether it was inside the area. Richard Forsyth didn't stop to argue. He sent Len Bond the wrong way from the spot.

And almost immediately Yeovil lost their bright young centre-half Mark Shail. He received a nasty cut above the eye in a clash of heads and went off to have four stitches inserted.

His injury brought on Peter Conning for the second half and it was Conning who was ultimately to put the tie out of reach of the home side.

In the 83rd minute he picked up a ball from Paul Wilson around the halfway line and raced through the Kidderminster defence to give Paul Jones no chance with his final shot.

As away goals count double, that left Kidderminster needing four in seven minutes, and officials were confident enough in Yeovil's ability at that stage to start tying green and white ribbons to the cup.

Champs, after 30 years

CREWKERNE are champions of the Perry Street League. They clinched the title on Monday with two games to spare when they drew 0-0 away to Ilminster Town.

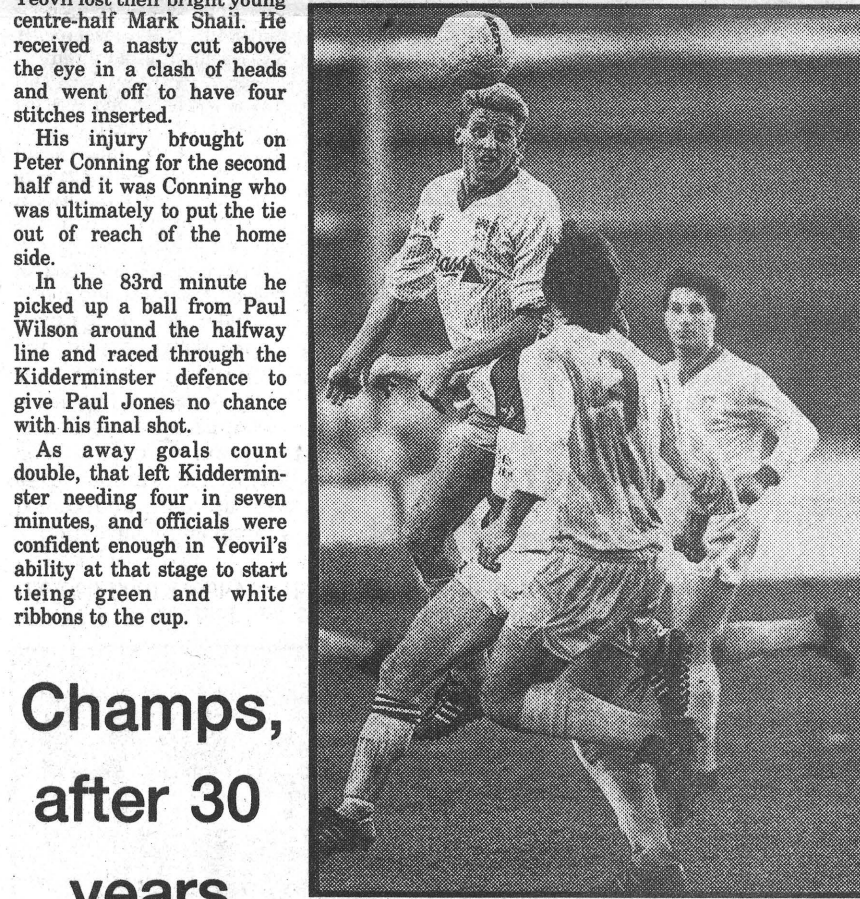
It is the first time in 30 years that the title has gone to the town of Crewkerne. It was then won by the old Town club.

The new Crewkerne club was formed four years ago by the amalgamation of the Town and United clubs.

Division One is still a three-way battle between Perry Street, Axmouth and Drimpton, and Division Two is not yet won, although Norton are red-hot favourites.

Division Three has gone to Combe St Nicholas Res, and Division Four to Hawkchurch in their first season.

Norton, 3-0 up at one stage, held on to beat Crewkerne Res 4-3 in the final of the Tommy Tabberer Cup at Lyme Regis on Thursday. Dale Graham, Paul Hopkins, Steve White and Peter Furdy got the goals. Crewkerne hit back through Paul Cable, Alfie Hill and Darren James, who converted the second of two late penalties. Fred Charles had missed the first.



SIMON GOWANS heads clear during a Kidderminster attack in the Bob Lord Trophy final.

MATCH FACTS 54

Bob Lord Trophy Final, Second Leg 2nd May

KIDDERMINSTER (1) 1 YEovil TOWN (0) 1

(Forsyth, pen — 44 mins) (Conning — 83 mins)

Agg: Kidderminster 1 Yeovil 4

Gate: 1,009

Yeovil — Bond, Sherwood, Lowe, Shail, Rutter, Gowans, Carroll, Wallace, Wilson, Spencer, Cordice.

Subs: Conning (for Shail, 45 mins) and Dawkins (for Spencer, 85 mins)

Weather: Warm. Pitch: A dust bowl

Entertainment value (out of 5) — 3

Team rating (out of 10) — 8. Verdict: Fully deserved their first trophy at this level

Merit marks: 3 — Sherwood, Lowe, Rutter. 2 — Shail, Gowans, Wallace, Wilson, Cordice, Conning. 1 — Bond, Carroll, Spencer

Booking: Yeovil — Gowans (dissent)

OSSIE ON 24

TWO goals by Chris Osmond and one from Darren Shepherd gave Westland Sports a 3-3 draw at Wareham in the Dorset Combination on Saturday, and they extended their run of unbeaten matches to four on Tuesday when they beat Gillingham 3-0.

Brian Ashton scored two of these goals, and Osmond took his season's tally to 24 with the other. But he fell one behind Flight Refuelling's Keith Newman in the league scoring lists as he had two the same night.

Westland Res fielded five of their under 16 team against new Yeovil League champions Henstridge and won 1-0. Dean Perrett got the goal and 15-year-old Nicky Flory was outstanding up front.