



● DEAN BIRKBY, the Yeovil Town striker, tries to find a way to go Tuesday's Full Members Cup quarter final at Huish Park. Yeovil lost 1-0 a Maidenhead team 37 places below them in the ICIS League set up. Pic by Nigel Andrews.

# Why Yeovil's big night can make Jerry a true Blue

By Steve Moore

JERRY GILL steps out at a packed Huish Park to face Enfield tonight with more than the ICIS League title on his mind.

The 26-year-old Yeovil midfielder goes hunting a return to the Conference as the league's two juggernauts collide in a match with a big bearing on who takes the honours in May.

But watching Birmingham boss Trevor Francis will be running the rule over Gill as he ponders a pre-transfer deadline raid to improve his already large squad.

Gill has played in three friendlies for Birmingham recently to add to his appearance for England in a semi-pro international in Dublin. A return to the professional game is on the cards.

"It's all very much up in the air but I am keen to get back into League football," said Gill, a rep for a sports supply company.

"If it comes to a choice between a job and football then it's got to be football. If I turned down the chance then, I would always be looking back and thinking of what might have been."

Should Birmingham follow-up their interest — £70,000 has been mentioned — it would be a second chance for Gill.

He left Southern League soccer as a teenager with Trowbridge to turn professional at Leyton Orient. Eighteen months later, a free transfer sent him back to the West Country a wiser man.

"Frank Clark signed me for Orient but I was very much the country boy moving to the big city," he recalled.

"I was a regular in the reserves but never got my chance in the first team. If I had, things might have been different.

"Whatever happens with Birmingham, though, I will be with Yeovil until the end of the season."

Gill grew up quickly during five Conference years with Bath City.

## TOP OF THE TABLE AND THE RUN-IN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil Town	31	23	5	3	57	25	74
Enfield	31	22	7	2	70	22	73
Purfleet	34	15	9	10	53	46	54
Yeading	31	14	11	6	48	31	53
Sutton United	29	13	10	6	64	49	49
Oxford City	31	13	8	10	56	52	47

### Yeovil's remaining games

Sat Mar 29	.....	Staines Town (a)
Mon Mar 31	.....	Oxford City (a)
Sat Apr 5	.....	Bishops Stortford (h)
Tue Apr 8	.....	Staines Town (h)
Sat Apr 12	.....	Sutton United (a)
Sat Apr 19	.....	Purfleet (h)
Tue Apr 22	.....	Oxford City (h)
Sat Apr 26	.....	Heybridge Swifts (a)
Tue Apr 29	.....	Bromley (a)
Sat May 3	.....	Chertsey (h)

Tonight, he looks to add to his impressive haul of 14 goals in 44 appearances to push Yeovil back towards the big time.

"This is the big one for us, really. The interest has been very high and I know a lot of clubs locally have cancelled their training sessions to see it.

"It is not the be all and end all of our season because there will still be a lot of football left to play.

"But we are all up for this one. If we can't be for a game like this, then we shouldn't be in it at all.

"Anything other than a return to the Conference will be regarded as a failure. The club is all geared up for going back there."

Gill has taken advantage of manager Graham Roberts' insistence on a passing game to install himself as the side's third top scorer.

But much will depend tonight on Yeovil's new striking hot-shot Howard Forinton.

The Bristol student has netted 12 in 12 games since his £17,000 arrival mid-season from Oxford City.

Defender Chris White starts a two-match ban, Chris Seymour is out injured while skipper Micky Engwell has knee ligament damage.

WESTERN DAILY PRESS, TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 1997



**SUPER STRIKER...**  
Howard Forinton in action for Yeovil