

VICAR'S SON PRAYS FOR CUP MIRACLE

FORMER Milborne Port vicar's son Phil Shrimpton is a man with a mission. He heads for Huish Park on Saturday aiming to dump his old club Yeovil Town out of the FA Cup.

But Shrimpton admits he and his Backwell colleagues need a miracle if they are to cause an upset in the first qualifying round tie.

"We shall give it all we've got, but being realistic we haven't got much of a chance, especially now that the tie has been switched to Yeovil", said the 29-year-old midfielder.

Shrimpton admits that the Screwfix Direct League club, with no turnstile and an average attendance of 116, have no stars - a fact underlined by their bottom-

Report by John Lukins

but-two position in the Premier Division.

"We might have had a slim chance at home. We were told that when Yeovil said they would bring 500 fans the police were happy they could cope. Then Yeovil said they would bring 1,000 and that prompted the switch.

"From a personal point of view I am looking forward to coming back to Yeovil, although my playing days there were at the old Huish ground".

Shrimpton was looked upon as the pick of the teenagers on Yeovil's books when Gerry Gow was manager. He had a habit of arriving late in the box and scoring vital goals for the reserves.

But with Gow and Tom Ritchie running the

midfield for the first team, his chances were limited. "I played in a few cup games for the senior side, and I was then picked for a league game at Bognor Regis but I had to pull out with a knee injury. I was never chosen again".

Work took Shrimpton to Bristol and he had spells with Paulton Rovers, Forest Green, Weston-super-Mare and now Backwell for the past two years.



● PHIL SHRIMPTON
- lining up 10 years ago



● WARREN PATMORE outjumps the Backwell defence to put Yeovil ahead in their FA Cup tie on Saturday. He went on to get a hat-trick in the 6-0 win. Picture by Len Copland.

● Yeovil say reports that Backwell will pick up £3,000 as their share of the takings from last Saturday's FA Cup clash at Huish Park are on the high side. When VAT at 17 per cent is deducted, the final figure is likely to be a little under £2,500.

Not so fortunate is 17-year-old Lee Groves, who has been released. Young Groves, a product of the YTS, made six starts last season and came on as substitute on 21 other occasions. But he was looked upon as a reserve team player this term, although, with age on his side, he has the potential to bounce back.