

FOLLOWING a boardroom shake-up, Yeovil Town's new chairman John Fry yesterday announced the club had signed up GKN Westland to help fly the club into the Football League by the turn of the century.

The new board has christened the restructuring crusade Mission 2000 and its objectives are league status and financial security for the club for the 21st Century.

Former chairman Bryan Moore, a lifelong Glovers fan, is continuing as a board director but did not seek re-election as chairman, said Mr Fry, who is combining chairmanship duties with his role as club chief executive.

On Tuesday he outlined his four-year masterplan to make Yeovil Town a professional league team and wipe out the club's debts, estimated to be around £200,000.

GKN Westland is being offered an associate directorship said Mr Fry but it is not one of the club's 14 new investors. He also announced the appointment of Yeovil's first women director - Pauline Lock, wife of club sponsor and Yeovil plant hire boss Mike but no relation to ex-chairman Gerry Lock.

And Yeovil's most famous former manager Alec Stock, hero of the FA Cup win against Sunderland, has been invited to become an associate director.

Yeovil is launching a new initiative to reward season ticket holders with pay-at-the-gate fans paying an extra 50p at the turnstile next season if the Glovers are in the ICIS League top two from the 11th home game onwards.

Club officials hope the scheme will earn manager Graham Roberts

By Peter Willmott Football Correspondent

more money to buy players.

Success-hungry Yeovil fans can expect major changes on and off the field at Huish Park including:

- A 75 per cent increase in the number of matches played at Huish Park next season;
- Pitch improvements, including drainage work;
- A re-formed reserve team, fielding under-18s, readmitted into the Western League next season;
- Increased links with GKN Westland including sports and social club facilities;
- A top-class coach being appointed director of coaching standards;
- Finding and grooming local talented young footballers and running junior age group teams;
- Constructing new stands at Huish Park terrace ends;
- Attracting top players to Yeovil;
- New club directors.

In an exclusive interview with the Western Gazette ousted chairman Mr Moore spoke yesterday of his disappointment at leaving the top job at England's premier non-league club. See Back Page.

I'm staying says manager

Exclusive by Peter Willmott

YEOVIL Town manager Graham Roberts is blasting rumours that he is quitting the club this week.

He blames rivals Bath City and their manager Tony Ricketts for causing trouble with the clubs in dispute over transfer dealings.

"I'm staying as Yeovil manager for one, two, three, maybe four years," says Roberts.

"There are rumours circulating connecting me with other clubs but I can tell all the supporters I'm not going anywhere."

Roberts and Ricketts are in dispute over Bath players Rob Cousins and Jerry Gill joining Yeovil.

Their transfer fees are expected to be decided by a football tribunal.

"A rumour is going around that I'm

leaving Yeovil this week," says Roberts.

"Bath are telling Cousins and Gill there's no point joining Yeovil because I won't be there.

"With Bryan stepping down as Chairman they're saying I'm the next to go.

"I'm here to stay to get us into the Football League.

"I've spoken to John Fry. There is no change, we all work together.

"I've got a job to do to get the club out of the ICIS League and into the Football League within five years.

● Yeovil have been given a home tie against last season's league rivals Molesey in the Guardian Insurance Cup.