

TUESDAY, 25 March 1997 will go down in history as the day 10,000 people wanted to watch an ICIS League match.

8,007 of them were lucky. They got into Huish Park to see Yeovil Town draw 2-2 with Enfield in what was billed as a title shoot-out.

The other 2,000 were either locked outside when the gates were closed 20 minutes before the kick-off, or turned their cars around and went home because the roads leading into Yeovil were jammed.

Some of the unlucky fans commandeered a ladder outside the ground and scaled a wall. Others climbed to vantage points around the ground.

Many just went home. A Crewkerne fan told

John Lukins reports on an amazing night at Huish Park

me: "I queued for an hour and they kept moving us from one line to another. In the end they just shut the gates and that was that".

Among those locked out were several season ticket holders, and Chairman John Fry, who was on national radio yesterday morning to explain the amazing attendance, promised to call a Board meeting to see what could be done for them.

Sorry

He said: "We are really sorry for them and I understand their annoyance. We expected about 5,000 and thought there would be plenty of room if the crowd climbed just above that.

"We consulted the police about issuing match tickets but we decided it wasn't necessary.

"I went outside with several of my directors and tried to help as many season ticket holders as possible. I don't like upsetting customers.

"A number of angry fans have since phoned the office apologising for the things they said".

When Huish Park was built the capacity was given as 9,750. However, when that was really put to the test - for the FA Cup tie with Arsenal four years ago - police and safety officials limited the crowd to 8,612.

Although part of the away end was used for Yeovil fans on Tuesday, there were considerable gaps in the Enfield section otherwise the maximum would have again been reached.

It was a night when the crowd upstaged the players. After a whirlwind start in which Yeovil went 2-0 ahead in seven minutes, they lost their way following an early injury which sent skipper Micky Engwell to hospital, and Enfield levelled before half-time.

Yeovil, who paraded new signing Andy Clement from Slough Town, were on top for the last 20 minutes, but a draw was probably the right result.

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8,007 INSIDERS - BUT
2,000 SHUT OUT

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Trevor Francis was one who did get in...

TREVOR Francis, the former England star now manager of First Division Birmingham City, was one who did gain admittance to Huish Park on Tuesday.

He came to watch Jerry Gill, the 26-year-old Yeovil defender who has been travelling to the Midlands recently to play for City's reserves.

Gill, who joined Yeovil from Bath City in the summer, did not have the best game he has had this season and Francis left before the end. There was no indication yesterday of any beat-the-trans-

fer-deadline move concerning Gill, but Yeovil have already said they want to keep him until the end of the season - and they are well aware that Bath City would get 30 per cent of any profit they make on the player.