

# YEOVIL

ILLUSTRATION January 29

s, and this weekend headlong to defeat

of the Bury tie in the Third Round with instructions for its immediate return. She wore it on her wedding day, but it would be foolish to risk something so precious in the post at this time of year. So it is still in the office.

As for the potions, apart from the egg and sherry, and "secret something" concocted by vice-president George Fox, the only one they can think of is the cider left-half Nick Collins serves to centre-half Les Blizzard in his pub on Sunday mornings. "There is not even a secret plan," says Mr. Smith. "Plans have a way of coming unstuck. Playing ability and the enthusiasm of our supporters is our real secret."

To Yeovil people the team is never "they" or "them" but "we" and "us." The players feel they are among friends and neighbours, as indeed they are. Eight of them live and work in the town.

Yeovil fans do more than their part in shouting—they look after the programmes and refreshments and attend to ground improvements. Already this season they have carried out a "jubilee terracing" plan and can cope with a bigger crowd than ever before. Even so, only 15,000 will be able to watch Sunderland struggle.

The supporters, for their part, have no worries about superstition, ground conditions, or anything else beating opponents before a game begins. "The slope doesn't help us," they say. "Any decent player can soon get used to that eight-foot drop from side to side."

And to prove their disdain for such things, they have committed themselves to the heresy of levelling the pitch as an item in their improvements scheme. They are convinced that League clubs will still dread a visit to Yeovil.



**Key Man** Alec Stock, only full-time player in club official rest of week. He's dealt with telegraphed applications for tickets



**Centre-forward** Eric Bryant works at corn chandler's. He finds heaving sacks good practice when he gets into charging duel

**Floodlight Training** two nights a week helps keep the team together. They practise moves they hope the opposition will be unable to see even in daylight on this Saturday afternoon

