

A KETTERING ROBERTS ARE

Conference club close in on Yeovil's boss

GRAHAM Roberts could be manager of Kettering Town this time next week – but he doesn't really want to leave Huish Park.

The 37-year-old boss, this week named ICIS Manager of the Month for the second month running, was interviewed by the Conference club on Monday after they had been given permission by Yeovil Town's Chairman John Fry to make an approach.

And I understand that Kettering, who

have received more than 60 applications, are likely to offer Roberts the job.

Roberts told me yesterday: "It is true that I am talking to Kettering, but my heart is at Yeovil. I would dearly love to finish the job I have started and if Kettering want me I shall be talking to Yeovil's Board before making a decision.

"I have a family to look after, and my contract at Huish Park is only for the remainder of this season. That is the one thing I am not happy about here"

Roberts is a blunt man and has upset influential people from time to time with his outspoken comments.

But the club's Director of Football Bryan Moore says: "He has always received the full backing of our chairman John Fry and the rest of the board.

"I know less than you do about the Kettering approach, but I am sure we would want to talk to Graham before any big decisions were made.

"I don't think the length of contract should be a big issue. After all, he came here without a contract and it wasn't until this season that he signed one".

A Kettering journalist told me: "The people up here say they want someone who has had

success managerially at non-league level and Graham Roberts would fit the bill.

"We understand that Neil Webb (the former Nottingham Forest and England star) is also being talked about but he doesn't have Roberts' experience as a manager at this level.

"We do know, however, that others are being interviewed"

High profile

With six England caps to his credit, and a playing career which included glory days at Tottenham Hotspur, Glasgow Rangers and Chelsea, Roberts is a high-profile character who knows that success with Yeovil would open the door to a much bigger club.

The Kettering approach is the most positive he has received in recent months,

although it is believed he was shortlisted by Raith Rovers a few months ago.

The Kettering vacancy occurred when Gary Johnson was sacked following bad home results and dwindling gates. Without him, they had a convincing victory on Saturday, aided by a hat-trick from Tony Lynch who had a spell with Yeovil at the end of last season.

Centre-half Richard Nugent, another man signed by Roberts for Yeovil, is also playing for the Northamptonshire club.

Roberts, meanwhile, is now concentrating on preparing himself and his players for one of the biggest league matches of the season – Saturday's trip to his old rivals Enfield.