

# New chairman bids to lead Town into league

YEovil Town's new chairman has unveiled plans to get the club into the Nationwide Football League and to sort out its finances.

Chief executive John Fry, 55, replaces Bryan Moore, who stands down after more than five years. Mr Moore remains a director.

"Yeovil Town should not be a non-league club," Mr Fry told the *Express and Star*.

"With our resources and commitment, we should have been in the league a long time ago.

"It wouldn't be right for our supporters if we remained in non-league football for another 100 years."

Mr Fry, a lifelong football fan, announced a programme of radical changes to help bring on local talent — he wants to see Yeovil-born youngsters progress through a youth and reserves set-up to represent the first team.

Local firms, including GKN

## Report by PHIL HILL

Westland, have agreed to sponsor the new scheme.

"I feel you can have just as good players from this area as from the big cities as long as they have the opportunity," said Mr Fry, who lives in the Mendips.

"It can only be of benefit to the club if we start to produce our own home-grown players. And if we get success, that in turn is good for the local economy, because we'll be attracting crowds of around 4,000, who will spend money in the town."

Retired businessman Mr Fry said his role at the club will involve working "24 hours a day, seven days a week".

"And I will help out in any way necessary — cutting the lawn, running the books, whatever," he said.

"In a football club you have got

to lead from the front — there is no point being stuck behind a desk."

Mr Fry and his co-directors have decided on a two-pronged plan to achieve league status, following an encouraging season in the ISIS League.

They are backing the team to win promotion into the Conference League and then the Nationwide League.

"Graham Roberts (the manager) has my full support and I know he is fully committed to the club," went on Mr Fry.

"Graham has started a rebuilding job and is going to need every help possible. He's in charge of what goes on on the field, but we have got to run the club as a business within its budgets.

"Unfortunately, people get carried away sometimes with football and try to run things with their hearts rather than their heads.

"We won't be going anywhere unless the financial side is right

— we need to get promotion and balance the books."

He revealed that plans are afoot to make greater use of the 26-acre Huish Park site — concerts and other sporting events have already been discussed.

Mr Fry paid tribute to Mr Moore, who, he said, stood down "in the best interest of the club's new investors (the directors)", who all back Mr Fry's "restructuring initiative".

He said: "In order to restore confidence in the long term plans of football at the Huish Park stadium, it was a pre-condition of the club's new investors for an immediate change of leadership and a new style of management."

In the club's press statement issued by Mr Fry, it stated: "Before leaving the Huish Park stadium for a well-earned summer break, Mr Moore has, in a brief statement, given his reason for not seeking re-election, as being in the best interest of the club's

new investors, who have during the past season supported John Fry's restructuring to drive the company towards its Mission 2000 Objectives of Nationwide League Football and financial security.

"After five-and-a-half years as chairman of one of the biggest non-League clubs in the UK, Bryan would like to thank everyone who has been so supportive of the club during one of the most difficult periods in the Glovers' 100-year history.

"On behalf of the directors, shareholders and supporters of YTFC, I would like to express our sincere appreciation of the hard work and considerable sacrifices made by Bryan Moore and his wife Pauline for the club over the past five-and-a-half years."

Yeovil Town have also announced the appointment of its first-ever female director, Pauline Lock.

## Treatment

Chris Seymour is another player having treatment although he and Graham Kemp both missed the Weymouth debacle because their car broke down en route.

Club Secretary Jean Cotton said the second leg of the two-legged match with the Terras would be fitted in later in the season.

Saturday's Weymouth match came two days after Yeovil had thrashed Dorchester Town 5-1, Warren Patmore getting two of the goals.

Also on target for Yeovil were Micky Engwell, Dean Birkby and Jamie Laidlaw.

The busy pre-season build-up continued on Monday with a goalless draw against Gloucester City, who fielded ex-Yeovil keeper Dave Coles.

Gloucester have been getting the chequebook out and are among the favourites for promotion from the Dr Martens League.