

HENDFORD  
*to*  
HUISSH PARK

KERRY MILLER



110 YEARS OF  
YEOVIL TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB



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HENDFORD  
*to*  
HUISSH PARK



*"Johnny" Hayward*  
*Yeovil's idol, who scored more than 548 goals*



Yeovil Town 1908 - 1909



# Introduction

A comparative stranger being entrusted with researching and writing the official history of any football club is almost akin to him putting together someone else's family tree, such is the almost intimate nature of the task. When a club such as Yeovil Town agrees to allow one to lay open to the world all her most personal secrets as well as dig up some which have long ago been forgotten, then one should be doubly honoured.

The club's centenary came and went with talk of a book being written and published and indeed former club chairman Bryan Moore researched the club at some depth for a fascinating series which was published throughout one season in the match programme. But with Bryan's increasing workload it looked as though the Glovers would not have their history fully documented in book form until a series of factors combined to make it possible.

My friend and fellow football writer Leigh Edwards, who was responsible for the Southern League's Centenary History, suggested that I contact Bryan and Alan Skirton, in the Commercial Department at the club to see whether the project could get off the ground with the help of some local sponsorship. To their credit, and that of chairman John Fry, they had sufficient trust to give the work the green light and so in February of 1998 research began in earnest.

I was quite possibly in the best position to undertake the work from a neutral point of view, not having been a supporter but having watched the club many times in the sixteen years that I had lived and worked in the west country, as an objective view of things is not always easy to find when reading club histories written by long standing fans, ex players, or well meaning secretaries who often simply jot down stories that have changed like Chinese whispers down the decades.

With my previous club histories, for Tiverton Town, Walton and Hersham and Taunton Town I had varying degrees of assistance from clubmen who had managed to keep records of their own over the years, and with Yeovil I was fortunate that Bryan Moore had himself been given several old notebooks giving details of matches dating back to the twenties and could also hand over his collection of home programmes which stretch back to the last War.

The early history of the club talks of rugby and football being played alternatively at West Hendford and later at Pen Mill, with Petters United having a ground in Brickyard Lane. These grounds intrigued me and it was not until the very final days before the original draft went in to the printers that the jigsaw was completed for me. As will become apparent, the first Yeovil Football Club's West Hendford ground was little more than a field which subsequently was blessed with a pavilion, and was used to stage football, rugby and cricket as well other sundry activities. It was believed that when Yeovil Casuals began at Pen Mill they had moved directly from the first ground, but the Gazette tells us that for three or four years the club alternated between that field and the one next door, depending on the whim of the owner, who complained of overuse and damage to fences. A cursory look at a map of the area for the late 1800's

shows the two fields side by side and by comparing them to modern day Ordnance Survey maps it was possible to pinpoint precisely where the grounds were, now buried beneath the extension to Westlands and the car lot next door. The original ground went on to stage county cricket until being sold and lost just before the Second War.

The row of homes at the back of the complex and the open space beyond give sufficient of a viewpoint to indulge in a spot of day dreaming when attempting to picture the scene as it was a hundred years earlier. Hoards of men with jackets and ties, all with hats or caps and a sprinkling of ladies standing on specially laid duck boards in front of the pavilion as the men did battle, the ball being passed almost in military style along the front ranks. The smell of untipped cigarettes and dank mud from the often waterlogged ground would add to the occasion which sometimes would degenerate into anarchy as teams disputed decisions from the home referee who was more often than not the club secretary.

When the new club moved up to a field at Pen Mill next to the railway station it heralded many changes, not least the provision of en suite changing facilities at the hotel. Again I had some vague knowledge of the ground, having been shown the field some time before, and like many I assumed that the pitch ran lengthwise with a goal down somewhere near the station and another up near the hotel. Having stood on the field during last summer it was almost impossible to visualise football being played there as the slope from end to end and the ridge running across it seemed to rule it out. However, with the last football match there having been around 75 years ago and the small matter of a World War in between, the thought that the field may well have been cultivated confused things further. It was important to me to be able to describe the ground as it housed the first grandstand which subsequently did sterling service at Huish until the sixties and I was intrigued to know precisely where it stood. Match reports occasionally referred to the 'hotel end' and the 'terrace end', which did little to solve the question, but another look at the pre-War map showed the Pen Mill field as being divided into two across where the steep ridge is, so it was more or less confirmed that the pitch ran across the top, parallel with Lyde Road. The next step was to determine which side the grandstand stood and that is where Mrs Anne Taylor proved to be a Godsend. She had contacted the club to say that her husband's uncle, Jack Taylor, played for the Glovers either side of the Great War and that she had been left a number of old photos. On meeting Anne, I was shown the only known action shot of football at Pen Mill, taken from close to a goal post by the hotel and clearly showing the houses on the north of Lyde Road. Closer examination of an old team photo taken in front of the stand showed a small area of a roof and chimney, which when matched up convinced me that the site of the old stand is now covered by the gardens of the houses in Lyde Road backing on to the field. In the context of the rest of the club history it was a small point, but to me it meant as much as anything that I found during the following nine months. The final piece of that

particular jigsaw came when I received a call from Yeovil Library to tell me that an old gentleman had come into the reference section and confirmed that he was a ball boy at Pen Mill as a small child and he remembered that the stand did not reach the full width of the ground which meant that the ball often went into Lyde Road. The fact that there was still a living link between football at the ground and the modern day was a very humbling one and one which made me even more determined to do justice to the work and the club. My final piece of detective work related to the Petters United ground in Brickyard Lane which was described as having a commodious stand of its own right which latterly was transported to Pen Mill when the clubs merged. Brickyard Lane became St Michaels Avenue but various maps gave no indication of a football ground. At the turn of the century there was little in the way of buildings much further up the road than the church, and so I assumed that the old works ground would be close to the town, as virtually all football grounds were in those days, transport being a major problem. Then I came across an old photo of a rugby team which was published in the Gazette back in the fifties, which talked about the ground being in Brickyard Lane and now covered by the 'school gardens'. Visits to Buckler's Mead and Grass Royal schools led me to a school caretaker who in his own research on the town was able to tell me that the school referred to was Pen Mill Infants, and the field which contained the pitch was latterly used as allotments.

So the four former grounds of Yeovil and Petters United football clubs had at last been identified and I felt that I could now go on and fit the rest around the framework which I had created.

The early days of the clubs were recorded in the Gazette and thankfully they are kept in Taunton at both the County records office and the Central Library and so the long haul through 103 years began, with the compiling of all the results, scorers and league tables as well as the stories which slowly unfolded. When each season was completed the results were totted up, particularly for the reserve matches, to ensure that every one had been found, but often when information was not forthcoming, then it was not unusual for me to have to return and read through a season again to try to fill in the blanks. I believe that I have managed to locate every first team result and scorer since the clubs came together, and for the most part the reserves were well covered too, especially through to the seventies. Sadly press and public alike seemed to lose interest in reserve team football around twenty years ago, and although most of the results are known from then, scorers and appearances are not. When all forms of research were exhausted in Taunton and via the various records that I had been given, then the Newspaper Library in Colindale would be the next port of call, where occasionally obscure journals which have long since passed on would be trawled for some reserve team result in the middle of May, invariably with a successful result.

Naturally it is not simply the supply of statistics which make a club history, and when the personal stories began to emerge then the club itself ceased to belong just to the current band of supporters and became a part of me, albeit for nine months or more.

Like Manchester United and the Busby Babes, Liverpool and the Kop and the Arsenal offside trap, whenever the name of Yeovil Town is mentioned anywhere within football circles, it is followed by either 'the Sunderland game', or 'the slope at Huish'. That was indeed my main knowledge of the club's history until this work began and so it was with no little pleasure that I discovered some of the stories, some tragic and some heartwarming, that went to make up the whole. From Harry Spinner, a defender who died on the Titanic whilst travelling to Gloversville in America, to Harry Scott, a young ex-schoolboy international who scored a hatful of goals before taking up teaching and then dying in his twenties. And from Ernie Hyman, another young man who died after receiving internal injuries during a game on Boxing Day against Taunton Town to Andy Stone, a more recent player who sadly succumbed to cancer and eighteen year old Bob Veal, a promising goalkeeper tragically killed in a car crash. Of course there are many happy tales of

players moving on to greater things from Huish and Huish Park and a number of managers who saw time at Yeovil before gaining fame, none more so than the late Alec Stock, who masterminded the Sunderland victory fifty years ago.

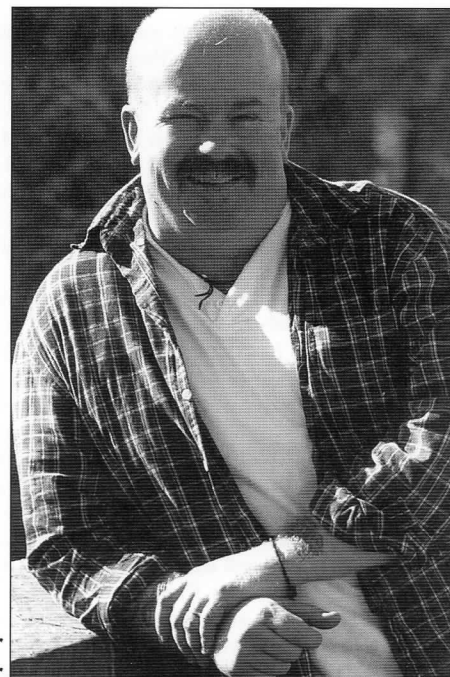
A work of this magnitude is impossible without the help of others to steer one in the right direction or to provide back up when things are not going to plan. This book is no different and to that end I would like to thank those who have in an assortment of ways helped me.

Firstly my thanks go to Bryan Moore, not only for giving me the chance to write this history, but also for the loan of much of his own material which he has collected over five decades of involvement with Yeovil Town Football Club. Alongside him at the start Alan Skirton also had faith, not only in me but also in his own ability in obtaining the advertising and sponsorship, chiefly from Westlands who have come up trumps yet again in their support for the club.

Away from the club itself Anne Taylor, neice-in-law of Jack Taylor, became the prime mover in my completing the Pen Mill jigsaw, and the Gazette's own John Lukins kindly lent me his statistics books which were of immense help. Current director Peter Hill was another who offered his collection which included some of the earliest known programmes dating from the turn of the century.

Leigh Edwards not only got the whole thing going, but he provided the superb listing of almost every player who made a contribution to the club. There are others such as Norman Gannaway in Dorset, John Powell the Poole Town historian and John Hansford who probably has more information on Somerset football than anyone else alive, all of whom have given their time to fill in blanks where conventional sources have failed. Thanks also should go to the staff of the libraries at Taunton, Yeovil and Colindale as well as those in the County Records office whose patience knew no bounds during last summer. Finally nearer to home, Katey Miller, my daughter who was 11 when the book was created and diligently dictated countless league tables and result grids for me to proof and has all but come to terms with the likes of Kidderminster Harriers, Walthamstow Avenue and Bournemouth and Boscombe Athletic Reserves.

There are undoubtedly others to whom I will be offering thanks at a later date having unwittingly left them out of this resume, but finally I would like to thank the club Chairman, Mr John Fry and his board, whose ultimate decision it was to go ahead with the book. I trust that they, and yourself, enjoy reading about the 100 plus years where Yeovil Town formed themselves into the most famous non-league club in the country before finally taking their long overdue bow in the football league, and taking it by storm.



**Kerry Miller**  
Author





## Foreword

I am very honoured to have the opportunity to write the foreword for this fantastic publication. I realise that this is a new and updated version of the much in demand Hendford to Huish book written previously in 1995.

This is not a long period in the 110 year history of this famous club, but I was very aware of what had been before me when I joined the board of directors in 1993 and one of my reasons for choosing to come to Yeovil was because of its proud tradition in the community.

I am immensely proud to have been the Chairman and Chief Executive during what has been the most successful ten year period in the history of Yeovil Town Football Club, and I can honestly say I have enjoyed every minute of my time at Huish Park.

During my first year in office we won promotion to the Nationwide Conference and established our mission goals for our journey towards the Nationwide Football League. What a journey it turned out to be for our magnificent supporters.

After recruiting a young squad of players and taking a giant stride towards full time professional football we won the FA Umbro Trophy at Villa Park in style.

I believe it was the clubs first success in this competition and it made our supporters believe our mission goals were achievable, after all the years in non-league football.

I also recall that unforgettable day during the Trophy competition when away at Doncaster Rovers, and being three-nil down at half time, we came back to win five-four.

To go on and win the FA Trophy and finish third in the Conference League was some feat, and under the management of my number one signing, Gary Johnson, it was the catalyst for our future success.

Most of our players who had been successful in that FA Trophy winning season, proved to be just as successful in the Conference the following season. We won the league, earning a record number of points, also breaking the record for the largest positive goal difference.

It was a fantastic season for Gary Johnson, Steve Thompson and the players, and reflected the standards produced by everyone at the football club. What made the achievement particularly more remarkable was that for the first quarter of the season we played our home games at Dorchester Town, whilst our important new pitch was laid here at Huish Park.

I'm sure that the feat of getting Yeovil Town Football Club into the Football League after all of those years meant so much to the supporters that have been associated with and followed the club for so long.

I understood and felt the emotion that was aroused by getting into the Football League. We achieved this milestone with all of the previous players, directors, club staff and supporters in mind. We were able to reach the goal that



Yeovil Town had set itself many years previously.

Our first year in the Football League was relatively successful, and I can remember to this day a sea of green and white hoops welcoming us as we ran out at Rochdale on our first outing in League football. As you all know, we finished the season in eighth place, narrowly missing out on a play-off spot, which was very unlucky considering our strong finish.

However, we were only preparing ourselves for the season to come, which saw us promoted once again from League Two to League One. This was another proud moment for us and one that we can feel incredibly pleased with because we managed to keep the majority of the squad that earned Yeovil Town Football Club promotion to the Football League.

We are now playing in League One, and as we speak we are getting used to life in the new division and preparing ourselves for more progress. When I first came to the club the directors told me that the history of Yeovil Town contained its ups and downs, so I end this foreword by remembering and respecting everyone from the past seasons that has been involved with the club.

These people need to be part of the current history, and it makes me very proud to be involved with this football club.



# PART ONE

1850 – 1945



## And then there was Association.....

The accepted history of association football in this country tells of the first forms of the sport in a semi-organised form having been played from the late 1850's, particularly in the north of England, and not exclusively by the working classes. Indeed the more respected amongst the menfolk, in particular servicemen and those whose business interests allowed them to pursue social outlets, were in the main responsible for the birth of the game and the formation of the initial embryonic set of rules for their own areas.

The game was slow to spread to all parts, being far more popular in the industrial regions of the north and it was three decades before it took a tenuous grip in Dorset and south Somerset.

Further north in the coalfields around Radstock there was a following and indeed such was the interest at a higher level that by 1887 professional players were recognised and accepted by the powers that be. Clubs such as Clevedon and Street were up and running by 1880, but it was around five years later that association football put in its first appearance in the small town of Yeovil. It is not recorded precisely when the first association football club was formed in or around the town, but what is known is that by 1887 there already had been one Yeovil Football Club, playing on a well patronised field in West Hendford. There was also a club playing at East Coker, for, when in December 1887 a meeting was called in the Institution Hall to discuss the financial position of the club, it was revealed that they were some £17 in debt, a considerable sum for a fledgling club whose incomings were virtually nil.

The Mayor of the town, Dr Colmer, presided over the meeting which was attended by over 40 interested parties, and it was agreed to amalgamate and play at West Hendford, with any practice to be done at East Coker.

At the time there were very few other clubs in the area, indeed challenges were made to teams made up by club members, or to school sides in the town such as Kingston, who were experimenting with the new code. Hendford was used during the summer for cricket, with rugby and association being played alternately when fixtures allowed from October onwards. With little or no free time being available for the working classes to indulge in, it was only the odd sporadic Thursday afternoon, half day closing, when a rough kick about could be enjoyed.

The main sporting occupation at the time was in the field, when otters, badgers, foxes and deer were routinely slaughtered, the relative hunts given ample and lengthy print space in the local press to describe in graphic and sumptuous detail the blow by blow account of the day's

sport. Such was the scheme of things, that most other pastimes were ignored and it was some time before the public became sufficiently aware of soccer to want to attend it on a regular basis.

Next door in Dorset and Hampshire they were having similar problems of lethargy, as the first combined county FA was dissolved, having accrued debts and suffered through a lack of interest, but slowly through the late 1880's clubs began to spring up in Yeovil, Dorchester, Bridport, Weymouth, Poole and Bournemouth and over a century of intrigue, chaos, controversy, sadness and unbridled joy unfolded.

Yeovil Football Club staggered on and by 1889 it had already been reformed and was beginning to attain a fingerhold in the press. Very occasionally amidst the farming issues, the hunting rituals and the advertisements for Mazzawatee tea and Chloride tablets to cure corns, the papers would talk of meetings to discuss the forthcoming season and the financial state of the club at that time. Whilst preparing for the winter, the summer months were spent by those that could afford it, at the likes of Fetes and Horse Shows run by the Conservative and Unionists, or at prize sports days at Martock or the Milton Abbey grounds where local athletes would pit themselves against each other for the delights of the middle classes.

Although football was over 30 years away at Huish, there were however delights to be had during the summer of that year. John Sanger and Sons brought their Royal Roman Hippodrome and North American Exhibition to the site,



A superb display of some of the medals won by Jack Taylor who played around 200 times for Yeovil prior to the Great War.

Courtesy of Anne Taylor





Gilbert Vassall



Fred Bond

where in a three ring circus there could be had boxing elephants, cowboys and the like in what was modestly billed as "The largest show in the entire world". Elsewhere there were athletic sports at Hendford Park, occasionally known even then as "the Town Ground" and lent by kind permission of JB Paynter Esq and cricket was becoming more popular, with the Western Gazette having their own ground at Newton.

Far more importantly for the future of the game in the town, the football club had survived and on September 13th 1889 the Annual General Meeting was held in the home of Mr W T Maynard with a good attendance. They heard that there was a balance of £15, a far cry from the debt incurred by the first club, and with interest growing slowly they were confident of fulfilling a fixture list which would still comprise of rugby and soccer. From that day on, other than during conflict, there has been football played in the town by at least one prominent club.

*"This meeting hopes that whilst selecting a recreation ground for Yeovil, the Town Council seeks one suitable for cricket, rugby and football along with other sports."*

The season began on October 5th 1889, when the association side played a match against Kingston School in front of a few spectators. The eleven to take the field was Petter, Pyne, F Bond, Jones, Palmer, W Bond, Corps, Higdon, H Arnold, J Arnold and Waller, several of whose names would appear regularly in years to come. Waller and Higdon both scored twice in a 4-2 win and two weeks later the club had sufficient men to field a football team at Hendford to play and beat Mr Murray's X1, whilst a rugby fifteen travelled to Weymouth. On the same day, a new side, Yeovil Juniors were playing their first game on a field in Sherborne Road, lent to them by Mr Norman of Sun House Farm as very slowly the game took a hold. There was by then a new Football League, formed a year earlier, and this had undoubtedly accelerated the interest in association, as it was to be known for some years. Yeovil Press formed a side, also playing at Hendford and a little further afield Glastonbury were playing, the side proving too strong for Yeovil in November, winning 4-1. A month later Street Football Club, then some nine seasons old

and described as one of the best elevens in the county, handed out a 5-1 defeat to an under strength Yeovil.

Results were not of prime importance to the club, or many other clubs, at that stage, moreover it was deemed far more relevant to have a healthy balance in the bank and be seen to be a well run and sporting club to uphold the good name of the various men associated with it. Nevertheless as 1890 began the club was able to field a regular side in either code, with wins over Chard Grammar School and Yeovil Juniors and a draw with Sherborne, in which the Seymour brothers excelled. The season ambled along until on March 1st, at the Christopher Hotel in Bath, the Somerset County Association was reformed, the original having gone the same way as the Dorset and Hampshire some five years earlier when members left the area. A county competition was agreed and known as the Challenge Cup. On the same day, in thick driving snow, Yeovil travelled to Glastonbury and lost 2-1 to a side which included several Street players. The visitors lined up with the Rev F W Holtham in the defence. In the remaining few weeks there were further games against Bridport and Sherborne, variously in heavy rain and gale force winds. It proved to be a good season, for at the end of term dinner, several members and a few friends sat down at the Choughs Hotel and heard of a profit of £8 19/-.

Buoyed by their relative success, the committee proposed that they invite the county side to play a game in the new season. They were correctly advised to find a suitable field for the purpose, for the current one was prone to waterlogging in what had been a very damp winter.

Five months later the problem of the ground was solved for them by the owner of the field which had been used for a number of years, as he "could not see his way clear to rent it out, due to the damage to fencing and the infringement on the agreement to use it only twice a week". A deputation to the owner was suggested with a further resolution that "this meeting hopes that whilst selecting a recreation ground for Yeovil, the Town Council seeks one suitable for cricket, rugby and football along with other sports." With this in mind the club went on to form a junior section, the club colours to remain white.

## 1890 and a new field.....

As cricket slowly came to an end, the club had already chosen a new field, almost next door to the old one in West Hendford, but nearer the town. It was very uneven, but entry did not involve walking across mud, as had been the case before. Again both rugby and soccer were to be played roughly alternately, depending on availability of both men and opposition and with Sherborne, Street and Bridport again on the fixture list and the possibility of competitive games courtesy of the county, they began again. Matches were played under both codes with occasional fixtures for the juniors. The highlight of the first part of the campaign was a 6-0 win over Kingston School with Mitchell scoring four. December was less impressive with a lack of goals but in January the important stuff began, although severe weather prevented the first ever competitive match from taking place, as Wells FC could not travel and a large attendance was left disappointed to watch a scratch match. Three weeks later they tried again, and what was billed as the Challenge Cup semi-final was won by Wells 2-0. It provoked what turned out to be the first controversy to hit the club, as the opposition were "hooted" by a group of obnoxious small boys who had gathered around one goal, when the home side called for three cheers. Referee Mr Cook and his umpires Mr Ellicott and Mr Hodges were less than amused, although the incident passed off.

Whether by accident or design, the association side had developed into a strong defensive side and went several matches without the opposition making "sporting rushes which culminated with them logging points".

As wins accrued against almost the same clubs as in the previous season, then the club membership appeared to grow, as they were able to field sides for both codes on the same day on a number of occasions, one being when Taunton Queens College were unable to provide rugby opposition, Street FC stepping in to provide a soccer team instead.

Rugby was deemed much the bigger sporting attraction at the time in Yeovil, mirroring the events not far away in the county town of Taunton, but it mattered little, for the club as a whole was seemingly gaining in momentum as the season ended. Around 28 matches were played in all, combining the codes, with eight lost. At a social gathering there were calls for a cricket club to be formed to bind together the men during the summer months and the AGM, again at the residence of Mr Maynard, an assortment of Lords, Mayors and clergy pledged themselves to the development of sport and recreation for the citizens of Yeovil.

There was one cloud on the horizon, as once again the field owners did not wish to rent out to the club, but luck was at hand for they returned to the old cricket field, complete with pavilion for the 1891-92 season.

Practice began in Mr Brook's field, with play commencing in Mr Leach's, that being the cricket ground, and the club had by then agreed to compete in the Somerset County League under association rules. They began in October with a heavy defeat at Burnham, on a pitch described as "small with exceptionally long grass suited to anything but football". The 6-1 defeat was reversed the following week against Chard, on a day when the club fielded a rugby fifteen at the new ground, which was watched by a large crowd "not withstanding the exceptionally bad approach to the field, which it is hoped is soon rectified".

The awful weather which the club had endured during the previous season returned with a vengeance, and when the league game with Glastonbury was postponed, the teams played a friendly instead, for the practice.

Association footballers were still coming to terms with the rules, or Laws as they now are, and in some circles the interpretation of them was occasionally a little short of the mark, and when Yeovil played at Foster's School in Sherborne, the match ended after just 25 minutes following the intervention of a master. Mr W Bond, the Yeovil captain and referee for the day, became a little perturbed by the school touch judge's insistence in blowing a whistle whenever his side appealed for offside. School captain Mr Irwin insisted that the school had not consented to Mr Bond's appointment as referee and refused to play, thereby conceding the game to Yeovil 2-0. Not all matches were as chaotic, and the league matches were catching the imagination of the public, so much so that in November a large and excitable crowd saw Street's by now renowned side win 6-2 at West Hendford, Clevedon also winning a fortnight later.

The club were by then fielding regular sides for both codes and, despite the consistently appalling weather which rendered some games a lottery, the public were paying their 2d admission in increasing numbers.

The new year saw the club exact revenge on Burnham by 7-0 on their pitch which was rolled but a quagmire in places and with wind, snow, sleet and rain in abundance, matches were uncomfortable to play in as well as watch, although the presence of the pavilion for shelter was a bonus.

Jan 30th 1892 saw Yeovil field four sides, two for each code, with the first team losing 1-0 to Glastonbury and the reserves beating Sherborne Rovers 4-1. It came with the club

## Known scores...

### Season 1889-90

Oct	5th	Kingston School	H	Friendly	4-2
	19th	Mr Murray's X1	H	"	4-1
Nov	23rd	Glastonbury	H	"	1-4
Dec	7th	Street	H	"	1-5
Feb	8th	Sherborne	H	"	0-0
	22nd	Yeovil Juniors	H	"	4-0
	26th	Chard Grammar Sc	H	"	5-1
Mar	1st	Glastonbury	A	"	1-2
	8th	Bridport	H	"	4-0
	15th	Sherborne	H	"	1-2

### Season 1890-91

Oct	5th	Frome	H	"	3-0
	18th	Sherborne	H	"	2-0
Nov	8th	Kingston School	A	"	4-2
	15th	Yeovil Press	H	"	1-1
	22nd	Kingston School	H	"	6-0
Dec	6th	Kings Sch, Bruton	H	"	0-0
also	6th	Street	A	"	0-1
	13th	Bridport	A	"	0-3
Jan	28th	Kings School	H	"	2-0
	31st	Wells	H	Som Chal Cup S-F	0-2
Feb	14th	Chard Grammar Sc	H	Friendly	5-0
	21st	Bridport	H	"	3-0
	28th	Glastonbury	H	"	0-0
Mar	7th	Kingston Past & Pre	H	"	3-0
	28th	Street	H	"	3-0
April	4th	Kingston Past & Pre	A	"	1-4

### Season 1891-92

Oct	10th	Burnham	A	Som Senior Lge	1-6
	17th	Chard	A	Friendly	6-1
	24th	Glastonbury	H	Som Senior Lge	1-1
	27th	Dorchester G Sch	A	Friendly	3-2
	31st	Bridport	H	"	5-0
Nov	7th	Wells City	A	Som Senior Lge	0-4
	21s	Street	H	"	2-6
Dec	5th	Clevedon	A	"	2-4
	12th	Wincanton	H	Friendly	4-0
	19th	Weymouth	H	"	0-7
Jan	2nd	Burnham	H	Som Senior Lge	7-0
	23rd	Wincanton	A	Friendly	4-2
	26th	Dorchester G Sch	H	"	8-0
	30th	Glastonbury	A	Som Senior Lge	0-1
Feb	6th	Bridport	A	Friendly	0-3
	13th	Wells	H	Som Senior Lge	0-2
	20th	Street	A	"	0-3
	27th	Chard Grammar Sc	H	Friendly	3-0
Mar	5th	Clevedon	H	Som Senior Lge	3-0
April	2nd	Yeovil Press	H	Friendly	4-0
	18th	Fulham	H	"	1-3

### Somerset Senior League 1891-92

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wells City	10	8	2	0	22	6	18
Street	10	6	3	1	26	10	15
Clevedon	10	5	2	3	33	16	12
Glastonbury	10	4	1	5	7	22	9
Yeovil	10	2	1	7	16	25	4
Burnham	10	1	0	9	9	33	2

excited about an 8-0 win at Dorchester Grammar School, where Mitchell scored five times, and with the prospect of a home match with Wells in the league. A "keenly contested game, the most exciting for some considerable time", was watched by a large gate which greeted every move with "hearty outbursts of cheering", but their support was in vain, the city side taking the spoils. There were further wins until the final game of the season when Fulham, the holders of the London Observer Cup, journeyed down and played a friendly in a storm which ran unabated throughout, ending the season on a poor note. Yeovil FC had survived another season with little mishap, and were looking forward to the next, which although they did not know it, was only three years away from the merger which would revolutionise the new pastime in the town and indirectly lead to one of the most famous non-League clubs in the world.

## League football takes a hold...

With one season of competitive football under their belt, the propaganda began in earnest for the new campaign in September. The club issued a statement which said that, with considerable interest being shown in the winter game, the forthcoming season promises to be most successful with "the committee being actively engaged in making preparations calculated to ensure success." The AGM had heard that they were not to be offered the rent of the field and so with some haste the club returned to their second field where it was hoped that "numerous companies of spectators would be attracted". Dr Colmer, a prominent man in the area, was made President of the club which began with an easy workout against Stoke-sub-Hamdon, following it with three more friendlies, one of which was against Sherborne who were roundly criticised for only bringing five players, the rest having been unavailable.

The first competitive match was in the league at home to Paulton Rovers, a rough side who had already incurred the wrath of many for their antics in a cup tie the year before, and their standing was not helped when three players walked off the pitch following a disputed offside goal. The 3-1 win was allowed to stand at first but subsequently the County ordered a replay, which Yeovil won 4-1 on Boxing Day, completing the double four weeks later. The winter passed by with the club enjoying some moderate success, and with an expanding list of men to choose from, they fielded two rugby and two soccer teams, on one day in March.

There were signs at that time that a small but select group of clubs were drawing away from the rest, with Wells, Street and Glastonbury becoming stronger, but Yeovil showed their mettle when defeating Wells 1-0 in front of an excited crowd who "expressed their high delight with cordial cheers".

Once again the good people were gathered at the end of the season to hear that their pre-season optimism was not unfounded and when in August the exercise was repeated, many thought the league title could be won.

Very little had altered within the club, including the now perennial problem of a permanent ground and the AGM at the Choughs heard that many considered the partnership between the rugby and the football was growing less popular, as matches were often finishing in semi-darkness when both were at home. Within the course of the meeting, from discussing the problem of having no home pitch, certain factions were calling for one each, with the new President, the magnificently named Mr G Troyte-Chafyn-Grove poured water on the idea, claiming that finances would not allow it at the present time. The committee, a

### Season 1892-93

Sept	17th	Stoke-Sub-Hamdon	H	Friendly	8-0
Oct	1st	Weymouth	A	"	1-1
	8th	Sherborne Rovers	H	"	3-0
	22nd	Kingston Past & Pre	H	"	2-0
	29th	Wincanton	A	"	1-2
Nov	5th	Paulton Rovers	H	Som Senior Lge	3-1
	26th	Sherborne Rovers	A	Friendly	3-0
Dec	3rd	Weymouth	H	"	0-0
	10th	Bridport	H	"	5-2
	17th	Glastonbury	A	Som Senior Lge	1-2
	26th	Paulton Rovers	H	"	4-1
	31st	Yeovil Press	H	Replayed game Friendly	2-1
Jan	21st	Paulton Rovers	A	Som Senior Lge	2-1
Feb	4th	Street	A	"	0-3
	26th	Weymouth	H	Friendly	1-4
Mar	4th	Glastonbury	H	Som Senior Lge	4-0
	11th	Weymouth College	H	Friendly	2-2
	18th	Wells City	H	Som Senior Lge	1-0
	25th	Kingston Sch P & P	A	Friendly	1-0

### Season 1893-94

Sept	23rd	Sherborne	H	Friendly	4-0
Oct	7th	Midsomer Norton	H	Som Senior Lge	4-2
	14th	Blandford	A	Friendly	0-7
	21st	Street St Crispin	A	Som Senior Lge	Drew
Nov	4th	Glastonbury	H	"	3-2
	15th	Sherborne T & Rov	A	Friendly	2-0
	22nd	Kingston School	A	"	6-0
	25th	Bridport	H	Friendly	4-1
Dec	2nd	Street	A	Som Senior Lge	0-6
	9th	Weymouth	A	Friendly	0-4
	16th	Utd Sch of Weston	A	Som Senior Lge	0-1
	23rd	Weymouth	H	Friendly	2-0
Jan	20th	Bridport	A	"	0-3
	27th	Street St Crispin	H	Som Senior Lge	2-1
Feb	10th	Dorchester	H	Friendly	3-2
	17th	Wells City	H	"	0-2
	24th	Wells City	A	Som Senior Lge	3-1
Mar	3rd	Street	H	"	0-3
	10th	Wells City	H	"	1-2
	23rd	Queens Pk Rangers	H	Friendly	1-1
	31st	Dorchester	A	Friendly	1-0

### Season 1894-95

Sept	29th	Chard Swifts	H	Friendly	8-0
Oct	6th	Wincanton	H	Som Senior Lge	0-0
	13th	Minehead	H	Friendly	1-0
	20th	Midsomer Norton	A	Som Senior Lge	1-2
	27th	Minehead	A	Friendly	2-1
Nov	17th	Wells City	A	Som Senior Lge	1-3
	24th	Bridport	H	Friendly	2-0
Dec	1st	Chard Swifts	A	"	1-0
	8th	Dorchester	H	"	5-1
	15th	Radstock Town	A	Som Senior Lge	0-3
	29th	Glastonbury	A	"	3-1
Jan	19th	Midsomer Norton	H	"	1-5
Mar	2nd	Paulton Rovers	A	"	0-4
	16th	Weymouth	H	Friendly	1-3
	20th	Weymouth	A	"	0-4
	23rd	Radstock Town	H	Som Senior Lge	2-3
	30th	Glastonbury	H	"	1-0
April	6th	Street	A	"	3-3
	13th	Wincanton	A	"	3-0
	20th	Wells City	H	"	3-2
	27th	Street	H	"	0-0

stunning selection of men, comprising four lots of six for the four teams, plus two captains and two sub captains all were again enthused and after setting the new season ticket prices at 2/6d, the club set off on another league trail.

The press by then had latched on to the club, whom they occasionally referred to as 'the town football club' mainly to distinguish them from a growing number of new clubs, one of which, Queen Camel FC, was formed on Tuesday October 3rd 1893. The first line up for the 1893-94 season was F Palmer, F Bond, S Sugg, F Woodward, D Keir, G Fish, A Arnold, Mitchell, J Curwood, G Ford and Davis and they got off to a good start with wins over Sherborne and Midsomer Norton, the latter in a league game. A weakened X1 were hammered down at Blandford, but wins over Glastonbury, Sherborne and Kingston School were a tonic as the bad weather set in. Street showed everyone just how far they had to go to catch up, when winning 6-0 in the Senior League and a fortnight later Weymouth won 4-0 in a friendly. Sadly there was little friendly about the return, when the Dorset side walked off with five minutes left, having gone 2-0 down to a disputed goal. In between those games Yeovil lost 1-0 at United Schools of Weston, in the league, but the match was scrubbed later when having been weakened, the Schools disbanded and left the league. Another Street side, St Crispin, were beaten in the league, the crowd rejoicing over the defeat of the reigning Junior Cup champions, but they were equally disappointed soon after, when the return at Midsomer Norton was cancelled when the first team could not raise a side, despite the reserves playing at Bruton Town.

Around that time Yeovil Cricket Club was re-formed and they got ready to move in to the old cricket ground, renovating the pavilion in the process. It was then unsure just what was to happen to the field in winter months, but having sub let part of it for tennis, the cricket club had become prominent almost overnight.

On the pitch the season moved quietly along with a friendly against Wells, after the pitch had been declared unfit for the league game, the rain coming down in torrents and waterlogging pitch and hardy spectators alike. In total contrast on March 3rd Street took a liking to the near perfect weather and stunned the large gate with a 3-0 win to top the league with Wells second and Yeovil third.

All had seemed content at West Hendford, but the well oiled club machine ground to a halt in March after Wells City protested that Yeovil had fielded a non-registered player in the first game. A special meeting was held at the home of Mr Maynard, and a large attendance heard that the county association had ordered a replay. The assembled throng voted unanimously to refuse absolutely to play the game and after some debate it was agreed to withdraw with immediate effect from the league. The Wells match having been vetoed the club was able to persuade Queens Park Rangers FC to conclude their short tour with a game during Easter and the West London Observer Cup holders duly obliged with a 1-1 draw.

With the season often not commencing until October and then finishing for many in March, the football season was over as soon as it had begun and the end of season meeting was tinged with regret at not only the Wells City affair but also the finances which showed a debt of a few pounds.

In all the soccer team had played 22 games, not all of which were recorded, winning 12 and drawing three, with goals for and against both registering 39.

Top scorer was Stone with 8, followed by H Arnold and Ford with 7 and Davis with 5. They also learned of the sad death at the age of 27, of Arthur Read, one of the club's first players, who had succumbed to an internal disease in London, where he had played for his new club, Crouch End.

1894 proved to be a pivotal time for football in the town, as a number of new clubs sprung up, including Yeovil Rovers, Yeovil Baptists, Congregational Swifts, Ninespring Rovers, Wyndham Rangers and Limington, the former having been formed on September 21st to play on a field in Mudford Road.

Having decided during the summer that the club was to abandon West Hendford, there was an about turn, and with much the same side, the footballers began in front of a few spectators with a friendly with Chard Swifts. A 0-0 draw in the league followed against Wincanton, the club having swallowed their pride and rejoined, and having completed a double over Minehead they did the same over the Swifts before losing to Radstock in the Senior League.

The mere fact that football and rugby was still played more or less alternately meant that there was little continuity, and the press often latched on to more minor games involving schools instead of developing interest in the Town club, a fact which had not gone unnoticed at the HQ. Sufficient build up had been given, however, to the county game between Somerset and Dorset which the Association had decreed should be played at Yeovil, and over 800 lined the ropes having paid some £15 for the privilege, local centre-forward A. Arnold starring in a 2-0 win. There then followed some four weeks of frost and ice which rendered sport impossible and put a severe strain on one or two clubs, Yeovil included. When play resumed the team had lost its momentum and four straight defeats were suffered, with only the win over Glastonbury to relieve the sadness. April finished the season on a high note, for having drawn with Street and beaten Wincanton the club beat Wells to deprive them of the league which they would have led had they won the final game. In the end Midsomer Norton FC were crowned champions after they beat Paulton Rovers 4-1 and Glastonbury 7-1 inside a week.

#### Somerset Senior League 1893-94

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Wells City	11	8	3	0	19
Street	11	8	2	1	18
Midsomer Norton	10	5	0	5	10
Yeovil Casuals	9	4	1	4	9
Glastonbury	10	4	0	6	8
Paulton Rovers	9	2	2	5	6
Wells St Crispin	11	1	1	9	3

#### Somerset Senior League 1894-95

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wells City	14	10	2	2	40	14	22
Midsomer Norton	12	9	2	1	44	20	20
Radstock	14	9	2	3	44	19	20
Paulton Rovers	12	6	0	6	20	16	12
Yeovil Casuals	13	4	3	6	18	26	11
Street	12	3	5	4	19	24	11
Wincanton	13	2	2	9	26	54	6
Glastonbury	12	0	0	12	6	43	0





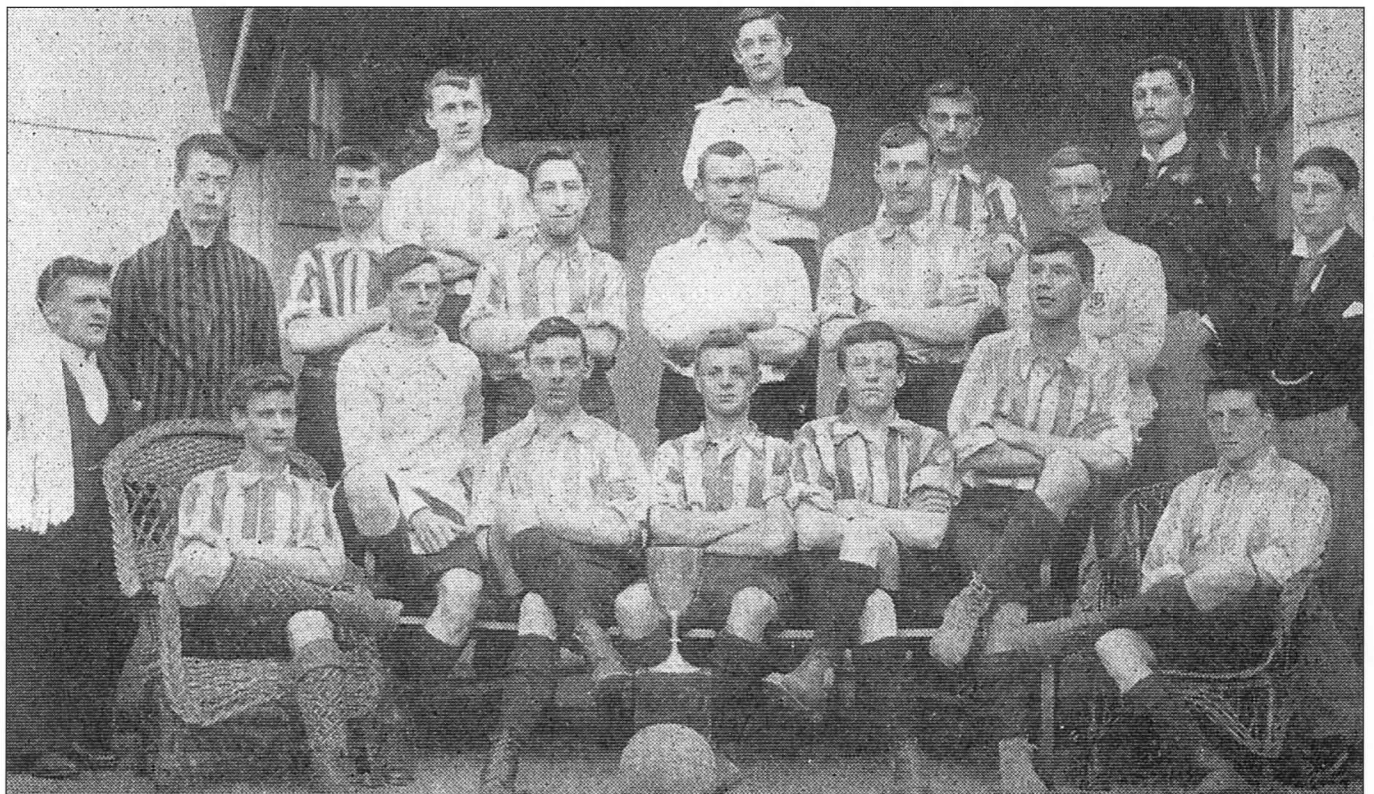
## CHAPTER TWO

# A new beginning – Yeovil Casuals F.C.

Yeovil Football Club had survived what was in many areas a testing time for fledgling clubs, who would be wound up at the merest hint of a debt to save face and, when the members sat down to the annual dinner at the Full Moon, there was much talk of expansion as well as the need for a recreation ground in Yeovil. The playing record, which included all friendlies and inter club games was given by Fred Bond as 'Played 25, won 13, drawn 4 and lost 8 with 48 goals scored and 36 conceded. Amongst the financial outlays mentioned was the cost of fencing the field at West Hendford, put at £7, although that was small fry when the Mayor stunned everyone by offering £1,000 for the development of the required Recreation ground. After instantly forming a committee to look into the possibility of such a scheme the club closed down until its AGM was proposed in August 1895. Little did anyone know that it was to be the last meeting ever for the club, and the start of a new era in Yeovil football.

By the end of July the club had entered the Somerset

Senior League, Junior Cup and Challenge Cup but at the AGM held in the Masonic Hall, the assembled were stunned to hear that the persistent bad weather which had dogged much of the season, had contributed to a debt of some £25. The rugby side was the more profitable via gate money, but the debt, plus news of another club doing well in the town, namely Congregational Swifts, who had become Yeovil Swifts, acted as a catalyst to the committee. A proposal was put forward that the two codes split and go their own way, and after amendments had been thrown out the vote was to split. Such was the determination to press on, that the old club was effectively wound up on that same day, August 24th. A new rugby club was formed three days later, which would accept half the accrued debt and on the same evening of 27th August 1895 at the Victoria Hall, Yeovil Casuals Football Club was formed with Fred Bond given the joint task of captain and honorary secretary. They too would take half of the debt and would run three sides, with all club members obliged to wear green and white ties and caps.



Yeovil Casuals Reserves 1896.

The rugby club continued on the cricket field, but Casuals had already secured the usage of an enclosure on a sloping field at the back of Pen Mill Hotel, and just by the station. It was christened rather grandly for what was little more than a field, 'Pen Mill Athletic Ground', and the goals were given the luxury of nets for the first time. It was to become a substantial site in the years which followed, and Casuals, boosted by the amalgamation of a number of smaller clubs, including Yeovil Swifts and Yeovil Rovers, played their first ever game at Pen Mill on September 14th 1895, when Mr Bond's X1 entertained Mr Suggs' X1 in a friendly, three days after the new club's first ever match, a friendly 4-3 defeat at Sarum Swifts ground in Victoria Park, Salisbury. Frome and Dorchester Working Men's Athletic were both beaten 6-1 before the first competitive match, a 0-0 draw in the league at Wincanton on their cricket ground.

The Casuals team was much the same as before and was deemed the strongest in the town, where at last football had taken off with sides from churches, schools and armed forces all springing up. For the first league game at Pen Mill the military band played from the Borough to the ground before the kick off, which doubtless inspired the team to a victory. The crowds were beginning to turn up, not only for the home matches but for some away trips too; with many drawn by the presence of the Oxford University Blue Gilbert Vassall, who had also played for Old Carthesians and Surrey.

The Wells City league match was lost 4-3, but Yeovil protested that the match ended in semi-darkness due to the late arrival of Wells and the FA were brought in. Two weeks later the protest was upheld, and once again a league game was replayed, a common occurrence throughout the football world a hundred years ago. The gate money would be split 50-50 when it was eventually replayed, but meanwhile Casuals were finding the league hard going, losing 6-0 in the snow at Radstock. They had already begun to experience the problem of some players only availing themselves for important matches, a situation which had annoyed more than a few, so that crowds for friendlies against the likes of Bridport and Chard Swifts were poorly supported.

One friendly which stood out from the rest was against Weymouth, where the visitors 'took lemons' 5-0 down only to turn around and draw 5-5. The away match with the Royal Artillery in the same town was less impressive, where only eight members travelled, but a week later the club was bouyant again, with the seniors winning a league game at champions Midsomer Norton and the reserves beating Bruton in the Junior Cup. It brought a semi-final against Wellington and after a 4-4 draw they won the replay 2-0. The senior side were drawn against Wells City in the Challenge Cup, and having received a bye in the first round, they lost 1-0 in what was the semi-final, the side being comprised of F Palmer, S Sugg, F Bond, V Thring, J Strode-Batten, F Brooks, T Stone, R Wyatt, C Witcomb, A Arnold and G Beare.

The league finished with the replayed Wells game which was won, but all eyes were on the reserves who had reached the Junior Cup final where they played Radstock Town reserves.

The new club needed some respite from problems, as having finished third from bottom in what was a poor league campaign, they also had the added problem of crowd trouble which had surfaced against Radstock. Davis of Casuals was sent off for charging the goalkeeper and having suffered what was described as a hostile reception, the referee Mr Praeter escaped to the station, where he eventually went to ground. Later the club, plus Messrs Arnold and Davis were fined and censured.

A week before the final the first team's friendly with Shaftesbury was used by the reserves as practice and it was to

Season 1895-96						
Sept	11th	Salisbury Swifts	A	Friendly	3-4	
	21st	Frome Town	H	" "	6-1	
	28th	Dorchester Ath	H	" "	6-1	
Oct	5th	Wincanton	A	Som Senior Lge	0-0	
	19th	Midsomer Norton	H	" "	3-2	
	26th	Whitehead Ath	H	Friendly	1-1	
Nov	2nd	Street	A	Som Senior Lge	1-2	Bond, pen
	9th	Bridport	A	Friendly	0-3	
	16th	Wells City	H	Som Senior Lge	3-4	Stone, Vassall, og
	23rd	Whitehead Ath	A	Friendly	2-6	
	30th	Sherborne	H	" "	2-1	
Dec	7th	Paulton Rovers	H	Som Senior Lge	1-1	Wyatt
	14th	Shaftesbury	H	Friendly	3-1	
	21st	Radstock	A	Som Senior Lge	0-6	
	26th	St Pauls, Bristol	H	Friendly	1-0	
	27th	East Coker	A	" "	3-2	
	28th	Chard Swifts	A	" "	1-1	
	29th	Bridport	H	" "	4-1	
	31st	Old Plymouthians	H	" "	2-1	
	Jan	4th	Weymouth	H	" "	5-5
11th		Dorchester Ath	A	" "	3-2	
18th		Wincanton	H	Som Senior Lge	2-0	Vassall, Stone
25th		Weymouth Roy Art	A	Friendly	1-3	
Feb		1st	Midsomer Norton	A	Som Senior Lge	2-0
	8th	Weymouth Roy Art	H	Friendly	0-2	
	15th	Street	H	Som Senior Lge	1-1	Wyatt
	26th	Sherborne	A	Friendly	1-0	
	29th	Radstock	H	Som Senior Lge	1-2	Vassall
Mar	7th	Wells City	A	" "	0-4	
	19th	Dorchester	H	Friendly	3-1	
	21st	Paulton Rovers	A	Som Senior Lge	1-3	Sumsion
April	28th	Wells City	A	" "	0-1	
	4th	Wells City	H	" "	4-1	
	18th	Shaftesbury	H	Friendly	2-4	

**Somerset Senior League 1895-96**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Street	12	8	2	2	37	17	18
Radstock	12	9	0	3	32	15	18
Wells City	12	7	2	3	36	17	16
Paulton Rovers	12	5	4	3	20	23	14
Yeovil Casuals	12	3	3	6	16	22	9
Midsomer Norton	12	3	2	7	15	22	8
Wincanton	12	0	1	11	3	36	1

prove a good move, for Radstock were out to complete a memorable double, having taken the Senior League title from Street. Ironically it was at Street's Overleigh ground that Casuals battled to a 1-1 draw after extra time, surviving a disallowed goal with five minutes remaining. The replay was at Wells City and Casuals made no mistake, taking the cup 3-2. Amongst joyous scenes the party returned to Pen Mill on the 9.50 train, from where a large assembly gave them a hearty reception, detaching the horses from the brake and using ropes to pull the party to the Full Moon, accompanied by the Military Band, where speeches were heard and three cheers were offered. It was a remarkable sight which comprehensively wiped away any thoughts that it may have been a poor season. For Casuals they had a new ground which had been deemed good enough for County trials and was perfectly situated, and had captured a cup which had catapulted them to a premier position in the town.

## A cup to go with the new ground...

The first annual dinner for Yeovil Casuals FC was held at the club's new HQ at the Pen Mill Hotel, which housed the changing rooms also, and the members heard how they had no fewer than 175 playing members to choose from, the lucky few of whom received handsome silver medals to commemorate their cup win. The dinner was followed a week later by the AGM, held at the Victoria Hall where a surprisingly small attendance was told of a small balance of just £1 18/- which had accrued over the first season, boosted by gate money totalling nearly £150. They were told that there was no reason why Yeovil Casuals could not become the premier club in the county and carry the green and white colours to greater honour. Yeovil Casuals entered the Somerset Senior League and the Challenge Cup and also decided to try their luck in the English Amateur Cup, with both Gilbert Vassall and his brother Harvey available to play. Pen Mill now boasted a reserved enclosure for the 'well to do' amongst the spectators and they watched an indifferent start to the season with friendly defeats before an easy league win over Wincanton and a hat-trick from Gilbert Vassall lifted the torpor. In the autumn the final vestiges of the early days were swept away when the rugby club moved away from West Hendford and took up residence in a field close to St Michael's church and elsewhere another club sprang up, when South Petherton FC began, playing at Hayes End. At Pen Mill the goals were plentiful, as Bob Wyatt's hat-trick helped Casuals to a 9-0 win over Shepton Mallet, who reacted to the defeat by protesting that Yeovil had played an unregistered player. Having been convinced that it was a technicality, the Somerset FA, with a splendid display of fence sitting, ordered the two clubs to settle it between them, and nothing more was heard.

The Amateur Cup campaign began with a 5-1 win over Clifton and, when Wells City were hammered 6-1 in the league a week later, the club were top of the table with 20 goals in only three games. Sadly again crowd trouble, or the Victorian equivalent, was evident again during the Wells game, as referee Stacey ordered some spectators off the ground for shouting insults at him. On the field the season got better still, with another Amateur Cup win, this time over Weymouth and a league win over Street, but the new club were in for a rude awakening in the 3rd qualifying round, when their trip to Bristol St George ended in an 8-0 thrashing.

The Somerset FA were by then routinely meeting to discuss protests each month and they were told in November 1896 that the match between Paulton Rovers and Street ended 8 minutes short, due to the poor light. The clubs were ordered to play off the remaining eight minutes and to share the expenses of what surely was a bizarre episode. Another incident which reached the national press concerned a team in Matlock, who lined up with a player who sported an artificial arm, which members of the Buxton club had taken offence to, claiming that the owner 'wheels the limb around his head in a dangerous fashion whilst playing'. The unfortunate man was ordered to resume playing, but without his artificial arm.

Christmas approached with Radstock top, having played two more games than Casuals, their Round Hill ground proving difficult to win at, but with the latter out of all cups, having lost in the Challenge Cup to Paulton Rovers. Rovers were beaten in the league a fortnight later, but once again after a protest, this time that the match finished in darkness, was successful, with the FA again ordering a replay. With many kick-offs delayed due to late trains or horse drawn brakes, it was a constant problem to simply complete a game in daylight, especially in the winter months. The new year started with a draw with Radstock in front of over 1000 at Pen

### Season 1896-97

Sept	10th	GC Vassall's XI	H	Friendly	1-2	
	12th	Weymouth Roy Art	H	" "	0-5	
	19th	Weymouth	A	" "	0-2	
	26th	Wincanton	H	Som Senior Lge	5-1	Vassall 3, Leman 2
Oct	1st	East Coker	A	Friendly	5-1	
	3rd	Shepton Mallet	H	Som Senior Lge	9-0	Wyatt 3, Batten, Leman, Arnold, 2 ogs
	10th	Sarum Swifts	H	Friendly	6-0	
	17th	Clifton	H	Amat Cup 1st Ql	5-1	Leman 2, Wyatt, 2 ogs
	24th	Wells City	H	Som Senior Lge	6-1	Wyatt 2, Bond, Vassall, Arnold, Stone
	31st	Weymouth	H	Amat Cup 2nd Ql	2-0	Bond, Wyatt
Nov	7th	Street	H	Som Senior Lge	1-0	Leman
	11th	Sarum Swifts	A	Friendly	1-1	
	21st	Bristol St George	A	Amat Cup 3rd Ql	0-8	
	28th	Wells City	A	Som Senior Lge	1-0	Wyatt
Dec	3rd	Kings Sch, Bruton	A	Friendly	2-0	
	5th	Paulton Rovers	A	Som Chall Cup 1	0-1	
	12th	Whiteheads Ath	H	Friendly	0-3	
	19th	Paulton Rovers	A	Som Senior Lge	4-0	
	28th	Old Plym & Manna	H	Friendly	0-2	
	29th	Weymouth Roy Art	H	" "	1-3	
Jan	2nd	Radstock	H	Som Senior Lge	1-1	Vassall
	9th	Midsomer Norton	A	Som Senior Lge	0-0	
	16th	Sherborne	H	Friendly	1-1	
	23rd	Wincanton	A	" "	1-2	
	30th	Dorchester WM Ath	A	" "	5-0	
Feb	6th	Shepton Mallet	A	Som Senior Lge	1-1	
	13th	Bridport	H	Friendly	8-1	
	20th	Midsomer Norton	H	Som Senior Lge	1-0	og
Mar	6th	Street	A	" "	1-4	Beare
	20th	Radstock	A	" "	0-0	
	27th	Paulton Rovers	H	" "	2-1	Vassall 2
April	3rd	Whiteheads Ath	A	Friendly	2-4	
	10th	Wincanton	H	Som Senior Lge	8-1	Vassall 3, Wyatt 3, Beare 2
	16th	Barking Woodville	H	Friendly	5-3	
	17th	Bournemouth Wand	H	" "	0-0	
	19th	1st Scots Guards	H	" "	0-1	
	24th	Paulton Rovers	A	Som Senior Lge	1-0	Stone (replayed game)

### Somerset Senior League 1896-97

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil Casuals	14	9	4	1	37	10	22
Radstock Town	14	8	5	1	39	7	21
Paulton Rovers	14	8	1	5	30	14	17
Street	14	8	0	6	47	13	16
Midsomer Norton	14	6	4	4	23	15	16
Wells City	14	4	3	7	23	34	11
Wincanton	14	2	3	9	13	48	8
Shepton Mallet	14	0	2	12	9	77	2

Mill and after another draw, 0-0 with Midsomer Norton, Radstock were beginning to emerge as favourites. Casuals then dropped a point at Shepton Mallet, who failed to win a game all season, and it looked as if they would have to settle for runners up at most, but an own goal in the return with Norton gave them fresh impetus.

Casuals players had already caught the eye in their league exploits when in February three first teamers, Palmer, Sugg and Wyatt, were capped in front of 1200 at Pen Mill, when Somerset played Dorset. A month later a similar crowd assembled at Round Hill to watch the top two battle out a 0-0 draw, and yet another 1200 turned up for the 2-1 win over

Paulton as Casuals attempted to take advantage of a couple of slip-ups by Radstock. The collier side finished their fixtures with eight wins and 21 points, whereas Yeovil had Wincanton and Paulton away, both of which had to be won, for them to snatch the title.

The club was boosted when Wincanton switched the fixture to Pen Mill as their cricket ground was unobtainable and hat-tricks from Vassall and Wyatt set up an 8-1 win and a show down at Paulton Rovers.

There was no love lost between the two clubs, with Casuals backed on and off the field by Public School figures, clashing with Paulton's more working class colliery background. The club had negotiated a full Easter programme which included matches with Barking Woodville, the Essex Senior Cup holders and the 1st Scots Guards and the 900 strong crowd at Winterfield contained a strong contingent from South Somerset. The team lined up F Palmer, F Bond, S Sugg, W Stoodley, J Batten, B Moon, T Stone, GC Vassall, R Wyatt, C Witcombe and G Beare.

Both sides strove hard for the win, but with 15 minutes to go it looked as though the 0-0 draw was not to be enough, until Stone netted amongst great scenes of excitement. It was enough to take the title to Yeovil and the county secretary duly presented the trophy to Fred Bond as the Midsomer Norton Volunteer Band played "See the Conquering Heroes Come" to much applause.

The party returned to Pen Mill and in scenes similar to those which greeted the Junior Cup winners, the Military and Town bands headed the hand pulled brake through the town

The Somerset FA AGM saw both Shepton Mallet and Wincanton Football Clubs drop out of the league, leaving just six entrants. It meant another season padded out with somewhat meaningless friendlies which began on September 4th 1897 at home to the Weymouth Royal Artillery. Glastonbury had regrouped and had applied to join the Senior League but were told that they were too late and around the same time Casuals were fined £3 16/5d for not playing a return friendly with Bridport at the back end of the previous season. The FA had been busy with various protests and disciplinary matters, but they found time to sanction the new North Somerset League for 1897, the affiliated membership now having passed 60 clubs.

Elsewhere fellow Senior Leaguer's Street FC were celebrating the opening of their Victoria Ground on September 25th, a week before Yeovil were indulging in what was possibly their most pointless match ever, a 19-0 friendly demolition of Chard Swifts, Gilbert Vassall netting nine with Smith weighing in with a paltry six. The fragmented league campaign began with an away draw at Radstock, and a week later there was controversy, when Casuals played Salisbury at Pen Mill. Bidwell, from the Wiltshire side was sent off by home referee W Bond, whereupon his team mates all walked off in protest causing a premature end to the 3-2 win, complaining that Mr Bond was not impartial as his brother was playing for Casuals.

Back in the league Wells were beaten with a last kick winner and in the Amateur Cup, Bedminster won 1-0 on what was called the Athletic Ground, in Ashton Gate, Bristol. November saw an unremitting diet of friendlies until the league games started again in December. The table had a strange look about it, with Paulton Rovers top, having won just one, but drawn five, and with Yeovil unbeaten in second spot. It remained that way for a while until Casuals beat Paulton in January and two further friendly wins led to the defeat of Wells City. The Minehead friendly once again saw a mass walk off by the opponents after a team mate had been ordered off, but half returned to complete the game, which they lost 6-0.

Season 1897-98						
Sept	4th	Weymouth Roy Art	H	Friendly		1-2
	11th	GC Vassall's X1	H	" "		2-1
	18th	Weymouth	H	" "		3-0
	25th	Upton Park	H	" "		9-1
	31st	Chard Swifts	H	" "		19-0
Oct	2nd	Radstock	A	Som Senior Lge	1-1	Wyatt
	9th	Salisbury	H	Friendly		3-2
	23rd	Wells City	H	Som Senior Lge		3-2
	27th	Sherborne	A	Friendly		2-2
	30th	Bedminster	A	Amat Cup 2nd Ql		0-1
Nov	6th	Minehead	A	Friendly		3-0
	11th	Taunton	A	" "		2-2
	20th	Swindon Town Res	H	" "		1-2
	27th	Watchet	A	" "		2-3
Dec	4th	Paulton Rovers	A	Som Senior Lge	2-2	Corps, Wyatt
	18th	Radstock	H	" "		1-0 Smith
	25th	Sherborne	H	Friendly		4-0
	26th	Old Plym and Mans	H	" "		4-0
Jan	1st	Watchet	H	" "		2-0
	8th	Paulton Rovers	H	Som Senior Lge	5-1	Smith 3, Beare, Wyatt
	22nd	Sherborne	H	Friendly		4-0
	29th	Minehead	H	" "		6-0
Feb	5th	Wells City	A	Som Senior Lge	3-2	Hawkins, Smith, Beare
	17th	Chard Swifts	A	Friendly		1-5
	19th	Taunton	A	Som Chall Cup 1	1-1	Ewens
	26th	Taunton	H	Replay	8-1	Wyatt, S Vassall 3, GC Vassall 2, Beare 2
Mar	5th	Street	A	Som Senior Lge		0-6
	19th	Midsomer Norton	H	" "		2-0 Wyatt, Mitchell
	26th	Radstock	H	Som Challenge Cup Semi-final	1-2	Wyatt
April	2nd	Weymouth Roy Art	H	Friendly		3-1
	8th	Crouch End Vamp	H	" "		0-5
	9th	Street	H	Som Senior Lge		1-2 Beare
	11th	1st Scots Guards	H	Friendly		3-2
	25th	Midsomer Norton	A	Som Senior Lge		0-4
	27th	Whiteheads Ath	H	Friendly		2-1

**Somerset Senior League 1897-98**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Street	10	8	1	1	35	11	17
Yeovil Casuals	10	5	2	3	18	20	12
Paulton Rovers	10	3	5	2	24	21	11
Midsomer Norton	10	3	2	5	13	24	8
Wells City	10	2	2	6	13	20	6
Radstock Town	10	0	4	6	10	22	4

Pen Mill was given another County match in February and over 1000 saw Somerset play Devon match with some local interest in the ranks. Five days later, undaunted by their 19-0 thrashing earlier, Chard Swifts entertained Casuals and, boosted by the inclusion of a number of guests and the non-appearance of several Casuals regulars, they won 5-1.

The new club had entered the Somerset Challenge Cup as Yeovil FC back in the summer, but fortunately Casuals were allowed to compete, and after drawing 1-1 with Taunton at their Wellington Road ground, the replay was a walk over, won 8-1 with two of the Vassalls scoring five between them. Whilst that match went off without a hitch, the County FA were having their hands full with misdemeanours, particularly with some clubs in the north of the county, Wells City, Paulton Rovers and Radstock all having to answer to crowd or player problems.

By March Street and Yeovil were top, but Street had become a force on their new ground and with neither of the Vassalls playing, the Cobblers easily disposed of Yeovil 6-0



and, when they also lost to Radstock in the semi-final of the Challenge Cup amidst a miniature hurricane, the season looked over.

Happily the club's followers did not agree, for when Street visited a huge crowd approaching 2,000 gathered at Pen Mill to watch, "as enthusiastic as if the fate of empires depended on it".

The win for Street left them on 13 points from eight games, with Yeovil on 12 from nine and when Midsomer Norton won a fortnight later, it was all over. Street's last league game was at Paulton and, after an undignified match which saw the champions aggressive approach make few friends, the County Secretary presented them with the cup and spoke to the captain, saying "I am ashamed of you". Yeovil's awkward season was not helped by there only being 10 league games and they duly applied to, and were accepted into, the Dorset and District League to run alongside the Somerset Senior for the following season.

They had negotiated the change over and the new ground with ease and had captured the imagination of the public, still relatively new to association football, but it was time to move up a gear.

### Branching out into Dorset.....

The new season started with much optimism, as with Dorset fixtures added to those of Somerset, there was a better outlook for the supporters. A much changed side began with two league games in September, after the obligatory friendly, little knowing of the calamity and controversy which would fall around them towards the end of the season. The Dorset League fixtures seemed to attract the attention of the public, particularly as the team was undefeated going into December, and in Somerset after briefly leading the six team table, Casuals lost to Street, who took over at the top. The standard Christmas fare was once again crammed in with matches against sides from Chippenham, Weymouth and Reading before, with the ground having suffered from the appalling weather, the league commitments began again.

#### Dorset District League 1898-99

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bournemouth W.	12	9	2	1	32	12	20
Poole	12	6	1	5	28	12	13
Yeovil Casuals	12	5	3	4	23	18	13
Dorchester	12	5	3	4	24	33	13
Weymouth	12	6	0	6	36	24	12
Bournemouth	12	3	2	7	21	3	8
Sherborne	12	2	1	9	27	39	5

#### Somerset Senior League 1898-99

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Street	10	7	1	2	37	18	15
Radstock	10	5	1	4	14	15	11
Yeovil Casuals	10	4	2	4	21	14	10
Midsomer Norton	10	4	2	4	19	24	10
Wells City	10	4	1	5	21	18	9
Bridgwater	10	2	1	7	12	35	5

Street, the reigning but unpopular champions, still headed the table as the new year came in, with Casuals second, Radstock third and Wells, Midsomer Norton and Bridgwater completing the list. Persistent rain and snow had rendered Pen Mill in a "fearful condition", but it was playable for their

#### Season 1898-99

Sept	10th	Weymouth Roy Art	H	Friendly	0-2	
	17th	Midsomer Norton	A	Som Senior Lge	0-0	
	24th	Bridgwater	H	" "	4-1	Hann 2, Lacey, og
Oct	1st	Exeter United	H	Friendly	5-0	Beare, Allen 2, Hann, Wyatt
	8th	Bournemouth	H	Dorset & Dist	1-0	og
	22nd	Poole Town	H	" "	1-0	Lacey
	29th	Midsomer Norton	H	Som Senior Lge	6-1	Hann 2, Wyatt, Beare, Allen 2
Nov	2nd	Sherborne	A	Dorset & Dist	1-1	Stone
	5th	Street	A	Som Senior Lge	1-2	Wyatt
	12th	Exeter United	A	Friendly	0-3	
	26th	Dorchester	H	Dorset & Dist	3-3	Hann, Gleave, Ewens
Dec	3rd	Wells City	A	Som Senior Lge	1-2	Wyatt
	17th	Bournemouth W.	A	Dorset & Dist	0-1	
	24th	Old Weymouthians	H	Friendly	0-1	
	26th	Reading Profs'	H	" "	4-4	A Arnold, GC Vassall
Jan	7th	Radstock	H	" "	4-0	Wyatt, Lacey, Hann, og
	12th	Dorchester	A	Dorset Dist Lge	0-0	
	14th	Chard Swifts	H	Friendly	8-1	
	21st	Poole	A	Dorset Dist Lge	0-2	
	26th	Weymouth Roy Art	A	Friendly	0-1	
	28th	Sherborne	H	Dorset Dist Lge	3-1	Hamlin, Allen, Sumsion
Feb	4th	Bridgwater	A	Som Senior Lge	1-4	Hamlin
	11th	Street	H	" "	3-1	Wyatt, Hann 2
	18th	Watchet	A	Som Chall Cup 1	1-0	Beare
	25th	Bournemouth	A	Dorset Dist Lge	5-0	Stone 2, Seymour 2, Beare
Mar	4th	Wells City	H	Som Senior Lge	1-1	Stone
	11th	Oxford University	H	Friendly	0-5	
	18th	Burnham	H	Som Chall Cup S-F	4-0	Ewens, Wyatt 2, Beare
	25th	Weymouth	H	Dorset Dist Lge	4-1	Stone 4
	27th	Bournemouth Wand	H	" "	1-2	Ewens
April	3rd	West Norwood	H	Friendly	5-4	
	5th	Bridgwater		Somerset Challenge Cup		
				Final (at Wells City)	0-0	AET
	8th	Bridgwater		Replay (at Street)	4-1	Beare 2, Wyatt 2
	15th	Radstock	A	Som Senior Lge	0-2	
	22nd	Weymouth	A	Dorset Dist Lge	2-5	
	27th	Bridgwater		Somerset Challenge Cup Final	0-1	(Replayed game)
				(at Wells City)		
	29th	Street	H	Friendly	3-1	

4-0 win over Radstock. In the Dorset and District League Bournemouth Wanderers were top from Weymouth, with Casuals third with two wins from five games. To keep the shooting boots intact the club again hammered Chard Swifts, this time 8-1 before a run of three Dorset games, two away which were both lost on the coast, Casuals players not being the most enthusiastic of travellers.

Back home Street were beaten in the league and Watchet went the same way in the Challenge Cup before Tommy Stone inspired the team to a 5-0 win over Bournemouth at Dean Park. Pen Mill was again the venue for a county match, this time against Devon when 1,200 turned up, and many were back again two weeks later, as the railway offered cheap tickets to those coming in from the villages to watch the friendly with the Oxford University, a match designed both as an important fund raiser and as a practice for the Challenge Cup semi-final against Burnham.

Ewens, Wyatt and Beare all scored in a one sided match which set off what was to become an astonishing trail of

events which would lead to controversy and heartache for Casuals players and officials. Tommy Stone warmed up for the final by scoring all four against Weymouth in the wind and rain and, on Easter Monday, Casuals lined up at the Athletic Ground in Wells, for the final against the new boys, Bridgwater.

What was described as possibly the biggest attendance ever for a football match in Wells flocked in, including several hundred from Yeovil. Both sides battled for some two hours, both having goals disallowed, but after extra time and with no score, both were forced to accept a draw, and the FA hastily arranged for the replay to be at Street FC on April 8th. Again the crowds flocked, and with the Street fans cheering for Yeovil Casuals the match was comfortably won, Beare and Bob Wyatt both netting twice in a 4-1 win.

Amongst joyous scenes the County FA president Mr Sheldon gave the cup to H Arnold, the captain, before the victorious team passed through Street to the accomplishment of wild cheering, back to the dressing rooms.

It was a popular victory and one which was received by brass bands and waggonettes which formed an imposing procession, one of the brakes displaying a pint cider mug on the end of a pole as a symbol of victory. Incredibly, although the celebrations went on, there was to be a bitter twist, for Bridgwater protested that H Lowe had not been resident in the county for the statutory 28 days, in fact he had lived there only 25 days before registering. Bridgwater produced a letter from Lowe's father, a vicar, stating exact dates. Yeovil did not deny the times, but said that home was his father's house, into which he moved in December. Incredibly the subject was referred to the English FA and they ordered the final to be replayed, on Thursday April 27th, this time at Wells City FC. By then Street had been crowned champions and the season was over, but Yeovil were forced into the indignity of handing back the cup, which Bridgwater duly won with a goal fifteen minutes from time.

It was a stunning and sad end to the season and one which stuck in the craw of many football people, not just those at Pen Mill, who signalled their intention to protest about an unnamed Bridgwater player, although nothing more was heard as cricket took over the thoughts of most.

With a place in the Challenge Cup final and third place finishes in both leagues, it was a pleased committee which convened to discuss the finances of the football club during the summer. It heard of a healthy balance of some £52, with £160 taken in gate money alone. Despite reaching the final, and winning it first time around, the episode had taken its toll, and by not backing Yeovil Casuals the Somerset FA lost them, as they did not enter the competition, preferring to try the Amateur and FA Cups as well as both leagues once again.

The Somerset Senior League expanded for the 1899-1900 season, as did the football club who welcomed several new faces to the fold when practice began. Yeoman of Sheffield, Alexander from London, Palmer who had played college football at Cambridge and Berkely from the Grenadier Guards had all made themselves available, and with a total of 30 league games plus the cups, they would be needed.

The captain's trials on September 9th 1899 sorted out a few things and they got off to a flying start, the five man attack beating Glastonbury, who had returned to the fold, Bristol Amateurs in a friendly and then Burnham who had also joined the league, before Bob Wyatt scored all five in an enthralling 5-4 win at Paulton Rovers which saw Casuals top. On the 14th October 1899 Yeovil entertained Street, thus playing their first ever English FA Cup match where they drew 3-3, although the club gave the tie away rather than replay in mid-week.

The Amateur Cup took the club into Wiltshire, where they beat Devizes Town in front of a crowd of around 350, but once again they fell foul of the FA who ordered a replay, but, with a top of the table league game with Radstock due on the same day, Yeovil scratched, the national cups not remotely as important then as they were soon to become. Having lost to Radstock the club beat Midsomer Norton, and then followed that with three more wins, Bob Wyatt netting a hat-trick against Bridgwater in what must have been a sweet performance. The season had been going well, but the new year heralded a major collapse in fortune, as the forward line went five matches without scoring, all five being league encounters. Burnham resigned from the league which saw more points disappear, but another Wyatt hat-trick recovered them against Wells City. Bristol East journeyed down so late for their game that it kicked off at 5 o'clock and due to the light finished 15 minutes early, a factor which was to become relevant a little later. Bob Wyatt's scoring exploits were again to the fore against bottom club Midsomer Norton, his double hat-trick helping the greens to a 10-0 win. They then crushed Radstock 7-0 but were mortified when they once more fell foul of the FA who ordered the Bristol East game to be replayed. Yeovil cruised through the Somerset League games in April to go top along with Bristol East and when the last game approached, at Pen Mill against Street, there was great excitement. Street travelled with only ten men and were forced to field their secretary, but with Wyatt getting five, Gilbert Vassall three and Hann four, the 14-0 scoreline was a pretty one. It left both clubs on 25 points, and with the Bristolians refusing to play the remaining 14 minutes of what would have been a decider, the FA had little option than to declare joint winners.

Once again the club had been denied a cup by the Somerset FA, and it was a slightly subdued company which sat down at the Full Moon to the club dinner where the cup was handed round and medals presented to the players.

## *Expanding.....*

The club had comfortably managed to combine two leagues and in fact the first team played 38 matches in all, winning 22 and drawing five, scoring 111 goals in the process. Despite this the gate money was down considerably from the heady days of a year previous, as was the balance, but the treasurer brought more gloomy news, in that a number of Senior clubs, in particular Wells, Midsomer Norton and Radstock, were all in financial strife and were considering their future. Also Paulton Rovers would pull out if their neighbours did. On the plus side Burnham wished to re-enter, but with only five clubs entered the joint membership with Dorset was all important. It was not just football which was struggling, for rugby was also on the wane in the area with a number of clubs folding due to lack of fixtures and turning to football.

September 1900 came with Street and Upton Park clubs visiting Pen Mill for friendlies, followed by the Royal Artillery twice, Glastonbury and Dorchester as an extended curtain raiser to the English FA Cup tie with Street, which attracted only a moderate attendance. The 6-1 win brought Weymouth up for the next round, but goals from Gilbert Vassall, Sheldon and Beare were not enough as Casuals went down 4-3. The Amateur Cup trail began at Trowbridge Town where Vassall and Wyatt gave the club the win and after beating Bridgwater to go top of the league, they travelled to Bristol to take on Bedminster St Francis on the Bristol City ground. They returned suitably chastised, having lost 7-1.

The Dorset League began with a defeat at Bournemouth and a win over Wanderers, Gard's hat-trick helping them to a 6-2 win. When the club went down to Weymouth, however,

they were greeted by a scene of devastation, as the previous day's gales had wrecked the fencing and ripped up the poles which held the protective netting. The game went ahead and Weymouth won 4-0.

There were two more Somerset League games before football ceased as the whole country went into mourning. Queen Victoria's reign ended after 64 years, when she died on Tuesday January 22nd 1901, aged 81. All leisure activities stopped, firstly when mourning was declared, and then for the funeral. It was February 7th before the club played again, but by then the damage had been done as Paulton crushed Casuals 7-0 and Wanderers won 3-0 at Meyrick Park. Paulton completed the double by winning 4-0 at Pen Mill and when the reserves went out of the Junior Cup to Peasedown St John in the semi-final, an air of gloom descended on the ground and the club. Bob Wyatt scored another double hat-trick against the touring Enfield side at Easter, but most could not wait for the season to end. Paulton Rovers had survived their crisis in pre-season and were worthy champs by five points from Bristol East, with Whiteheads Athletic taking the Dorset League.

It could be described as a season of two halves, with the side doing well until Christmas, but in the end, of the 31 games played, only 15 were won and four drawn. L Vassall top scored with 20, Bob Wyatt scoring just one less. Attendances were again down, chiefly due to the glut of junior sides springing up as more men wished to take up the sport rather than watch it. Gilbert Vassall's unavailability for all but six games was another contributing factor, in contrast to Messrs Stone, Hann, L Vassall, Bond and Luffman who were almost ever present amongst 38 players who turned out for the first team.

Yeovil Casuals were fully expecting to enjoy another similar season in 1901, with the possibility of providing some spectator facilities at Pen Mill, which had not changed since it was first used. However they were hit by a bomb shell, when at the Dorset AGM, they and Dorchester were thrown out of the league for non attendance of league meetings, the first clubs not to be well represented. Despite leaving themselves with only five clubs, they were out....

## *Search for fixtures and a switch to Wiltshire....*

The management committee were forced to rethink the whole structure of the coming season, with regards to attracting top class friendlies as an alternative, something which was not easy and against the expansion of the club. Their finances and gates had improved, the balance now showing over £50, but not all aspects were positive, as the Thursday side had struggled, many having taken up hockey.

The club applied for entry into the Western League, but were turned down, and were then offered a place in the Bristol and District League, which they turned down saying that their spectators would not be interested in matches involving clubs 40 miles away.

In the end they entered the Somerset Senior League again, and applied and were accepted into the Wilts League, which appeared to be a happy compromise. For the new season the players were given a generous donation of half a guinea by the chairman to purchase a kit so that all the players wore the same shirt, green with white collars and cuffs.

The fixture list was published in August 1901 and was an imposing one, for along with league action there were fixtures in both the English F.A. Cup and the Amateur Cup as well as the Challenge Cup in Somerset.

The playing personnel was again strong, despite a number

### Season 1899-1900

Sept	16th	Glastonbury	H	Som Senior Lge	5-1	Hann 3, Beare, Clarke
	23rd	Bristol Amateurs	H	Friendly	4-0	
	30th	Burnham	A	Som Senior Lge	3-2	Beare 2, Seymour
Oct	7th	Paulton Rovers	A	" "	5-4	Wyatt 5
	14th	Street	H	FA Cup Qual Rd	3-3	Wyatt, Bond pen, Seymour
	21st	Salisbury	H	Friendly	2-0	
	28th	Devizes Town	A	Amat Cup Ql Rd	3-0	Seymour 2, Wyatt
Nov	4th	Radstock	A	Som Senior Lge	1-2	og
	11th	Midsomer Norton	A	" "	3-2	Wyatt, Stone, Yeoman
	18th	Bournemouth	H	Dorset Dist Lge	2-1	Bond, Beare
	25th	Dorchester	H	" "	3-0	Stroud, Stone, Hawkins
Dec	2nd	Bridgwater	H	Som Senior Lge	4-1	Wyatt 3, Yeomans
	23rd	Street	A	" "	1-3	
	26th	Eastleigh Athletic	H	Friendly	4-2	
	27th	Old Weymouthians	H	" "	0-0	
	30th	Weymouth Roy Art	H	" "	4-0	
Jan	13th	Salisbury	A	Dorset Dist Lge	0-3	
	18th	Dorchester	A	" "	0-5	
	20th	Bristol East	A	Som Senior Lge	0-4	
	27th	Weymouth	A	Dorset Dist Lge	0-1	
Feb	17th	Weymouth	H	" "	0-2	
	24th	Bournemouth	A	" "	1-2	Bond pen
Mar	3rd	Wells City	H	Som Senior Lge	5-0	Beare, Bond pen, Wyatt 3
	7th	Poole	A	Dorset Dist Lge	0-6	
	10th	Bristol East	H	Som Senior Lge	3-2	Stone, Beare, Hawkins
	17th	Midsomer Norton	H	" "	10-0	Wyatt 6, Beare, Clarke 2, Hawkins
	24th	Poole	H	Dorset Dist Lge	1-1	Bond pen
	31st	Radstock	H	Som Senior Lge	7-0	Bond, Wyatt, Hawkins, Hann 2, Beare, Palmer
April	7th	Glastonbury	A	" "	2-1	Wyatt, Beare
	14th	Salisbury	H	Dorset Dist Lge	5-1	Clarke, Hawkins, Hann 2, Stone
	16th	Paulton Rovers	H	Som Senior Lge	3-1	Beare 2, Wyatt pen
	17th	Bournemouth	H	Friendly	1-2	
	21st	Bridgwater	A	Som Senior Lge	5-0	Wyatt 2, Bond, Hann, Beare
	25th	Wells City	A	Som Senior Lge	0-0	
	28th	Bournemouth Wand	H	Dorset Dist Lge	2-0	Vassall 2
	30th	Street	H	Som Senior Lge	14-0	Wyatt 5, Hann 4, Vassall 3, Beare, og
	Also	Bournemouth Wand	A	Dorset Dist Lge	0-2	

of new local clubs springing up, one of which was Pen Mill United, who played on a field in Brickyard Lane which would become relevant in years to come.

The main problem for the club appeared to be the league's ruling which gave certain radii outside of which no player may reside, which meant the loss of the Vassall brothers when they were away, plus some others who had drifted away to play friendly football elsewhere in the town.

Whilst the professional side of the game had begun to run itself more smoothly, the local and amateur branch was still bedevilled with problems, many of their own making, and many caused by the various committee's inability to use common sense or be flexible. In the late 1890's it was very rare for a match to kick-off at the published time, and numerous problems were suffered as a result of finishes in semi-darkness.

In some instances clubs protested if the last few minutes were either not played or completed in poor light, with every chance that the match would be ordered to be replayed. Also the criteria for a player to be eligible was often called into

**Somerset Senior League 1899-1900**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol East	16	12	1	3	42	9	25
Yeovil Casuals	16	12	1	3	69	22	25
Paulton Rovers	16	11	0	5	45	27	22
Radstock	16	9	2	5	38	28	20
Street	16	7	1	8	28	30	15
Glastonbury	16	7	1	8	28	30	15
Wells City	16	4	2	10	13	44	10
Bridgwater	16	3	1	12	12	44	7
Midsomer Norton	16	2	0	14	18	51	4

**Dorset & District League 1899-1900**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Weymouth	12	8	2	2	38	8	18
Poole	12	6	4	2	28	11	16
Bournemouth W.	12	5	2	5	22	13	12
Salisbury	12	6	0	6	20	34	12
Bournemouth	12	3	4	5	23	17	10
Yeovil Casuals	12	4	1	7	14	25	9
Dorchester	12	3	1	8	19	56	7

question and independent experts called in to measure distances from players residences to their club's HQ's. Despite all this, and a growing problem with rowdiness, Paulton, Peasedown, Warminster and Wells all suffering, the game was steadily expanding.

The Laws were still being constantly looked at, with again a refusal to stray off the accepted path leading to matches often having six or seven goals disallowed for various offences, mainly offside.

Casuals English Cup tie with Trowbridge Town saw Bob Wyatt score four of the five legitimate goals, with another six 'chalked off', but he could do little in the next round, when his club faced Swindon Town in the 3rd Qualifying round. Keeper Cook was cheered by the 2,000 strong crowd at the Wiltshire County Ground, after his heroics had kept the score down to four.

The following week saw the 'Cidermen' hammer Avalon Rovers in the Amateur Cup, with Ewens and L Vassall both claiming hat-tricks. There was another win in the next round, against Chippenham Town, after which the Wiltshire club appealed that the pitch was two yards short and that the referee did not 'perform his duties in the desired manner'. Both protests were dismissed as 'frivolous'.

The cup run, such as it was, had masked the fact that the team was bottom of the Wiltshire League, but wins over Bath City and Street in the Somerset League brightened the scene at Pen Mill in time for the visit of Whiteheads Athletic, the works team from Dorset, who won 1-0 in the 4th Qualifying round in front of the biggest gate of the season. The Yeovil side was Cook, Bond, Jourdain, Patten, Ewens, Luffman, Busfield, Bradford, L Vassall, Wyatt and Beare, but of those eleven, calamity struck a week later before the away game at Devizes. Six players took the wrong train at Trowbridge and the remaining five, plus six subs scraped up by Capt Bond, took the field after the home captain had refused to play a friendly instead, and an uninterested and angry contingent went down 15-0. The younger of the Vassalls, Harvey, was scoring freely in the middle of the standard five man attack which often advanced down the pitch in formation, dribbling and passing in unison, such was the style, and after netting four against Melksham Town, his three against Glastonbury put his team top of the Somerset League, albeit in a relatively meaningless four team season. After beating Bath City in the Challenge Cup Casuals went to Bridgwater,

**Season 1900-1901**

Sept	8th	Street	H	Friendly	2-1	Hawkins, Arnold
	15th	Upton Park	H	" "	5-2	L Vassall, Hann, Leahy 2, Beare
	22nd	Royal Artillery	H	" "	5-3	Wyatt 4, Beare
29th	Glastonbury	H	" "	4-0	L Vassall, Beare, H Arnold, Hann	
Oct	6th	Weymouth RA	A	" "	1-1	Wyatt
	11th	Dorchester	A	Friendly	1-3	
	20th	Street	H	FA Cup Qual Rd	6-1	Wyatt 2, Sheldon 3, Vassall
	27th	Glastonbury	H	Som Senior Lge	2-1	Wyatt, Hawkins
Nov	3rd	Weymouth	A	FA Cup Qual Rd	3-4	Vassall, Sheldon, Beare
	10th	Trowbridge Town	A	Amat Cup Qual	2-0	Vassall, Wyatt
	17th	Bridgwater	A	Som Senior Lge	2-0	Vassall, Hann
Dec	1st	Weymouth	H	Amat Cup Qual	3-2	Wyatt 2, Hann
	8th	Bedminster St Fran	A	Amat Cup 4th Ql	1-7	Ewens
	15th	Weymouth	H	Dorset Dist Lge	4-2	Ewens, Hann, Vassall, Gard
	22nd	Bournemouth	A	" "	1-4	Lowe
	26th	Bournemouth Wand	H	" "	6-2	L Vassall 2, Gard 3, Ewens
	29th	Weymouth	A	" "	0-4	
Jan	12th	Glastonbury	A	Som Senior Lge	2-2	Beare, Wyatt
	19th	Street	A	" "	1-2	Griffin
Feb	7th	Dorchester	A	Dorset Dist Lge	1-3	Griffin
	23rd	Paulton Rovers	A	Som Senior Lge	0-7	
Mar.	2nd	Bournemouth Wand	A	Dorset Dist Lge	0-3	
	9th	Paulton Rovers	H	Som Senior Lge	0-4	
	16th	Whiteheads Athletic	H	Dorset Dist Lge	1-2	L Vassall
	23rd	Bournemouth	H	" "	2-2	L Vassall
April	6th	Bristol East	A	Som Senior Lge	1-2	Wyatt
	8th	Enfield	H	Friendly	9-0	Wyatt 6, Griffin, Stone, GC Vassall
	11th	Bristol East	H	Som Senior Lge	0-0	
	18th	Dorchester	H	Dorset Dist Lge	3-1	Beare, L Vassall, og
	20th	Street	H	Som Senior Lge	3-0	Vassall 2, Patten
	27th	Bridgwater	H	" "	10-0	Griffin, Hann, Beare, L Vassall 2, Gard 4, Luffman
	29th	Whiteheads Athletic	A	Dorset Dist Lge	2-3	Mold, Palmer

Poole home and away not played,  
Yeovil awarded points...

where despite having five goals disallowed in the first ten minutes, and at least ten in all, they still beat the home side 4-3, and thus took the title, although nobody was aware of it until some time later when the last match was played.

Back in the Wiltshire League things were more relevant and the crowds were bigger, and against Chippenham Town in February the locals showed that they too could mix it when provoked, as fighting broke out in front of the hotel after a player was kicked to the ground. There was much excitement too on the last day of February, when Peasedown St John were beaten 3-0 in the quarter-final of the Challenge Cup, to set up a semi-final against Clevedon. Sadly the run ended there which left them to play out the Wiltshire fixtures, and receive the Somerset Cup after beating Bridgwater 10-1 in the return.

The last game of the season brought Devizes to Pen Mill, and their unsporting attitude in the first game was not lost on the partizan Yeovil crowd who hooted and jeered the captain and his side and were delighted when Gilbert Vassall secured the win.

Warminster and Chippenham Town finished top of the table

**Somerset Senior League 1900-1901**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paulton Rovers	10	8	1	1	43	14	17
Bristol East	10	5	2	3	20	9	12
Glastonbury	10	4	3	3	19	15	11
Street	10	4	2	4	23	16	10
Yeovil Casuals	10	4	2	4	21	18	10
Bridgwater	10	0	0	10	2	56	0

*Bristol East v Glastonbury not played,  
points awarded to Glastonbury.*

**Dorset & District League 1900-1901**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Whiteheads Ath.	12	10	1	1	43	8	21
Weymouth	12	9	0	3	40	13	18
Bournemouth	12	6	1	5	28	18	13
Yeovil Casuals	12	5	1	6	20	26	11
Poole	12	4	1	7	16	23	9
Bournemouth W.	12	3	0	9	12	35	6
Dorchester	12	3	0	9	12	51	6

*Poole v Yeovil Casuals and  
Yeovil Casuals v Poole not played,  
points awarded to Yeovil*

and met in a play off at Bradford-on-Avon to decide the title. A 1-1 draw meant a replay and three days later, at Melksham, Warminster won 1-0 to take the championship. Yeovil Reserves enjoyed a good season, with runners up spot in the East Somerset and District Junior League and, in all, the extensive committee at Pen Mill were quietly proud of their work.

During the season it emerged that the club had made a bid for a field at Huish, owned by the brewery and grandly called in some circles the Athletic Field, but they were unsuccessful. As is well known now, it would eventually become the spiritual home of Yeovil Town Football Club, but there was much water to pass under some bridges before that was to occur.

The AGM listed 36 first team games as being contested, with 21 victories. There were 42 players listed as having made first team appearances, but only 12 received medals from the Somerset FA. The leading scorer was Vassall with 27, G Beare with 16, Bob Wyatt 10, H White 9, R Busfield 8, E Ewens 5, Fred Bond 4, Gilbert Vassall 4, Tommy Stone 3, and J Garrett, A Arnold, E Bradford, E Hann, H Seagar and Griffin with one.

For the next season there were to be three more sides in the Wiltshire League and two more in Somerset, which prompted the committee to decide against entering the Amateur and Challenge Cups.

**Wiltshire League 1901-1902**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Warminster	16	12	1	3	47	18	25
Chippenham Town	16	12	1	3	33	12	25
Devizes Town	16	10	3	3	50	19	23
Bradford-On-Avon	16	7	5	4	31	20	19
Chippenham Utd	16	5	4	7	18	23	14
Yeovil Casuals	16	7	0	9	31	42	14
Bath City	16	5	2	9	21	37	12
Melksham Town	16	3	2	11	22	53	8
Calne Town	16	1	3	12	14	45	5

**Season 1901-1902**

Sept	14th	Weymouth	H	Friendly	1-6	L Vassall
	21st	Chippenham Town	A	Wilts League	1-3	L Vassall
	28th	Street	H	Friendly	2-1	Hann, Seagar
Oct	12th	Warminster	H	Wilts League	0-2	
	19th	Trowbridge Town	H	English Cup 2 Ql	5-0	Wyatt 4, L Vassall
	26th	Glastonbury	A	Som Senior Lge	6-2	Beare 3, L Vassall, Busfield, Bond
Nov	2nd	Swindon Town	A	English Cup 3 Ql	0-4	
	9th	Avalon Rovers	H	Amat Cup 2nd Ql	7-0	Ewens 3, L Vassall 3, Busfield
	16th	Chippenham T.	H	Amat Cup 3rd Ql	4-3	Ewens 2, L Vassall, Busfield
	23rd	Bath City	H	Wilts League	4-2	Beare 4
	30th	Street	H	Som Senior Lge	2-1	og, Bradford
Dec	7th	Whitehead Athletic	H	Amat Cup 4th Ql	0-1	
	14th	Devizes Town	A	Wilts League	0-15	
	21st	Street	A	Som Senior Lge	2-2	L Vassall, Beare
	26th	Calne Town	A	Wilts League	1-4	L Vassall
	28th	Melksham Town	A	" "	6-1	Bradford, L Vassall 4, White
Jan	4th	Glastonbury	H	Som Senior Lge	7-0	L Vassall 3, GC Vassall 2, Beare, Busfield
	11th	Bath City	A	Wilts League	2-0	L Vassall, Busfield
	18th	Bath City	A	Som Chall Cup 1	4-0	L Vassall 2, Beare 2
	25th	Bridgwater	A	Som Senior Lge	4-3	L Vassall, Wyatt 2, Beare
Feb	1st	Weymouth R A	H	Friendly	0-2	
	8th	Chippenham Town	H	Wilts League	0-1	
	22nd	Chippenham United	H	" "	2-0	Arnold, White
	29th	Warminster	A	" "	1-4	Davis
Also	29th	Peasedown St John	A	Som Chall Cup 2	3-0	L Vassall, White 2
Mar.	8th	Clevedon	A	Som Chall Cup S-F	3-4	Stone 2, Wyatt
	15th	Bradford-on-Avon	H	Wilts League	2-3	L Vassall, Beare
	22nd	Chippenham United	A	" "	1-2	L Vassall
	29th	Bridgwater	H	Som Senior Lge	10-1	
	31st	Calne	H	Wilts League	4-0	Busfield, Arnold, Luffman, L Vassall
April	5th	Melksham Town	H	" "	3-0	L. Vassall, Bond pen, White
	12th	Bradford-o-Avon	A	" "	2-3	GC Vassall 2
	19th	Devizes Town	H	" "	2-0	GC Vassall, White

**East Somerset & District League  
1901-1902**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wells City Res	10	7	3	0	21	7	17
Yeovil Casuals Res	10	5	2	3	21	8	12
Street Res	10	4	2	4	20	16	10
Shepton Mallett	10	3	4	3	13	21	10
Avalon Rov Res	10	2	2	6	12	22	6
Glast Excelsior	10	2	1	7	12	27	5

**Somerset Senior League 1901-1902**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil Casuals	6	5	1	0	31	9	11
Street	6	3	1	2	16	8	7
Glastonbury	6	2	0	4	10	22	4
Bridgwater	6	0	1	5	8	26	1

## Procession for the reserves...

The seasons were slowly getting longer and more streamlined as far as the administration was concerned, but there was still a long way to go before the practice of protesting results was all but eradicated. In September 1902 Upton Park FC visited again, as a prelude to the new campaign which once again was to be in both Somerset and Wilts. Harvey Vassall began well as Casuals won three of the first four games, and when they drew at Warminster, the reigning champions, the club went top, with Trowbridge second Swindon Town Res third and Warminster fourth, all on five points. It was good news too for the reserves, who themselves headed the East Somerset Junior League.

Yeovil were already down to play Swindon Town Reserves in the league, and the draw for the English Cup 3rd Qualifying round gave them a tie with the first team, who at the time played in the strong Southern League, alongside the likes of Tottenham Hotspur, Southampton, West Ham United and Watford. It was a full strength Casuals who played in front of what was described as a 'huge concourse of spectators' at the County Ground, going down bravely once again, 4-0. Gilbert Vassall played that day, before returning to London to play for Corinthians in a prestige friendly with Spurs.

The more junior of the Swindon sides, Athletic, were beaten 5-0 which confirmed Yeovil's place at the top and despite two goalless draws they went into December a point clear of Trowbridge, with the reserves also leading the East Somerset League.

The Wilts League record came to a juddering halt at Swindon Athletic and in truth the side never fully recovered from that beating, having ever increasing difficulties in persuading men to travel to play in away games. Boxing Day saw a big crowd assemble at Pen Mill for the Somerset League clash with Wells City, and other matches in the area which had attracted decent crowds, prompted a suggestion of a Yeovil and District League, by local referee and FA official George Perry, who indeed offered to start the league, stating that the area had many new clubs and could support a town league.

Meanwhile the new year brought sadness for young Archie Pagnall, who was drafted into the first team after county calls had weakened the side for the match with Swindon Town Reserves. A clash with Day, the Swindon player, left Archie with a badly broken leg, and Day unconscious on the field, he having fainted at the sight of the injury. Gilbert Vassall's hat-trick was irrelevant in a 4-2 win.

Casuals were fielding differing sides virtually every week, due to availability problems, and the new players included Curgenven, a defender, Hall and the Rev G Norris who perhaps brought a little reverence to the proceedings.

Casuals lost 4-3 at Warminster in the gloom, but then showed that the age of the protest was still among them, citing the case that one of their players was forced to leave the game which had started late. It got them nowhere, and they were soon to accept that although they were second in the Wiltshire table, several clubs had games in hand, including Swindon Reserves who eventually won it by six clear points. The Senior League, with a measly five teams, was won by Wells City, but all eyes were on the reserves who needed to win their last game, against Wells City Reserves, to tie the title race with Shepton Mallet. They duly did, and played off against Shepton on April 25th, on the Camp Ground at Wells. Yeovil scored early on but the goal, or point as the papers at the time insisted on calling it, was chalked off as it was protested that a spectator had kicked it in! Happily they did win the game with a late goal and, after much joyfulness, the Wells City Band led the procession through the city, along the High Street to Market Place and then the King's

Head Hotel, for tea and speeches. On their return to Yeovil there was another welcoming committee who escorted the team, via a horse drawn brake, to the Red Lion.

Season 1902-1903						
Sept	6th	Upton Park	H	Friendly	3-2	L Vassall 2, Davey
	13th	Melksham Town	A	Wilts League	0-2	
	20th	Chippenham United	H	" "	4-0	Gard 2, L Vassall 2
	27th	Bradford-o-Avon	H	" "	7-1	Davey, Williams, L. Vassall 2, Seymour 2, Bradford
Oct	4th	Glastonbury	H	Som Senior Lge	5-1	Davey, Hoare 2, Thwaites, L Vassall
	11th	Warminster	A	Wilts League	3-3	White, Hoare, Luffman
	18th	Devizes Town	H	" "	4-2	Davey, Seymour 2, White
	25th	Weymouth	A	Friendly	0-3	
Nov	1st	Swindon Town	A	English Cup 3 Ql	0-4	
	8th	Swindon Athletic	H	Wilts League	5-0	Ewens, White, L Vassall, Luffman, Hoare
	15th	Calne Town	A	" "	0-0	
	29th	Bradford-o-Avon	A	" "	0-0	
Dec	6th	Swindon Athletic	A	" "	1-7	White
	13th	Whiteheads Athletic	A	Friendly	0-1	
	20th	Street	A	Som Senior Lge	1-0	White
	26th	Wells City	H	" "	0-0	
	28th	Devon County X1	H	Friendly	3-2	White 2, Patten
Jan	3rd	Welton Rovers	A	Som Senior Lge	0-2	
	10th	Swindon Town Res	H	Wilts League	4-2	GC Vassall 3, Williams
	17th	Trowbridge Town	H	" "	1-2	White
	31st	Glastonbury	A	Som Senior Lge	1-0	Gard
Feb	7th	Chippenham Town	H	Wilts League	0-0	
	14th	Warminster	H	" "	3-4	Wyatt 2, L Vassall
	21st	Weymouth	H	Friendly	4-2	Back, Davey 2, Davis
	28th	Trowbridge Town	A	Wilts League	1-3	Davis
March	7th	Chippenham United	A	" "	0-3	
	14th	Melksham Town	H	" "	5-0	Luffman, Curgenven 2, Seymour L Vassall
	21st	Street	H	Som Senior Lge	2-3	Ewens, Wyatt
	25th	Devizes Town	A	Wilts League	2-1	Luffman, Rudd
	28th	Calne	H	" "	3-1	Ewens 2, Maynard
April	1st	Chippenham Town	A	" "	1-1	og
	4th	Welton Rovers	H	Som Senior Lge	2-4	Rudd, Davey
	11th	Ilford	H	Friendly	2-2	Bond, Davey
	13th	1st Scots Guards	H	" "	0-1	
	18th	Wells City	A	Som Senior Lge	0-1	
	25th	Swindon Town Res	A	Wilts League	0-9	
May	2nd	Bridport	H	Friendly	2-1	Crouch, Rake

Wiltshire League 1902-03							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swindon Town Res	20	14	3	3	66	39	31
Warminster	20	10	5	5	51	45	25
Chippenham Town	20	8	8	4	35	18	25
Trowbridge Town	20	9	6	5	38	33	24
Bradford on Avon	20	8	7	5	38	33	23
Yeovil Casuals	20	8	5	7	44	41	21
Devizes Town	20	8	4	8	35	35	20
Chippenham Utd	20	7	5	8	36	22	19
Melksham Town	20	5	5	10	35	40	15
Swindon Athletic	20	5	2	13	37	61	12
Calne Town	20	2	2	16	18	69	6

**Somerset Senior League 1902-1903**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wells City	8	6	2	0	11	2	14
Welton Rovers	8	5	0	3	18	12	10
Street	8	5	0	3	18	12	10
Yeovil Casuals	8	2	1	5	10	12	5
Glastonbury	8	1	2	5	5	17	4

**East Somerset & District League 1902-1903**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil Casuals R	12	8	2	2	38	19	18
Shepton Mallet	12	7	4	1	21	8	11
Wincanton	12	5	1	6	21	19	11
Wells City Res	12	5	0	7	20	26	10
Street Reserves	12	4	1	7	17	22	9
Glastonbury Res	12	3	3	6	15	29	9
Oakhill	12	3	3	6	11	22	9

**Season 1903-04**

1902-1903 had been an ordinary season, particularly after Christmas, when a combination of the bad weather and not a little apathy meant a number of sub standard showings by weak teams. This meant little to the paying public of Yeovil, however who were far more interested in what was served up at Pen Mill, with travelling support only expected for cup games and the odd easily accessible trip.

The reserves had rescued things by winning the exciting play-off for their title, but Yeovil Casuals, and especially the Pen Mill Athletic Ground, had begun to stagnate, with little sign of any forward movement.

The club still enjoyed the loyalty of a number of men, both on and off the pitch and it was rewarded when the committee decided that all travel expenses would be paid for the coming season, in another bid to strengthen the side. They would be travelling to three new places, as the mining trio of Paulton Rovers, Peasedown St John and Radstock Town had all entered the Somerset Senior League. There were three new sides also in the Wiltshire League, with three dropping out, and at Yeovil the B side had entered the new Yeovil and District League.

Upton Park FC made their annual visit on September 5th before the Wilts season got under way with an extraordinary 7-4 win at Chippenham Town, with CP Ewens scoring three. Another hat-trick against Glastonbury put the side in good heart for some of the tough away games which followed, and his third treble against Chippenham United put the Cidermen, as they were known, into second place. His goals continued throughout October, although there was no joy in the English Cup, when a trip to Longfleet St Mary, from Hamworthy in Dorset, proved fruitless. Casuals were top and were further helped when Bob Wyatt was given permission by the County to play, despite living in Maiden Newton, which was a mile outside the residential limit, there being no nearer senior clubs.

**Somerset Senior League 1903-1904**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paulton Rovers	14	8	3	3	63	26	19
Wells City	14	7	4	3	30	25	18
Peasedown St John	14	7	2	5	23	26	16
Radstock Town	14	5	3	6	29	26	13
Street	14	4	4	6	23	35	12
Yeovil Casuals	14	4	3	7	33	43	11
Glastonbury	13	5	1	7	16	37	11
Welton Rovers	13	3	4	6	23	32	10

*Not including unfinished game*

**Season 1903-1904**

Sept	5th	Upton Park	H	Friendly	1-4	S Ewens
	12th	Chippenham Town	A	Wilts League	7-4	CP Ewens 3, Crouch 2, Hoare, Bond pen
	19th	Glastonbury	A	Som Senior Lge	4-1	CP Ewens 3, Bond pen
	26th	Trowbridge Town	H	Wilts League	0-1	
Oct	3rd	Melksham Town	A	" "	1-0	White
	10th	Chippenham Utd	A	" "	4-1	CP Ewens 3, Hallett
	17th	Longfleet St Mary	A	English Cup 2 Ql	1-4	Bond
	24th	Bradford-o-Avon	H	Wilts League	4-0	CP Ewens 2, Bond pen, Crouch
	31st	Bath Railway	H	" "	5-2	CP Ewens 2, White, Gleave, Gard
Nov	7th	Radstock Town	A	Som Senior Lge	0-3	
	14th	Trowbridge Town	A	Wilts League	1-3	White
	21st	Wootton Bassett	A	" "	2-3	CP Ewens 2
	28th	Warminster	H	" "	2-2	Hallett 2
Dec	5th	Welton Rovers	A	Som Senior Lge	4-4	Hallett, Taylor, CP Ewens 2
	12th	Peasedown St John	A	" "	0-2	Abandoned 69 mins
	19th	Street	A	" "	0-2	
	26th	Radstock Town	H	" "	1-4	pen
Also	26th	Devizes Town	A	Wilts League	1-2	og
	28th	Peasedown St John	A	Som Senior Lge	1-2	CP Ewens
Jan	2nd	Bradford-o-Avon	A	Wilts League	3-2	Taylor 2, CP Ewens
	9th	Wootton Bassett	H	" "	1-0	Davey
	16th	Warminster	A	" "	2-2	CP Ewens, L Vassall
	23rd	Peasedown St John	H	Som Senior Lge	0-0	
	30th	Street	H	" "	0-3	
Feb	6th	Welton Rovers	H	" "	5-1	Taylor, L Vassall 2, Hallett, Hoare
	13th	Glastonbury	H	" "	10-0	L Vassall 5 (1 pen), Hallett, CP Ewens, Davey, Maynard pen, Seymour
	27th	Weymouth	A	Friendly	1-2	CP Ewens
Mar.	5th	Wells City	H	Som Senior Lge	4-3	White 2, CP Ewens 2
	12th	Paulton Rovers	H	" "	3-1	White 2, Bond
	19th	Chippenham United	H	Wilts League	1-1	White
	26th	Wells City	A	Som Senior Lge	0-0	
April	2nd	Clapton	H	Friendly	2-3	White 2
	4th	Devizes Town	H	Wilts League	1-1	CP Ewens
	5th	Bath Railway	H	" "	4-1	CP Ewens 2, Hallett, Stone
	9th	Bath Railway	A	" "	1-2	(Replayed Game) White
	16th	Corsham	H	" "	4-2	White 2, Hoare, Hallett
	20th	Melksham Town	H	" "	1-0	og
	23rd	Corsham	A	" "	3-1	Hallett, Peaty, Train
	30th	Paulton Rovers	A	Som Senior Lge	1-15	Hallett
Also	30th	Chippenham Town	H	Wilts League	2-2	C Giles, T Giles

To add to a stunning start to the season, the reserves were top of the East Somerset League, but, as the colder weather kicked in around November time, there was a disappointing lull with a series of defeats, the team depleted by injuries. By Christmas Casuals were bottom of the Somerset League, but third in the Wiltshire version, the season being held together by the

**Wiltshire League 1903-1904**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melksham Town	20	13	4	3	62	15	30
Trowbridge Town	20	12	5	3	44	21	29
Yeovil Casuals	20	11	5	4	44	36	27
Warminster	20	10	4	6	52	39	24
Bradford-o-Avon	20	9	3	8	51	38	21
Chippenham Utd	20	9	3	8	44	40	21
Devizes Town	20	8	4	8	43	45	20
Wootton Bassett	20	7	3	10	40	42	17
Chippenham T.	20	7	2	11	56	55	16
Bath Railway	20	4	1	15	21	83	9
Corsham	20	3	2	15	22	79	8

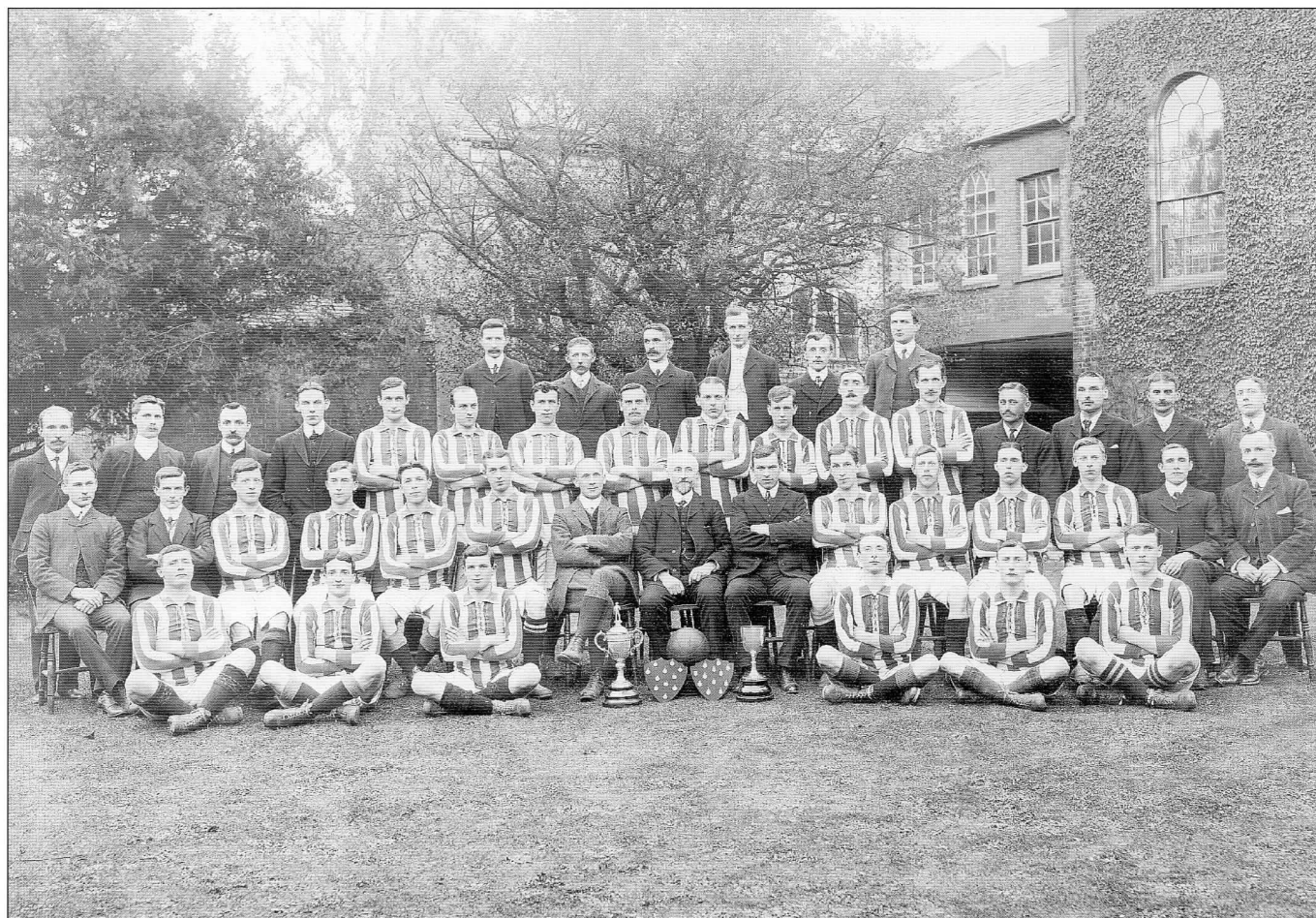


reserves, whose 100% record looked promising. Further defeats came before an improvement which saw no less than 15 goals in two matches, Harvey Vassall claiming seven of them. It had become an up and down season, so reminiscent of the club's previous campaigns, and as March and April came and went, it left Welton Rovers with the wooden spoon in Somerset as Paulton Rovers looked to overcome Wells City.

Their final game was at home to Yeovil, and the cause was improved when the club was forced to play its last Wiltshire game on the same day, a less than inspiring turn out managing to lose 15-1 and thus present the title to Paulton.

By then of course there was little interest in the first team, as

all eyes had been on the all conquering reserve eleven who had won the league and also the medal competition, after a replay following a protest by Glastonbury Reserves. In all, the club arranged and played some 90 matches in four different leagues, including friendlies, travelling to all by either train or primitive brake. Their success had come in the East Somerset League but they were not able to defend their wins, as the committee made the strange decision to pull the reserves out, as four more sides had entered, two from distance which would involve travelling. It was decided to apply for membership of either the Shaftesbury or Yeovil and District Leagues.



Yeovil Town Football Club 1909-10. (See pages 27-28 for season information.)





## CHAPTER THREE

# The Birth of Petters United

During the summer of 1904 there were two very significant developments in the history of football in Yeovil. The Pen Mill ground, hitherto little more than a field with railings, situated next to the hotel, acquired a large wooden grandstand which straddled the half way line opposite Lyde Road. Elsewhere in the town, and unannounced, Petters United FC were formed for the workers of that firm and they were at once installed in the Yeovil and District League and began a tussle with Casuals which was to last ten years. Their ground was laid out in Brickyard Lane and they were populated by more than a sprinkle of players who had previously turned out for Casuals.

Harvey Vassall was available from the start of the season and he began with a flourish, with Peaty and Hallett, their goals secured five straight wins before Longfleet St Mary put an end to the English Cup exploits. When the Glovers drew 2-2 with Devizes in October they were top of the Wiltshire League and despite losing to Bradford-on-Avon they were still top when the first of the Somerset Senior League fixtures were played in November. Three indifferent results after Christmas, largely due to players not making themselves available, meant that the side slipped to fourth, a 7-0 defeat by Bath Railway not helping their cause. There were good wins, 9-0 at Pen Mill against Wootton Bassett and 7-2 over Chippenham, but the interest again focused on the reserves who were involved in a struggle against Petters United for the title.

There had been a law change during the season which many players were finding difficult to utilise, that being the legalising of goals direct from free-kicks or corners, which up to that point were both indirect.

There were the odd protest or two, but it soon settled down, although there was a holy row on March 11th concerning a different matter, when Bath Railway failed to appear for the Wiltshire League match at Pen Mill. The league management committee met at Trowbridge to discuss the matter where Mr Maynard of Yeovil claimed £6 costs. The referee, having travelled from Swindon, was also reimbursed and in the end the Railway were forced to pay 5/- and were made to make up the deficiency when the match was played.

At the end of March Casuals were still in with a shout in the Wiltshire League, but were badly let down when weakly represented at Wootton Bassett and Bradford-On-Avon in consecutive matches which were both lost. The reserves were top of their league undefeated with Petters second and after they met in the derby game, almost inevitably the works side protested that two men were unqualified.

After decisions and counter appeals the matter was dropped and Casuals eventually clinched the title with just

### Season 1904-1905

Sept	10th	Warminster	A	Wilts League	2-1	L Vassall, Beare
	17th	Frome Town	H	" "	5-2	L Vassall, Peaty
	24th	Melksham Town	H	" "	2-1	L Vassall, Hallett
Oct	1st	Brislington	A	English Cup Prel	3-1	L Vassall, Hallett 2
	8th	Trowbridge Town	H	Wilts League	2-0	Peaty, Beare 1
	15th	Longfleet St Mary	A	English Cup 2 Qf	1-2	L Vassall
	22nd	Devizes Town	H	Wilts League	2-2	
Nov	29th	Bradford-o-Avon	A	" "	3-4	
	5th	Warminster	H	" "	1-0	
	12th	Wells City	A	Som Senior Lge	1-2	
Dec	26th	Welton Rovers	H	" "	1-3	
	10th	Street	H	" "	5-2	
	17th	Devizes Town	A	Wilts League	1-1	Lodge
	26th	Fulham Amateurs	H	Friendly	2-1	
	31st	Chippenham Town	H	Wilts League	1-1	
Jan	7th	Chippenham Town	A	" "	0-1	
	21st	Bath Railway	A	" "	0-7	
	28th	Paulton Rovers	A	Som Sen League	2-4	
Feb	4th	Melksham Town	A	Wilts League	3-1	
	11th	Weymouth	A	Friendly	2-1	CP Ewens, Gleave pen
	18th	Frome Town	A	Wilts League	1-1	Peaty
	25th	Wootton Bassett	H	" "	9-0	Hallett 2, Gard 3, Lodge, Stone, Seymour
Mar	4th	Street	A	Som Senior Lge	4-0	Hoare 2, A Patten, Lodge
	18th	Trowbridge Town	A	" "	2-3	Seymour 2
	25th	Chippenham Utd	H	" "	7-2	Peaty 2, Gleave 2, Hoare 2, Lodge
	April	1st	Wootton Bassett	A	" "	0-1
also	8th	Bradford-o-Avon	H	" "	1-3	CP Ewens
	15th	Wells City	H	" "	7-0	Peaty 4, GC Vassall 2, Lodge
	22nd	Chippenham Utd	A	Wilts League	2-1	
	24th	Windsor & Eton	H	Friendly	2-1	
	29th	Frome Town	A	Som Sen League	2-2	Seymour, A Patten
	29th	Bath Railway	H	Wilts League	12-0	Cole, Clinker 3, Luffman 3, Seymour 3, Hoare 2

*Unplayed matches..... Peasedown v Yeovil,  
Yeovil v Peasedown and Peasedown v Welton*

two defeats, their cup being presented after a match with the Rest of the League in front of a large concourse of spectators.

The season for the first team faded out with Bath Railway bringing down just eight men and being beaten 12-0, leaving both matches with Peasedown unplayed, and the club third in

Somerset and Wiltshire Leagues. Paulton Rovers, fast growing in strength but feared for the rowdiness of their followers, took the league from neighbours Welton Rovers with Bradford-on-Avon walking away with the Wiltshire League. Fifteen wins in thirty matches was not a bad end for the club, with the reserve success tacked on, but once again too many away games were contested with sub standard sides which prompted the club to consider withdrawing from the Wilts League.

#### Somerset Senior League 1904-1905

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paulton Rovers	12	9	1	2	56	18	19
Welton Rovers	11	7	2	2	38	25	16
Yeovil Casuals	10	5	2	3	38	15	12
Wells City	12	5	2	5	24	32	12
Peasedown St John	9	5	0	4	27	24	10
Street	12	3	2	7	17	39	8
Frome Town	12	0	1	11	14	62	1

#### Wiltshire League 1904-1905

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bradford-on-Avon	20	16	2	2	65	23	34
Chippenham Town	20	9	7	4	38	28	25
Yeovil Casuals	20	10	4	6	56	39	24
Trowbridge Town	20	10	2	8	40	34	32
Bath Railway	20	10	1	9	49	41	21
Chippenham Utd	20	10	1	9	41	37	21
Melksham Town	20	9	2	9	43	41	20
Devizes	20	6	6	8	37	31	18
Warminster	20	7	4	9	35	37	18
Frome Town	20	3	3	14	24	74	9
Wootton Bassett	20	4	0	16	22	67	8

#### Yeovil & District League 1904-1905

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil Casuals Res	16	13	1	2	61	13	27
Peters United	16	11	3	2	60	22	25
Sherborne	15	9	5	1	50	15	23
Yeovil Harlequins	15	7	3	5	28	28	17
Stoke-u-Ham	16	5	5	6	31	42	15
Yeovil Baptists	15	3	5	7	26	32	11
Western Gazette	16	4	3	9	21	43	7
Martock	15	3	1	11	22	43	7
YMCA	16	2	0	14	19	72	4

In June 1905 there was a Smoking Concert at the Glovers Arms, the HQ where a large gathering saw President WT Maynard present medals to the reserves, namely S Hyde, F Bond, P Hamblen, F Snell, R Hann, W Gard, A Patten, P Davey, W Seymour, F Bailey, R Guppy, T Whensley, H Hooper and J Garrett and, as the new season approached, the AGM heard of the ambition at the club before the start of the last campaign, and a cry to 'work in a similar manner, casting all criticism to the wind'.

The figures made reasonable reading with 21 wins in all from 38 starts and well over 100 goals scored. Nearly £150 had been taken on the gate and after match expenses and money for the grandstand appeal, the balance was just a few pounds short. Strangely it was thought that the Wiltshire League matches were more lucrative, although the supposition that the grandstand appeal was a success could not be faulted, it having sprung up during the summer. They made one decision for

*“Work in a similar manner, casting all criticism to the wind”*

#### Season 1905-1906

Sept	2nd	Upton Park	H	Friendly	1-7	Luffman
	16th	Bath City	H	Wilts League	3-1	Lodge, Peaty 2
	23rd	Trowbridge Town	H	" "	4-2	Lodge, Luffman 3
	30th	Warminster	H	" "	4-0	Davey 2, Gard, Luffman
Oct	7th	Paulton Rovers	H	English Cup Ore.	2-1	Peaty 2
	14th	Melksham Town	A	Wilts League	1-2	Luffman
	21st	Frome Town	H	" "	0-1	
	28th	Green Waves, Plym	A	English Cup 1 Q1	1-5	Hamblen
Nov	4th	Devizes Town	H	Wilts League	4-0	Hamblen 2, Lodge, Maynard
	11th	Devizes Town	A	" "	3-5	Gard, Peaty 2
	18th	Swindon St Marks	H	Friendly	5-0	Hamblen 2, Moffatt 2, Gard
Dec	2nd	Chippenham Town	H	Wilts League	2-2	Peaty, Hamblen
	9th	Frome Town	A	" "	1-0	Peaty
	16th	121st RFA Trow.	H	" "	2-2	Hoare, Hamblen
	23rd	Chippenham Town	A	" "	2-3	
	27th	Plymouth Argyle	H	Friendly	2-1	Peaty, Lard
Jan	6th	Bradford-o-Avon	A	Wilts League	2-2	Peaty 2
	13th	121st RFA Trow.	A	" "	1-8	Peaty
	20th	Weymouth	H	Friendly	4-6	Peaty 2, Taylor, og
	27th	Melksham Town	A	Wilts League	2-1	(replayed game) Peaty 2
Feb	10th	Wells City	A	Som Sen Cup 2	1-2	Clinker
	24th	Bath City	A	Wilts League	0-1	Abandoned Rain
March	3rd	Melksham Town	H	" "	1-2	Maynard
	10th	Wootton Bassett	H	" "	2-3	Simper, A Patten
	17th	Bradford-o-Avon	H	" "	2-0	Luffman, Peaty
	24th	Chippenham United	H	" "	8-0	Peaty 5, Hoare, Cook pen, Hallett
	31st	Trowbridge Town	A	" "	4-4	Lodge, A Patten, Peaty, Francis
April	7th	Wootton Bassett	A	" "	1-7	A Patten
	14th	Bath City	A	" "	1-7	Hoare
	16th	Coldstream Guards	H	Friendly	2-4	Peaty 2
	17th	South Bank	H	" "	1-1	A Patten
	21st	Warminster	A	Wilts League	2-2	Francis, Peaty
	28th	Chippenham United	A	" "	0-3	

September, pulling out of the Somerset Senior League, entering just the Wiltshire League and the English and Somerset Challenge Cups.

Football was still growing apace and had far outstripped rugby, at least in the South Somerset area. Yeovil Baptists had begun using the old pitch on West Hendford and a number of new junior clubs had sprung up. Casuals were busy recruiting and applied for H Train of Yetminster, F Gard of Limington, A Newman of Martock and the two Vassall brothers to play in league games. The first three were accepted but with the brothers at Newcastle and Oxford University, they were not permitted to play under the residential ruling.

Luffman began in a hurry with three against Trowbridge Town and with eight goals in two league games Casuals went into their English Cup tie with Paulton Rovers in good spirits. Peaty's two goals saw them through, in front of the Conservative candidate for North Somerset, Mr Peake Masters, who wasted little time in gaining support by inviting all and sundry back for tea, an offer which the miners of north Somerset doubtless viewed with not a little suspicion.

The draw gave the club a tie in Plymouth, against Green Waves FC which was one match too far and it prompted more than one player to apply to revert to junior football, Peters United having recruited strongly. November and December saw just one defeat, but despite that, after a draw at Bradford-on-Avon, Casuals were no more than fifth in the league. The boys from Trowbridge Barracks handed out a thrashing in January, but the club had an ace up their sleeve to recoup two

points. The club formally protested that Melksham Town had played a player called Daniels in their 2-1 defeat, who Yeovil believed lived outside the 5 mile limit. After some deliberation an independent witness was called in to measure the distance from his home to the Kings Arms in Melksham. It was found to be exactly one furlong outside, and the club were duly deducted 2 points and ordered to replay the match. A measure of just how bureaucratic administration could still be in the early 1900s.

The club lost to Wells City in the Senior Cup in February, and with it went much of the interest, with only Peaty's five goals in a game against Chippenham United to lighten the gloom. It all fizzled out at the end of April, apart from the reserves who had their own private battle with Petters United, who only in their second season had taken the Yeovil League title, relegating Casuals to second place.

#### Wiltshire League 1905-1906

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Trowbridge RFA	22	16	4	2	65	27	36
Wootton Bassett	22	14	5	3	57	28	33
Chippenham Town	22	11	7	4	56	33	29
Frome Town	22	11	3	8	40	42	25
Devises Town	22	9	4	9	59	45	22
Bradford Town	22	8	5	9	38	40	21
Melksham Town	22	8	4	10	35	41	20
Yeovil Casuals	22	7	5	10	50	56	19
Bath City Res	22	7	3	12	35	47	17
Chippenham Utd	22	5	6	11	33	50	16
Warminster Town	22	6	4	12	37	65	16
Trowbridge Town	22	3	4	15	35	61	10

It was a season which disappointed many, with registration problems and a lack of enthusiasm for trips to the likes of Bath and Bradford-on-Avon being blamed for the poor finish. It was not all despondency, for Herbert Cook, the regular 'custodian', was married and received plaudits, his eight year stint in goal earning him much credit, with more to follow. As an initiative, eleven medals were purchased and were waiting at the end of the 1906-07 season to be presented to the players who appeared in the most away games, and with the reserves and the A team not entered into any leagues, the incentive was also either travel away or drop into junior football. Casuals had a ground with a large grandstand, dressing rooms virtually next door and a railway station on the doorstep, a far cry from some of the primitive set ups which many were still suffering.

The warning signs had been there for a while, but Yeovil, along with a number of other Somerset based clubs, were suffering from having a weak governing body in the SFA and an even weaker Senior League which led teams to look elsewhere for their competitive football. Having played in Dorset, before leaving them, Casuals were forced again to play in Wiltshire, which at least guaranteed 22 fixtures, or more likely 24 or 25 depending on postponements and protests. Season 1906-07 began with the visit of Upton Park, who were not as strong as in previous years and were beaten 5-1 at Pen Mill. It was the beginning of what was later described as 'easily the worst season, on or off the field, that this club has ever suffered'.

A succession of defeats in both league and cup was only interrupted in November and December by wins in friendlies, by which time Casuals were bottom of the league, where they remained until February. The away game at Chippenham was won 2-0, but was more interesting with keeper Herb Cook scoring from the penalty spot. Swindon Hayden Street Workmen travelled to Yeovil with only nine men and were duly beaten and in the return only a handful of spectators showed an interest in the 1-1 draw.

#### Season 1906-1907

Sept	8th	Upton Park	H	Friendly	5-1	Peaty 2, Hamblen, Lodge, Hoare
	15th	Royal Warks Reg	H	" "	2-4	Lodge, Hamblen
	22nd	Bradford-o-Avon	H	Wilts League	1-1	Hamblen
	29th	Chippenham United	A	" "	0-4	
Oct	6th	Branksome Gas	H	English Cup 1 Ql	0-1	
	13th	Chippenham Town	H	Wilts League	1-0	Peaty
	20th	Trowbridge Town	A	" "	0-1	
	27th	Melksham Town	H	" "	1-2	Lodge
Nov	3rd	Weymouth W'head	H	Friendly	4-1	og, H Seymour, Peaty, Lodge
	24th	Wootton Bassett	A	Wilts League	1-2	Peaty
Dec	1st	Frome Town	A	" "	1-2	Lodge
	8th	Taunton Casuals	A	Friendly	2-0	Lodge, Peaty
	15th	Devises Town	H	Wilts League	1-2	H Seymour
	22th	Frome Town	A	" "	1-2	Peaty
	25th	Yeovil and Dist Lge	H	Friendly	2-2	
	26th	Salisbury City	H	" "	2-2	Cooper, Peaty
	29th	121st RFA Trow.	H	Friendly	0-0	
Jan	4th	Chippenham Town	A	Wilts League	2-0	Cook pen, W Seymour
	11th	Welton Rovers	A	Som Sen Cup 1	2-4	Lodge, Pryor
	18th	Taunton Casuals	A	Friendly	0-1	
	25th	Swindon HS Work	H	Wilts League	5-1	Peaty, W Seymour, Taylor, Lodge, Cooper pen
Feb	2nd	Swindon HS Work	A	" "	1-1	Lodge
	9th	121st RFA Trow.	A	" "	1-2	Maughan
	23rd	Melksham Town	A	" "	4-0	Peaty 2, Pryor, Lodge
Mar.	2nd	Wootton Bassett	H	" "	1-1	Lodge
	9th	Portland PO & Utd	H	Friendly	1-0	
	16th	Bradford-o-Avon	A	Wilts League	0-5	
	23rd	Chippenham United	H	" "	5-0	Pryor 3, Peaty, Lodge
	30th	Trowbridge Town	H	" "	1-3	T Giles
April	1st	Bowes Park, London	H	Friendly	2-2	Pike, Dyke
	2nd	Riverside Cardiff	H	" "	4-0	Pike, Peaty 2. og
	6th	Warminster	A	Wilts League	1-2	Bowyer
	13th	Devises Town	A	" "	0-1	
	20th	Warminster	H	" "	1-2	og
	27th	Weymouth W'heads	H	Friendly	0-2	

Casuals 4-0 win at Melksham was the sad catalyst for more scenes of rowdiness, the like of which had become all too prevalent, with referee Mr Smith of Bristol being attacked by some of the home spectators. At the same time Street FC were in trouble again, their game at Wincanton having to be abandoned after a player was sent off and his colleagues refused to play on. Following abuse of the official both on the pitch and at the station, all eleven players were suspended for two weeks, as the FA tried to crack down on the abuse of referees. In the league the three teams from the Trowbridge area were dominating, namely Town who were top, the RFA and Bradford who were close behind. In Yeovil, Petters United were top with ten wins in eleven games, and the committee were casting wary glances at the up and coming young side.

Bradford eventually took the title from Trowbridge, with Casuals having only Melksham and the Hayden Road Workmen under them. In fact Chippenham Town beat Trowbridge on the last day to deprive them of the championship, at once allaying fears that they might forfeit the game and give the title to Bradford, a theory which failed to take into account that Chippenham were unbeaten at home in three years and were unlikely to deliberately lose.

At the AGM it was decided to resign from Wiltshire and return to the roots, entering the Somerset Senior League

again, which at one time was going to be regionalised, as well as the Dorset League, which was split into two sections, East and South. With the English Cup, Somerset Senior and Junior Cups and the Yeovil League to contend with, there was much to go for.

The annual meeting was an historic one for two reasons which slowly became apparent much later in the history, with Mr W Bond, former player and long time secretary, announcing at the Victoria Hall that the Casuals were no more, and that the new name for the club would be one which many years later became arguably the best known name in British sport for a famous period in the late forties.

Yeovil Town Football Club was born, not for the last time, as would be seen after the rise of Petters United a few years later, and with them began a new era which would transform the gloomy outlook at Pen Mill.

Right at the front of the changes would be young Fred Hayward, known locally as Johnny. A raw centre-forward, he would go on to set records which will never be remotely threatened.

In his speech, Mr Bond went on to suggest that all the best players in the area should join Town, thus enabling them to become the top club in the county, not a great feat when it was considered that there were only five clubs in the league. Finally his outlining the financial status showed that the club had lost some £60 in four years and owned only the grandstand and the wire fencing around the field.

The usual optimism abounded, much of it bravado, but for once they would be right, thanks in no small part to Johnny Hayward.

#### Wiltshire League 1906-1907

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bradford-o-Avon	22	13	4	5	48	29	30
Trowbridge Town	22	12	5	5	48	28	29
121st RFA Trow	22	10	4	8	45	28	28
Devizes Town	22	13	2	7	46	29	28
Wootton Bassett	22	11	4	7	53	42	26
Chippenham Town	22	10	3	9	43	41	23
Chippenham Utd	22	10	1	11	39	47	21
Warminster	22	8	3	11	39	52	19
Frome Town	22	8	2	12	39	50	18
Yeovil Casuals	22	5	5	12	30	34	15
Melksham Town	22	6	3	13	29	44	15
Swindon HS Work	22	4	4	14	35	63	12

#### Yeovil & District League 1906-1907

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Petters United	14	13	0	1	42	13	26
Yeovil Baptists	14	8	3	3	33	17	19
Yeovil YMCA	14	8	2	4	33	17	18
Stoke	14	8	2	4	28	19	18
Barwick & Stoford	14	4	2	8	20	39	10
St Michaels	14	3	2	9	20	30	8
Yeovil Casuals Res	14	4	0	10	16	33	8
St Ivels	14	2	1	11	20	40	5

## *The first Yeovil Town and the only Johnny Hayward.....*

Yeovil began the 1907-08 season as they had the previous two, with a visit from Upton Park FC, from East London. They were sporting the newly designed shirts with a green body with a white border round the neck and cuffs and were offering subscriptions to the club at 2/6d, with ladies free, apart from guarantee games where all paid. Petters,

meanwhile, at their Brickyard Lane ground, were playing in amber and black and were preparing for the new term as reigning champions of the Yeovil and District League.

Johnny Hayward had made his debut at the back end of April, in an uninspired Wiltshire League game at home to Warminster, but nobody could have predicted what impact he would have on Yeovil Town, and the county side, in the years to come. Another new face was that of Ernest Sercombe, who had taken over as secretary, having been a player a few years before. Ernest saw Johnny Hayward score his first ever goal for the club against the Royal Garrison Artillery in the Dorset League, but that ended in a draw, and with two single goal defeats it was the middle of October before the Glovers scraped a win in the Somerset Senior League.

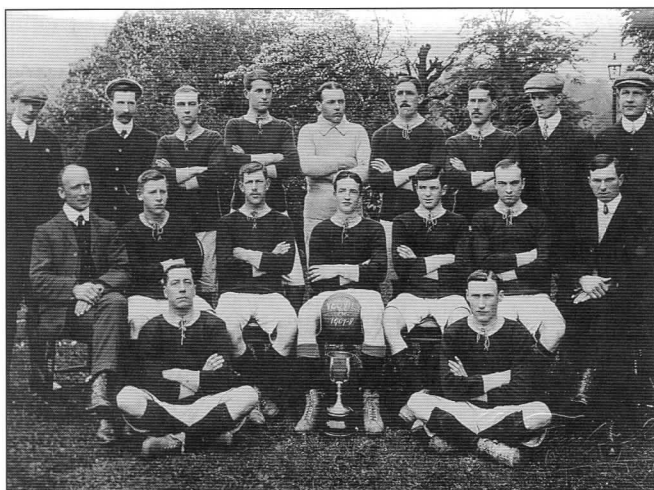
The defeat at Branksome Gas Works Upper Parkstone ground was in the English Cup, where many Yeovilians had made the journey, but it was the last defeat for a while, as Town won three Senior League games, Hayward notching his first hat-trick against Wells City.

Petters United signalled their intentions, spanking Barwick and Stoford 19-0 in the District League, but the combination of Hayward and Lodge for Town was beginning to reap dividends, for Lodge's second hat-trick in three games helped beat RGA in the return.

The rivalry between Town and Petters United really took off in November, when over 400 watched Town reserves win the first derby, the two having started the game locked together at the top of the table, and a week later the first team were journeying yet again to RGA's ground, which they shared with Weymouth FC, the original match having been scratched and ordered to be replayed by the Dorset League. Johnny Hayward had soon got into his stride and netted four more against Bruton, on the day that the reserves again played Petters, this time in the Somerset Junior Cup. The 3-3 draw meant a money spinning replay, held at the old West Hendford ground, but when the appointed referee failed to turn up the match was not played, substituted instead by a friendly. The crowd which had gathered were less than pleased, having paid good money to watch a local cup tie, and swarmed onto the pitch to kick the ball into the road. Eventually the money taken was donated to the local hospital.

At the end of December the club found themselves at the centre of a major scandal which the Dorset FA had not taken too kindly to. With the secretary away from the club, the captain Maughan played three players under assumed names, who were unclassified for the match against RGA. On being summoned to the hearing, the club pleaded innocence, preferring the captain himself to admit his guilt, which he did. The deduction of two points, two guinea fine and fourteen day ban for Maughan ensured that it was unlikely to be repeated. Dorset also reported Yeovil to the Somerset FA who considered their own actions.

Boxing Day saw Town back in action, at home to the unwieldily sounding Portland Prison Officers and United FC, where Seymour and Hayward brought the points home. The points deduction was a knock back in the Dorset League, but Town were top of the Somerset Senior League, Southern Section and had also reached round two of the Senior Cup, having beaten Taunton Depot, courtesy of four more from Hayward. Elsewhere in the county crowd trouble reared its head again, this time at Street, where the home spectators went on the rampage after their game with Frome Town, attacking the Frome dressing room, smashing the windows of the visiting motor bus and chasing the referee across the fields as he fled the ground. Somewhat more sedately Johnny Hayward hit yet another treble in a friendly against Salisbury Reserves, and then another four in a second replay



The reserve side – Champions of the Yeovil & District League in 1908

of their Senior Cup tie with Clevedon, having also scored in the first game.

His stunning first season had earned him county honours at centre-forward and had alerted Exeter City to his potential and to cap it all the club beat Frome Town in the Senior Cup semi-final in front of over 1,000 home fans. Three weeks later Frome were again beaten, this time 6-0 in the league with four from Hayward, which saw Town stay at the top, and two days later a reserve side was put out at Whiteheads, which lost 7-0 but that was forgotten, as first Shepton Mallet were beaten 6-0 and then Frome won 1-0 in the top of the table game at Badgers Hill.

It was a prelude to the Senior Cup Final against Paulton Rovers, played at Wells City's ground in front of over 3,000, on a hard pitch and with a strong wind. Johnny Hayward soon netted twice, but his missed penalty saw the game end in a draw, with the replay fixed for Frome Town a week later. In a superb game Rovers finally overcame the Glovers, winning 5-3.

Happily the season did not end without success, as the reserves took the Yeovil and District League title by a point from Stoke-under-Ham, the win being celebrated by a match against the Rest of the League, where the medals and cup were presented from the stand. The first team ended runners up in the Somerset League, a point behind Frome Town, having scored 100 goals in all games, Hayward claiming 41, with Harold Lodge netting 25. It was a good season, and the AGM heard it described as 'one of the most successful ever', a reference made to finances and not playing success. The balance was back to over £24 which pleased the assembly and decided them to stick with the same formula for the 1908 campaign.

#### Yeovil & District League 1907-1908

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil Town Res	20	14	3	3	62	24	31
Stoke-under-Ham	20	14	2	4	51	21	30
Sherborne	20	13	1	6	52	26	27
Petters United	18	12	1	5	66	24	25
Odcombe	18	9	1	8	47	36	19
Crewkerne	19	7	4	8	29	37	18
Yeovil YMCA	18	8	1	9	40	32	17
Montacute	19	5	2	12	37	54	12
Barwick & Stoford	19	5	1	13	21	85	11
St Micheals	20	5	0	15	35	76	10
Milborne Port	17	2	3	12	27	61	7

#### Season 1907-1908

Sept	7th	Upton Park	H	Friendly	3-4	Crouch, Lodge 2 (1 pen)	
	14th	RGA Weymouth	H	Dorset & Dist	3-3	Lodge pen, Crouch, Hayward	
	28th	Street	A	Som Senior Lge	0-1		
Oct	5th	Branksome Gas	A	English Cup 1 Ql	0-1		
	12th	Bruton	A	Som Senior Lge	2-0	Hallett, Lodge	
	19th	Shepton Mallet	H	" "	2-1	W Seymour, Hayward	
	26th	Wells City	H	" "	7-2	Lodge 3, Hayward 3, W Seymour	
Nov	2nd	Radipole	H	Dorset & Dist	2-6	Lodge, Hayward	
	16th	RGA Weymouth	H	" "	5-1	Lodge 3, Hayward 2	
				(Replayed)			
	23rd	Portland PO & PU	A	" "	2-2	Ricketts, Maughan	
	30th	RGA Weymouth	A	" "	2-3	Barnes, W Seymour	
Dec	14th	Bruton	H	Som Senior Lge	6-0	Hayward 4, Priddle, Lodge	
	21st	Exeter City	A	Friendly	0-1		
	26th	Portland PO & PO	H	Dorset & Dist	4-1	W Seymour 2, Hayward 2	
	Jan	11th	Taunton Depot	H	Som Sen Cup 1	5-3	Gard, Hayward 4
	25th	Salisbury City Res	H	Friendly	7-2	Hayward 3, Barnes, Luffman 2, Lodge	
	Feb	1st	Weymouth W'head	H	Dorset & Dist	2-1	Lodge, Hayward
8th		Clevedon	A	Som Sen Cup 2	1-1	Hayward	
15th		Clevedon	H	Replay	0-0	aet	
22nd		Clevedon		2nd Replay (at Wells City FC)	5-0	Lodge, Hayward 4	
29th		Wells City	A	Som Senior Lge	4-2	Lodge 2, Maughan, Hayward	
Mar.	7th	Weymouth	A	Dorset & Dist	3-8	Lodge 2, Luffman	
	14th	Frome Town	H	Somerset Sen. Cup Semi-final	2-0	Gard, Lodge	
	21st	Radipole	A	Dorset & Dist	1-2	Hayward	
	28th	Weymouth	H	" "	2-1	Lodge, Gard	
April	2nd	Frome Town	H	Som Senior Lge	6-0	Hayward 4 (1pen), Lodge, Luffman	
	4th	Weymouth W'head	A	Dorset & Dist	0-7		
	11th	Shepton Mallet	A	Som Senior Lge	6-0	Hayward 2, Gard, Hallett, W Seymour	
	17th	Frome Town	A	" "	0-1		
	20th	Paulton Rovers		Somerset Sen Cup (at Wells City FC) Final	2-2	Hayward 2	
	21st	Street	H	Som Senior Lge	2-2	Hayward, Lodge	
	27th	Paulton Rovers (at Frome Town FC)		Somerset Sen Cup Final Replay	3-5	Hayward, Lodge, Hallett	
	30th	Exeter City Res	H	Friendly	5-0	Hayward 2, Larcombe 2, og	

#### Appearances 1907-08

H Lodge, H Seymour, B Maughan 28, W Seymour, F Cooper, J Hayward 26, L Thring 21, F Peaty 20, Cook 15, Gard 13, B Crouch, E Grey, W Hallett 11, Luffman 9, H Harbour 4, Galpin, H Spinner 3, Priddle, Barnes, Ewens, AN Other 2, Pryor, Clarke, Miles, Larcombe, Puckett, Ricketts, Smith, Bailey, Maynard, Hann, C Miles, Pound, Hicks, Clinker, Burton 1

#### Goalscorers 1907-08

J Hayward 41, Lodge 24, W Seymour 6, Gard, Luffman 4, Crouch, Hallett, Maughan, Barnes, Larcombe 2, Ricketts, Priddle, og 1





The programme for the 3-3 draw in Dec 1907. The replay was cancelled a week later when the referee failed to turn up at West Hendford.

An angry crowd stole the ball used in a hastily arranged friendly which was also abandoned.

The grandstand at Pen Mill was spruced up during the summer of 1908, the princely sum of £2 having been spent on its upkeep, and with the team now in the newly created Southern Division of the Dorset League, the term kicked off with another visit from Upton Park FC, who won 3-2. Johnny Hayward was soon amongst the goals with three against the Channel Fleet, his five man forward line with two wingers proving to be a serious power when they were all available. The RGA were beaten in front of 800 at Pen Mill, and a fortnight later some 300 of them journeyed to Breakheart Lane,

where Longfleet St Marys were too good for Town in the English Cup. It was a disappointing blow, as the club had made no impact in that competition, but it was soon forgotten as wins over Wells City and Street gave new hope and put the club on a roll, which gathered momentum through November. Hayward and Herb Seymour were both capped by the county on the day the team played at Portland, but the home side fielded ten men and Town scraped a 1-0 win.

On November 28th 1908 Pen Mill saw what was described at the time as 'one of the most exciting matches ever witnessed on the ground, Hayward and Lodge helping the side to a 3-2 win over Channel Fleet. The forward line had formulated itself over the months, and the standard line up of Barnes, Lodge, Hayward, Larcombe and Harbour was a potent one, borne out in December when both Hayward and Charlie Larcombe scored three against Bridport. On the approach to Christmas, Yeovil Town were top of the Dorset League, and this did not change after Hayward had hit five of the nine scored against Weymouth on January 2nd. With crowds often exceeding 1200, football had certainly come of age, but it was not all plain sailing, for Hayward was injured in the home defeat by Trowbridge Town, a set back compounded by a 0-0 draw in the return at the Flower Show ground. Despite that, Town were top of both Somerset and Dorset Leagues, and with the reserves again top of the District League it was shaping up to be a memorable time. Support continued to grow and for the Challenge Cup tie at Welton Rovers, a special excursion to North Somerset was laid on, which was used by some 250 who saw Town advance courtesy of Charlie Larcombe.

The first league defeat came a week later at the short lived Radipole FC, from Weymouth, and it was followed by a stunning 4-0 defeat at Badgers Hill, which was practically a league decider. When after drawing the Challenge Cup semi-final with Clevedon and then losing the replay 2-1, all of a sudden what was a superb season was in danger of falling apart at the seams. It was rescued in the nick of time, with



This is the earliest known action shot of Yeovil Town. Taken at Pen Mill, with a half completed Lyde Road in the background, the hotel is off to the left with the old Brickyard Lane stand visible next to the linesman. The grandstand was further right facing the station.

Taken around 1908.

Courtesy of Mrs Anne Taylor

two wins in the Dorset League which clinched the Southern Section, and a draw with Street.

The win in Dorset meant a play off against the Eastern winners, the awesome Branksome Gasworks. The Lights had won nineteen of their previous 21 matches and had slaughtered Weymouth 10-0 in the final of the County Cup as well as taking the Bankes Charity Cup. Over 700 travelled up from Yeovil to watch a fantastic performance, with the forward line proving far too strong for the gifted Gasworks side. The 3-0 win was greeted by a mighty cheer and captain Maughan was shouldered to the pavilion, his earlier indiscretion having been swept under the carpet. The cup and medals were presented to the team, who commented on the splendid way the club was treated by the Dorset FA. Back at Yeovil hundreds awaited the result outside the Post Office in the town, the 3-0 win being exclaimed by telegraph. At 10 o'clock a large crowd greeted the train at Pen Mill, fog signals having been set down to welcome the heroes.

A torch-light procession by brake was led by Bandleader Lewis, through the Sherborne Road and Middle Street to the Borough, past streets lined with hundreds of green and white umbrellas. At the Borough over 3,000 excited supporters heard speeches thanking all and sundry before they retired to the Mermaid Hotel for more celebrations.

Four days later the side gathered again, this time to play Wells City in a game which, if won, would guarantee runners up position in the Somerset League. An 8-1 win was emphatic enough.

The press singled out veteran goalkeeper Herb Cook for particular praise in their end of season round up, he having given years of 'yeoman service in goal'. They also went on to praise Herb Seymour, a 'regular dreadnought at the back' and Barnes and Harbour, who had played every game on the wing, setting up many a goal for Hayward, Larcombe and Lodge, Barnes himself reaching double figures.

Crowds at Pen Mill had averaged around 1000, as the revival of the club reached all parts, and with Hayward having chalked up over 80 goals in less than 60 games, there was no end to what could be achieved.



Yeovil Town 1908-09  
Champions Dorset League, Runners-up Somerset Senior League.



Yeovil Town Reserves 1908-09

### Season 1908-1909

Sept	5th	Upton Park	H	Friendly	2-3	Hayward, Larcombe
	12th	Channel Fleet	H	" "	6-0	Hayward 3, Larcombe, Barnes, Maughan
	19th	Weymouth RGA	H	Dorset & Dist	3-1	Lodge, Hayward, Clarke
	26th	Exeter City Res	A	Friendly	0-5	
Oct	3rd	Longfleet St Mary	A	English Cup Pre	2-4	Hayward, Lodge
	10th	Wells City	A	Som Senior Lge	3-2	Hayward, Larcombe, Barne
	17th	Street	H	" "	3-1	W Seymour, Barnes 2
	24th	Salisbury City	A	Friendly	2-2	Larcombe, W Seymour
	31st	Frome Town	H	Som Senior Lge	2-0	Hayward, Lodge
Nov	7th	Weymouth	A	Dorset & Dist	3-1	Larcombe 2, Hayward
	14th	Portland PO & PO	H	" "	1-0	Harbour
	28th	Channel Fleet	H	" "	3-2	Hayward 2, Larcombe
	Dec	5th	Bridport	A	Friendly	8-0
	12th	Channel Fleet	A	Dorset & Dist	3-2	Hayward 2, Larcombe
	19th	Exeter City Res	H	Friendly	2-2	
	28th	2nd Coldstream Gd	H	" "	5-2	Barnes 2, Hayward 2, Larcombe
Jan	2nd	Weymouth	H	Dorset & Dist	9-1	Hayward 5, Patten, Larcombe, Barnes, W Seymour
	9th	Trowbridge Town	H	Som Senior Lge	0-1	
Jan	23rd	Radipole	H	Dorset & Dist	2-0	Patten 2
	30th	Trowbridge Town	A	Som Senior Lge	0-0	
Feb	13th	Welton Rovers	H	Som Chal Cup 2	1-0	Larcombe
	20th	Radipole	A	Dorset & Dist	0-1	
	27th	Frome Town	A	Som Senior Lge	0-4	
	Mar.	13th	Clevedon	H	Som Challenge Cup Semi-final	0-0
	18th	Weymouth W'head	H	Dorset & Dist	3-1	Hayward 2, Harbour
	20th	Clevedon	A	Som Challenge Cup Semi-final replay	1-2	Hayward
	24th	Weymouth RGA	A	Dorset & Dist	1-1	Hayward
	27th	Street	A	Som Senior Lge	0-0	
	April	3rd	Portland PO & PU	A	Dorset & Dist	3-1
	10th	Old Newportonians	H	Friendly	1-1	Hayward
	12th	2nd Grenadier Gds	H	" "	2-0	Hayward, Lodge
	24th	Branksome Gasworks (at Dorchester Town FC)		Dorset & Dist League Cup Final	3-0	Hayward, Lodge, Larcombe
	28th	Wells City	H	Som Senior Lge	8-1	Maughan 2 (1 pen),

*“At 10 o'clock a large crowd greeted the train at Pen Mill, fog signals having been set down to welcome the heroes”*

Sadly some clubs were feeling the pinch, with Radipole FC folding and Channel Fleet FC having to pull out as they were being transferred elsewhere. With this the Dorset League reverted to one division, nullifying what had been a stunning success with the play-offs.

Yeovil were of course delighted that they could enjoy such a fine season, but the continued problems with Dorset and Somerset FAs at loggerheads regarding county games and with relations broken off, they were stuck firmly in the middle. With the Western League some while away and the Somerset League still seemingly weak, Town were forced to carry on with what they had, all the while mindful that there was

another club growing in power by the minute. Petters United were playing on the old cricket ground at West Hendford, with Yeovil Wesleyans having moved into Brickyard Lane, and at their meeting it was decided to allow a few outsiders to play for the club, which up to then had been open to employees only. The decision was made with the long term in mind, as they were sure that they could rival Town for the top honours.

### Dorset & District League 1908-1909 Southern Section

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil Town	12	8	3	1	32	14	19
Weymouth	12	6	3	3	34	32	15
Weymouth W/head	12	5	4	3	29	19	14
Weymouth RGA	12	4	3	5	14	23	11
Radipole	12	5	0	7	28	28	10
Portland PO & PU	12	2	4	6	15	24	8
Channel Fleet	12	2	3	7	20	31	7

### Somerset Senior League 1908-1909

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Frome Town	8	5	1	2	14	10	11
Yeovil Town	8	4	2	2	16	9	10
Trowbridge Town	8	4	1	3	16	9	9
Street	8	3	2	3	13	11	8
Wells City	8	1	0	7	9	29	2

### Appearances 1908-09

Barnes 33, C Larcombe, Cook 32, W Seymour 31, J Hayward 30, H Seymour, E Maughan 29, B Harbour 28, Lodge 26, Cooper 24, N Kemp 22, Peaty, Hewlett 8, Bowerman 6, Patten, Stone 5, A Clarke 3, J Taylor, H Spinner 2, W Searley, Morgan, Pound, Sparey, H Weldon, Maynard 1

### Goalscorers 1908-09

J Hayward 33, C Larcombe 16, Barnes 11, Lodge 7, Maughan, W Seymour 4, Patten 3, Harbour 2, Clarke, Cooper 1

## Referee tragedy sees game abandoned

The committee, ever mindful of charitable opportunities, arranged a trial match where the 1st team played the reserves, with proceeds going to the local hospital once again. The senior squad was almost unchanged, save Bill Seymour who had come in at centre-half, and the forward line was soon in gear, Barnes, Larcombe, Lodge and Hayward all scoring against Salisbury Amateurs. The league matches began with a win and a draw in Dorset and a defeat at Bradford-on-Avon in the Somerset League, which set the team up for their English Cup match with Whiteheads, the torpedo engineers. The Weymouth based side however were unable to compete, as they, along with Weymouth FC themselves had been suspended for paying players. A committee had found that the club's books did not tally and that they had a third turnstile which produced money to fund the team.

Yeovil thus progressed to the next round, with Weymouth dropping out of the league as they were sharing the Recreation Ground with RGA Weymouth and were still in the Western League. The draw gave the Glovers a home tie with Bournemouth in the 2nd Qualifying Round and two from Charlie Larcombe and Johnny Hayward saw them through comfortably. The Dorset connection continued in the 3rd round, where Poole were beaten 4-1, but with the draw spreading out for the 4th round of qualifying, Town were

### Season 1909-1910

Sept	4th	Salisbury Amateurs	H	Friendly	4-3	Barnes, Larcombe, Lodge, Hayward
	11th	Branksome Gas	H	Dorset & Dist	1-1	Maughan
	18th	Weymouth RGA	A	" "	2-1	Maughan pen, Hayward
	25th	Bradford-on-Avon	A	Som Senior Lge	2-4	Maughan pen, Hayward
Oct	2nd	Whiteheads Athletic	A	English Cup 1 Ql	Postponed	Match claimed
	9th	Shaftesbury	H	Friendly	3-0	Hayward 2, Lodge
	16th	Bournemouth	H	English Cup 2 Ql	5-0	Larcombe 2, Hayward 2, Maughan
	23rd	Exeter City Res	H	Friendly	3-0	Hayward, Lodge 2
	30th	Street	H	Som Senior Lge	1-2	Cheney
Nov	6th	Poole	A	English Cup 3 Ql	4-1	Harbour, Maughan pen, Hayward, Larcombe
	13th	Blandford	A	Dorset & Dist	1-1	og
	20th	Clapton	A	English Cup 4 Ql	1-6	Lodge
	27th	Boscombe	H	Friendly	0-0	Abandoned 10 mins - Referee ill
Dec	4th	Bournemouth Wand	A	Dorset & Dist	4-2	Hayward, Lodge, Maughan pen, Larcombe
	11th	Poole	A	" "	3-1	Lodge, Larcombe, Clarke
	18th	Longfleet St Mary	A	" "	2-0	Hayward 2
	27th	Longfleet St Mary	H	" "	9-1	Larcombe 5, Hayward 3, Cheney
Jan	1st	Poole	H	" "	4-1	Cheney 2, Larcombe 2
	8th	Portland	A	" "	1-1	Hayward
	15th	Minehead	A	Som Sen Cup 1	1-1	W Seymour
	22nd	Minehead	H	Replay	3-0	Hayward, Clarke, Larcombe
Feb	5th	Frome Town	H	Som Senior Lge	2-1	Larcombe, Cheney
	12th	Clevedon	A	Som Sen Cup 2	2-3	Larcombe, Lodge
	19th	Street	A	Som Senior Lge	0-4	
	24th	RGA Weymouth	H	Dorset & Dist	3-1	Hayward 2, Bowerman
	26th	Blandford	H	" "	4-0	Bowerman, Searley, Larcombe 2 (1pen)
Mar.	5th	Bradford-on-Avon	H	Som Senior Lge	4-0	Cheney 3, Bowerman
	12th	Boscombe	A	Dorset & Dist	2-2	Larcombe, W Seymour
	19th	Trowbridge Town	A	Som Senior Lge	1-1	Hayward
	26th	Branksome Gas	A	Dorset & Dist	1-2	Cheney
	29th	Boscombe	H	" "	1-0	Cheney
	31st	Wells City	H	Som Senior Lge	3-0	Pound 2, Yarham
April	2nd	Poole	A	Dorset & Dist	3-4	Hayward 2, Maughan
	9th	Trowbridge Town	H	Som Senior Lge	0-1	
	16th	Wells City	A	" "	0-1	
	21st	Frome Town	A	" "	2-4	Hicks, Larcombe
	23rd	Bournemouth Wand	H	Dorset & Dist	4-1	Hayward 3, Pryor
	28th	Portland	H	" "	4-1	Searley, Bowerman 3

forced to travel to London. Their opponents were Clapton, who played then as now, on the famous Old Spotted Dog Ground. Despite a healthy travelling contingent the Amateur Cup specialists crushed Town 6-1.

A week later the home crowd were to witness one of the more bizarre incidents in the history of the club during a league game with Boscombe FC. With both teams changed and lined up, referee George Battrick an experienced official and professional cricketer with Dorset, refused to start the game, complaining that the crowd had begun swearing at him. The game did commence but within ten minutes Mr Battrick walked from the field and went straight to the dressing rooms, complaining about the way he had been treated. The captains both attempted to persuade Mr Battrick to recommence the game but he would not, and faced with a tetchy crowd, the league match was abandoned and a friendly played in its place.



Tragically the story had a sad ending, as Mr Battrick was eventually arrested a couple of days later, having assaulted a policeman on duty and having been examined, was found not fit to plead, having suffered rambling mental aberrations. After a spell of fourteen days in an infirmary Mr Battrick was transferred to an asylum where he was certified insane.

Later the Dorset FA secretary interviewed both the captain and chairman of Yeovil Town, where the players and spectators alike were praised for their conduct.

Things soon returned to normal and the Dorset fixtures came thick and fast, although sadly Whiteheads conceded defeat in shame and disbanded. Bournemouth Wanderers, Poole and Longfleet St Mary were all beaten, the latter twice with Larcombe and Hayward scoring eight of the nine on Boxing Day. After beating Poole again the side were top, but they were forced to contend with Boscombe who had games in hand. Mid January saw the Dorset fixtures make way for Senior Cup and Senior League action, Minehead finally going down in a replay before Town lost on a pitch described as unfit for football, in the next round at Clevedon. Street outplayed Town at the Victoria Ground, not for the first time, but two Dorset League wins in three days and a draw with Boscombe saw them remain at the top. Branksome Gas won the away game at East Lake 2-1, but Easter brought Boscombe to Pen Mill and some 2,500 crammed in to see the Greens win 1-0 through a Cheney goal. Disappointingly after all the hard work, another administrative problem meant a replay of the Poole away game, and this time the Dorset side spoiled the title hopes by winning 4-3, despite Hayward's double. Hayward did the hat-trick again at home to Bournemouth Wanderers, but Boscombe took advantage of the slip ups and despite winning the last game with Portland, the runners up spot was the best which could be achieved.

Up the road Petters United took the Yeovil and District League and the Crewkerne Hospital Cup and began making noises towards the Senior League.

### Dorset & District League 1909-1910 Southern Section

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boscombe	15	13	1	1	57	16	27
Yeovil Town	16	10	4	2	39	18	24
Branksome Gas	16	8	3	5	44	25	19
Portland	16	7	1	8	33	49	15
Longfleet St Mary	16	5	6	5	28	35	14
Poole	16	6	1	9	35	41	13
RGA Weymouth	16	4	4	8	20	27	12
Bournemouth Wan	16	3	2	11	22	54	8
Blandford United	15	2	4	9	14	39	8

### Somerset Senior League 1909-1910

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Street	10	7	1	2	33	20	15
Frome Town	10	6	1	3	25	15	13
Trowbridge Town	10	5	3	2	31	18	13
Bradford-on-Avon	10	5	0	5	20	24	10
Yeovil Town	10	3	1	6	15	18	7
Wells City	10	1	0	9	7	36	2

### Appearances 1909-1910

H Cook 35, J Taylor, Bowerman 33, Peaty 32, Maughan, C Larcombe 30, H Seymour 29, C Clarke 28, J Hayward, H Harbour 27, Lodge 20, Hewlett 14, W Cheney 12, L Holwill 6, W Seymour 5, A Searley 4, Ricketts, C Giles, Turner 3, Pryor, Barnes, G Simms, F Hicks, B Searley 2, Weldon, Miles, Thorne, Ewens, Kibbey, Yarham, Pound, C Newton 1

### Goalscorers 1909-1910

J Hayward 22, C Larcombe 19, Cheney 10, Lodge 8, Maughan 7, Bowerman 3, Clarke, W Seymour, Pound 2, Barnes, Harbour, Searley, Yarham, og 1



Petters Football Club 1908-09.

## Season 1910-11

There were some 300 people at the first practice match at Pen Mill, and prospects for the new season were given as 'exceedingly rosy'. Once again the committee entered both the Somerset and Dorset Leagues, but with only eight fixtures from the former and eighteen from the latter, it was imperative that cup football enhanced the season. Instead of the Senior Cup, Town entered the Charity Cup, and in the league they would not have to contend with Boscombe, who had defected to the Hampshire League. At the ground the grandstand had been both extended and improved and with £45 left as a

### Season 1910-1911

Sept	3rd	Shaftesbury	H	Friendly	2-0	Taylor, Hayward pen
	10th	RGA Weymouth	H	Dorset & Dist	4-0	Taylor 2, Hayward 2
	17th	Bournemouth Wand	A	English Cup Prel	2-0	Young, Hayward
Oct	24th	Stoke-under-Ham	A	Som Char Cup 1	3-0	Hayward 2, Taylor
	1st	Poole	A	English Cup 1 Qf	0-4	
	8th	Somerset Light Inf	A	Dorset & Dist	0-3	
	15th	Blandford	H	" "	2-1	Hayward, Webb
	29th	Paulton Rovers	A	Som Charity Cup		
				Semi-final	2-2	Hayward, Taylor
				Som Senior Lge	0-3	
Nov	5th	Frome Town	A	Som Senior Lge	0-3	
	12th	Longfleet St Mary	A	Dorset & Dist	1-1	W Seymour
	19th	Dorchester Town	H	" "	1-3	Hayward
	26th	Paulton Rovers	H	Som Charity Cup		
				Semi-final Replay	3-0	R Larcombe, Webb, Clarke
				Som Senior Lge	3-0	Hayward, Webb 2
Dec	3rd	Somerset Light Inf	H	Dorset & Dist	3-0	Hayward, Webb 2
	10th	Bournemouth Wand	A	" "	1-1	Hayward
	17th	Dorset Regiment	H	Friendly	1-1	Pennell pen
	24th	Grenadier Guards	H	" "	2-3	
	26th	Portland	H	Dorset & Dist	4-1	Webb, Hayward 2, Bowerman
	27th	Exeter City	A	Friendly	2-4	Webb 2
	31st	Camerton		Somerset Charity Cup		
Jan		(at Frome Town FC)		Final	2-2	Pennell, Hayward
	14th	Longfleet St Mary	H	Dorset & Dist	4-2	Hayward 2, Pennell, Webb
	21st	Bournemouth Wand	H	" "	3-1	Hayward, Webb, Pennell
	28th	Blandford	A	" "	0-1	
	4th	Dorchester Town	A	" "	4-0	R Larcombe, Pennell, Hayward, W Seymour
Feb	11th	Camerton		Somerset Charity Cup		
		(at Frome Town FC)		Final Replay	1-2	R Larcombe
	18th	Street	H	Som Senior Lge	2-0	Peaty, H Seymour
	25th	Poole	A	Dorset & Dist	0-1	
	4th	Frome Town	H	Som Senior Lge	3-4	Maughan 2, H Seymour
	11th	RGA Weymouth	A	Dorset & Dist	2-2	Pennell, Hayward
	18th	Bradford-on-Avon	A	Som Senior Lge	6-0	Hayward 3, Pennell, Harbour, R Larcombe
Mar.	25th	1st Som Light Inf	H	Friendly	3-1	R Larcombe, Pennell, Hayward
	1st	Bradford-o-Avon	H	Som Senior Lge	6-1	Pennell 2, Hayward 3, Larcombe
	8th	Branksome Gas	A	Dorset & Dist	5-1	Hayward 3, Webb, Pennell
	15th	Portland	A	" "	1-0	R Larcombe
	17th	Poole	H	" "	3-0	R Larcombe, Pennell, Hayward
April	18th	Branksome Gas	H	" "	0-2	
	22nd	Trowbridge Town	H	Som Senior Lge	2-1	Hayward, Holwill
	27th	Trowbridge Town	A	" "	1-1	R Larcombe
	29th	Street	A	" "	0-2	
	also	Street	H	" "	2-0	

balance the matches began in earnest once more. Yeovil introduced two new wingers in Young and Webb and they helped the team to another good start, Johnny Hayward scoring in the first four games, including an English Cup win at Bournemouth Wanderers. The draw for the first round of the Somerset Charity Cup gave Yeovil an away tie at Stoke-Under-Ham. Over 1000 travelled by brake or on cycle, with hundreds more going by train to Montacute before walking two miles to the village. Hayward's double gave them a simple victory, but it was lost a week later when the same team gave a poor performance in the English Cup at Poole, losing 4-0.

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Before the replay with Paulton Rovers, club President EJ Farr gave the club a 10' by 5' flag for them to fly at all home games, a generous gesture and one which inspired the team to a 3-0 win.

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Playing in two leagues based in two divisions was not satisfactory, but they had coped and had finished third in Somerset and third in Dorset. There seemed little sign that a strong Somerset Senior League was about to take off, it being hampered by geography, its closeness to Bristol and the Western League, and so Yeovil Town were happy to carry on playing the bulk of their football on the south coast.

The main problem for all concerned was not related to where they played or how, it was the real threat from Petters United who were rumoured to have applied to the Somerset Senior League for the 1911-12 season, playing on their Victoria Road ground.

### Somerset Senior League 1910-1911

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Frome Town	8	6	1	1	18	9	13
Street	8	6	0	2	23	12	12
Yeovil Town	8	4	1	3	20	12	9
Trowbridge Town	8	1	2	5	17	13	4
Bradford-on-Avon	8	1	0	7	9	34	2

### Appearances 1910-1911

H Seymour 38, Maughan, W Webb 33, J Hayward 32, C Hewlett 30, J Taylor, W Seymour 29, H Harbour 27, S Bowerman 24, R Larcombe, W Pennell 22, Nicholls 18, Cook 15, Peaty 12, W Clarke 11, Young 9, Hicks 7, Searley 5, F Bailey, Cornelius, Barnes, Wise 3, Hurley, Patten 2, Ricketts, C Larcombe, Sweet, Johnson, Holwill, Glanville 1

### Goalscorers 1910-1911

J Hayward 31, Pennell 12, Webb 10, R Larcombe 9, J Taylor 5, W Seymour, H Seymour, Maughan 2, Young, Clarke, Bowerman, Peaty, H Harbour, Holwill 1

## Titanic disaster hits Yeovil...

After wins in both competitions Town went out of the English Cup quietly and with minimum fuss, at Frome Town on 30th September 1911. By then they had progressed in the Charity Cup at the expense of Stoke-under-Ham and with Johnny Hayward amongst the goals again they and Petters United were both ready for the first derby, in the next round. An enthralling battle was watched by over 1000 with Charlie Larcombe scoring the winner in the last minute. Three wins in Somerset matches followed, but a gap of three weeks before the Charity Cup semi-final was not an ideal preparation and in what was called a tame exhibition, Minehead went through to the final by the odd goal in three. Things seemed to get worse, as Yeovil travelled to Bournemouth Wanderers new ground at Dean Court and started the league game with only eight men, eventually losing 4-1. With Blandford going well it was a blow, as was the loss at RGA, but in Somerset there was better news as Town won at Frome, that club having been undefeated at home for several years. They went top and a pair from Hayward against Street kept them there and in Dorset wins over Poole and Bournemouth Wanderers in front of over 1000 again were enough to go top of that league too.

The success was without question a joint effort, as Harbour, Larcombe and Hayward were all inspired, and with the defence not having been breached from December to March, things could not get much better.

Trowbridge's unbeaten run went, courtesy of a 1-0 Yeovil win and with April came wins over Bradford-on-Avon, Branksome Gas and most importantly, Petters United, a crushing 4-0 win which gave Town the title against their newest foe. The double was still on, but having been fined two points earlier and then drawing with the RGA, Blandford took their chance. With Yeovil winning at Longfleet, Blandford would have to lose to bring about a tie, but they did enough and Town were runners up.

It was a stunning season, and one which was extended by a week to give clubs the chance to play benefit matches for the families of the victims of the Titanic disaster, tragically one of whom was Harry Spinner, a former player and local man who was travelling to Gloversville in America.

Once again the Borough was packed to acclaim the winners of the Somerset League and also to salute the reserves, who won the Yeovil and District League as well as the Yeovil Hospital Charity and Perry Street Charity Cups. With cups galore and the threat of Petters United behind them still, the committee set about organising their plans for the following August.

### Appearances 1911-1912

J Taylor 33, H Harbour 32, B Maughan 31, A Johnson 29, W Seymour, J Hayward 26, H Seymour 25, R Larcombe, W Sweet 24, C Larcombe 17, H Bowen, W Pennell 14, Harris 13, Nicholls 10, W Webb 8, Hewlett 7, Peaty 6, Glanville, Clarke 5, Young, Maidment 4, A Green, Banfield, T Taylor 3, Minterne, A Cornelius 2, Toogood, Garrett, Roach, Wise, Foyle, Ricketts 1

### Goalscorers 1911-1912

J Hayward 23, C Larcombe 13, R Larcombe 10, Pennell 9, B Maughan, H Seymour, W Webb 4, H Harbour 3, Harris 2, W Seymour, Young, Bowen, Johnson, T Taylor 1

### Dorset & District League 1911-1912

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blandford	16	11	2	3	32	15	23
Yeovil Town	16	10	2	4	37	17	20
Bournemouth Wan	16	10	0	6	30	24	20
RGA Weymouth	16	8	4	4	27	18	20
Branksome Gas	15	8	2	5	28	17	18
Portland	16	6	3	7	25	30	15
Longfleet St Mary	16	4	2	10	16	32	10
Poole	15	3	3	9	21	37	9
Dorchester Town	16	2	1	13	20	44	5

### Somerset Senior League 1911-1912

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil Town	12	9	2	1	28	8	20
Trowbridge Town	12	7	4	1	30	10	18
Street	12	7	2	3	31	18	16
Frome Town	12	5	2	5	23	28	12
Timsbury Ath	12	3	4	5	25	25	10
Bradford-on-Avon	12	2	0	10	15	38	4
Petters United	12	2	0	10	11	36	4

## Senior League expansion at last....

During the summer of 1912 the Somerset Senior League split into two divisions as five more clubs entered. Ironically Yeovil's division contained three sides from Wiltshire, but the competition was sufficient as with the Dorset League having been entered once again, and with reported gate money up by £10, there was little reason to change things drastically. The balance was over £100 which prompted the club to spruce up the stand once again and as a PR job, and possibly with one eye on recruiting for more trade, a local High Street jeweller Mr Clement White presented top scorer Johnny Hayward with a handsome medal in recognition of his achievements. The Dorset fixtures began well, although the game with Blandford kicked off two hours late with Town being delayed and with two wins and a draw leading up to the English Cup tie with Clevedon they were well pleased.

Over at Petters United, they had been refused entry to the Dorset League and had entered the Wiltshire League instead, and had moved across to a new enclosure at St Michaels Avenue, the old Brickyard Lane. Work had begun at once on a grandstand for the ground and it neared completion as the season got under way. At Pen Mill, Town were without Johnny Hayward but they delighted a huge crowd by beating Clevedon and then knocked Petters out of the Charity Cup in front a record crowd of 1500 which paid over £14 to see the match.

The English Cup run petered out at Street but league wins in both counties saw that October was a memorable month, all the more galling that it was all rubbed out by a 7-1 defeat at Weymouth, played without Hayward and Seymour, both on county duty. Revenge however was sweet for Town knocked Street out of the Charity Cup to advance to the final, Herb Seymour, Charlie Larcombe and Hayward doing the damage.

Yeovil Town players and supporters enjoyed December, as they saw wins over Frome and Bradford-on-Avon, the latter due to a double hat-trick from Hayward. The good form continued to Boxing Day, when Peasedown St John were the opponents at Frome for the Charity Cup final. Having gone 1-0 down inside four minutes from a penalty, Hayward clicked into gear and his strong running and ferocious shot pulled the game out, his hat-trick making it nine goals in seven days.

## Season 1910-11

There were some 300 people at the first practice match at Pen Mill, and prospects for the new season were given as 'exceedingly rosy'. Once again the committee entered both the Somerset and Dorset Leagues, but with only eight fixtures from the former and eighteen from the latter, it was imperative that cup football enhanced the season. Instead of the Senior Cup, Town entered the Charity Cup, and in the league they would not have to contend with Boscombe, who had defected to the Hampshire League. At the ground the grandstand had been both extended and improved and with £45 left as a

### Season 1910-1911

Sept	3rd	Shaftesbury	H	Friendly	2-0	Taylor, Hayward pen
	10th	RGA Weymouth	H	Dorset & Dist	4-0	Taylor 2, Hayward 2
	17th	Bournemouth Wand	A	English Cup Prel	2-0	Young, Hayward
	24th	Stoke-under-Ham	A	Som Char Cup 1	3-0	Hayward 2, Taylor
Oct	1st	Poole	A	English Cup 1 Q1	0-4	
	8th	Somerset Light Inf	A	Dorset & Dist	0-3	
	15th	Blandford	H	" "	2-1	Hayward, Webb
	29th	Paulton Rovers	A	Som Charity Cup		
				Semi-final	2-2	Hayward, Taylor
Nov	5th	Frome Town	A	Som Senior Lge	0-3	
	12th	Longfleet St Mary	A	Dorset & Dist	1-1	W Seymour
	19th	Dorchester Town	H	" "	1-3	Hayward
	26th	Paulton Rovers	H	Som Charity Cup		
				Semi-final Replay	3-0	R Larcombe, Webb, Clarke
Dec	3rd	Somerset Light Inf	H	Dorset & Dist	3-0	Hayward, Webb 2
	10th	Bournemouth Wand	A	" "	1-1	Hayward
	17th	Dorset Regiment	H	Friendly	1-1	Pennell pen
	24th	Grenadier Guards	H	" "	2-3	
	26th	Portland	H	Dorset & Dist	4-1	Webb, Hayward 2, Bowerman
	27th	Exeter City	A	Friendly	2-4	Webb 2
	31st	Camerton		Somerset Charity Cup		
		(at Frome Town FC)		Final	2-2	Pennell, Hayward
Jan	14th	Longfleet St Mary	H	Dorset & Dist	4-2	Hayward 2, Pennell, Webb
	21st	Bournemouth Wand	H	" "	3-1	Hayward, Webb, Pennell
	28th	Blandford	A	" "	0-1	
Feb	4th	Dorchester Town	A	" "	4-0	R Larcombe, Pennell, Hayward, W Seymour
	11th	Camerton		Somerset Charity Cup		
		(at Frome Town FC)		Final Replay	1-2	R Larcombe
	18th	Street	H	Som Senior Lge	2-0	Peaty, H Seymour
	25th	Poole	A	Dorset & Dist	0-1	
Mar.	4th	Frome Town	H	Som Senior Lge	3-4	Maughan 2, H Seymour
	11th	RGA Weymouth	A	Dorset & Dist	2-2	Pennell, Hayward
	18th	Bradford-on-Avon	A	Som Senior Lge	6-0	Hayward 3, Pennell, Harbour, R Larcombe
	25th	1st Som Light Inf	H	Friendly	3-1	R Larcombe, Pennell, Hayward
April	1st	Bradford-o-Avon	H	Som Senior Lge	6-1	Pennell 2, Hayward 3, Larcombe
	8th	Branksome Gas	A	Dorset & Dist	5-1	Hayward 3, Webb, Pennell
	15th	Portland	A	" "	1-0	R Larcombe
	17th	Poole	H	" "	3-0	R Larcombe, Pennell, Hayward
	18th	Branksome Gas	H	" "	0-2	
	22nd	Trowbridge Town	H	Som Senior Lge	2-1	Hayward, Holwill
	27th	Trowbridge Town	A	" "	1-1	R Larcombe
	29th	Street	A	" "	0-2	
	also	Street	H	" "	2-0	

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### Somerset Senior League 1910-1911

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Frome Town	8	6	1	1	18	9	13
Street	8	6	0	2	23	12	12
Yeovil Town	8	4	1	3	20	12	9
Trowbridge Town	8	1	2	5	17	13	4
Bradford-on-Avon	8	1	0	7	9	34	2

### Appearances 1910-1911

H Seymour 38, Maughan, W Webb 33, J Hayward 32, C Hewlett 30, J Taylor, W Seymour 29, H Harbour 27, S Bowerman 24, R Larcombe, W Pennell 22, Nicholls 18, Cook 15, Peaty 12, W Clarke 11, Young 9, Hicks 7, Searley 5, F Bailey, Cornelius, Barnes, Wise 3, Hurley, Patten 2, Ricketts, C Larcombe, Sweet, Johnson, Holwill, Glanville 1

### Goalscorers 1910-1911

J Hayward 31, Pennell 12, Webb 10, R Larcombe 9, J Taylor 5, W Seymour, H Seymour, Maughan 2, Young, Clarke, Bowerman, Peaty, H Harbour, Holwill 1

## Season 1911-1912

Sept	2nd	Camerton	H	Friendly	1-1	W Seymour pen
	9th	Blandford	A	Dorset & Dist	2-1	Hayward, og
	16th	Timsbury	H	Som Senior Lge	3-2	R Larcombe 2, Harris
	23rd	Stoke-Under-Ham	A	Som Char Cup 1	3-1	Hayward 2, Young
	30th	Frome Town	A	English Cup Prel	0-2	
Oct	7th	St Lukes College	H	Friendly	3-0	Hayward 3
	14th	Petters United	H	Som Char Cup 2	1-0	R Larcombe
	21st	Bradford-on-Avon	A	Som Senior Lge	2-1	Harris, Hayward
	28th	Timsbury	A	" "	2-2	Bowen, Maughan pen
Nov	4th	Portland	H	" "	3-0	Hayward 2, Maughan
	25th	Minehead	H	Som Charity Cup Semi-final	1-2	Maughan
Dec	2nd	Dorchester Town	H	Dorset & Dist	5-0	Webb, Maughan pen, R Larcombe 3
	9th	Bournemouth Wand	A	Dorset & Dist	1-4	Pennell
	16th	RGA Weymouth	A	" "	1-3	Pennell
	23rd	Trowbridge Town	H	Som Senior Lge	1-1	Pennell
	26th	2nd Scots Guards	H	Friendly	4-1	Webb 2, Pennell 2
Jan	6th	Frome Town	A	Som Senior Lge	3-0	C Larcombe, Pennell, Hayward
	13th	Blandford	H	Dorset & Dist	2-0	H Seymour pen, Hayward
	20th	Street	H	Som Senior Lge	2-0	Hayward 2
	27th	Portland	A	Dorset & Dist	0-0	
Feb	10th	Poole	H	" "	3-0	H Seymour, C Larcombe, Pennell
	17th	Bournemouth Wand	H	" "	4-0	Pennell, C Larcombe, Hayward 2
	24th	Frome Town	H	Som Senior Lge	3-0	Hayward, Johnson, Harbour
Mar.	2nd	Trowbridge Town	A	" "	1-0	Harbour
	9th	Dorchester Town	A	Dorset & Dist	2-1	C Larcombe 2
	16th	Branksome Gas	A	" "	1-1	C Larcombe
	23rd	Petters United	A	Som Senior Lge	2-0	T Taylor, Hayward
	30th	Longfleet St Mary	A	Dorset & Dist	1-1	H Seymour
April	6th	Bradford-on-Avon	H	Som Senior Lge	4-0	Hayward 2, Pennell, C Larcombe
	8th	Branksome Gas	H	Dorset & Dist	2-0	Hayward, R Larcombe
	9th	Petters United	H	Som Senior Lge	4-0	R Larcombe 2, C Larcombe, Hayward
	18th	RGA Weymouth	H	Dorset & Dist	3-3	Hayward 2, C Larcombe
	20th	Poole	A	" "	4-3	C Larcombe 3, H Seymour
	27th	Street	A	Som Senior Lge	1-2	Harbour
	30th	Longfleet St Mary	H	Dorset & Dist	3-0	Webb, C Larcombe, R Larcombe

Yet again the supporters formed a procession to see the players home, in torrents of rain which were cheerfully ignored.

With the cup tucked away once again the team went for the county double but yet again Branksome Gas were the sticking point as, in front of over 2,300 people at Pen Mill, they won 2-1 to go top. Poole were beaten 6-1 with six different scorers but in Somerset the game with Street saw both sides needing a win for the Division A title. A battle royal ensued but both had to concede as they finished 0-0, a rare result in the days of five man forward lines. Happily for Town they went to Petters two days later and won 4-0, thus clinching their part of the league, thus giving themselves the chance of taking the league trophy, should they beat the other champions Welton Rovers at the play-off match at Frome. Charlie Larcombe scored the winner which set off celebrations back at Pen Mill station. Detonators were laid on the line to welcome the team home they having stayed for tea at the Black Swan Hotel after the match.

*“Yet again the supporters formed a procession to see the players home, in torrents of rain which were cheerfully ignored.”*

With the reserves having an unprecedented season also, the club had never been at such a peak and the array of trophies at the dinner looked awesomely impressive. The Somerset Charity Cup was joined on the top table by the Somerset Senior League Cup, the Yeovil Hospital Charity Cup, Crewkerne Charity Cup, Perry Street Charity Cup, Yeovil and District League Cup and the Taunton Thursday League Cup.

The press began to talk of new challenges but finances were not sufficient at that time to risk a tilt at the Western League and with motor transport still in its infancy, trips to the likes of Cardiff, Weston-super-Mare, Barry and Bristol could not be entertained, at least not on a regular basis.

Somerset Senior League 1912-1913  
Section A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil Town	12	9	2	1	42	12	20
Street	12	7	2	3	31	13	16
Trowbridge Town	12	6	2	4	29	25	14
Petters United	12	5	2	5	19	28	12
Frome Town	12	4	2	6	25	25	10
Bradford-on-Avon	12	3	1	8	22	44	7
Warminster	12	2	1	9	20	41	5

## Dorset &amp; District League 1912-1913

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Branksome Gas	16	11	3	2	42	16	25
Weymouth	16	10	2	4	42	27	22
Yeovil Town	16	9	2	5	39	25	20
Bournemouth Wan	16	7	4	5	38	28	18
RGA Weymouth	16	5	4	7	22	30	14
Poole	16	6	2	8	35	41	14
Blandford	16	5	2	9	22	35	12
Longfleet St Mary	16	4	3	9	25	35	11
Dorchester Town	16	3	3	10	19	51	9

## Appearances 1912-1913

J Taylor, W Seymour 34, W Sweet 33, H Harbour 32, H Seymour 31, A Johnson 30, W Glanville, C Larcombe 28 J Hayward, H Bowen 26, B E Maughan 22, F Peaty 10, R Larcombe 9, Clarke 7, Maidment, T Wise, T Taylor 4, Hurley 3, Hurston, Davey, Ewens, Hann, Norris, Foyle, Sims 2, Lodge, Dean, E Ricketts, Luffman, Abbott, Webber 1

## Goalscorers 1912-1913

J Hayward 36, C Larcombe 18, Bowen 10, H Seymour 9, R Larcombe 7 Glanville 6, Clarke, Harbour 3, Johnson, Peaty, Maughan, Davey 1

With such success a few months earlier, it was inevitable that there would be some kind of backlash, but it did not come for some time, despite the absence of Herb Seymour and Charlie Larcombe due to injury.

They began season 1913-14 with an easy win over perennial strugglers Dorchester before engaging with St Austell in what was described as a 'rattling good game' in the Cup. The draw meant a midweek replay with a weak team but more



## Season 1912-1913

Sept	4th	Exeter City Res	A	Friendly	1-4	Glanville
	7th	Dorchester Town	H	Dorset & Dist	4-1	Clarke, Glanville, H Seymour, Johnson
	14th	Blandford	A	" "	3-0	C Larcombe 2, Glanville
	21st	Weymouth RGA	A	" "	0-0	
	28th	Clevedon	H	English Cup 1 Ql	2-0	C Larcombe, Clarke
Oct	5th	Petters United	A	Som Char Cup 1	2-0	Clarke, C Larcombe
	12th	Street	A	English Cup 2 Ql	0-2	
	19th	Warminster	A	Som Senior Lge	4-3	Bowen, R Larcombe, H Seymour pen, Hayward
	26th	Petters United	H	" "	5-0	Hayward 2, C Larcombe, Peaty, H Seymour
Nov	2nd	Blandford	H	Dorset & Dist	2-1	R Larcombe, Hayward
	9th	Weymouth	A	" "	1-7	R Larcombe
	23rd	Street	H	Som Charity Cup Semi-final	4-0	H Seymour, C Larcombe 2, Hayward
	30th	RGA Weymouth	H	Dorset & Dist	5-0	Bowen 3, Hayward, C Larcombe
Dec	7th	Bournemouth Wand	A	" "	3-5	H Seymour, C Larcombe 2
	14th	Frome Town	A	Som Senior Lge	3-2	Glanville 2, H Seymour pen
Dec	21st	Bradford-on-Avon	H	Dorset & Dist	7-0	Hayward 6 (1 pen), H Seymour pen
	28th	Peasedown St John (at Frome Town FC)		Som Charity Cup Final	3-1	Hayward 3
Jan	11th	Bradford-on-Avon	A	Som Senior Lge	3-0	Bowen 2, C Larcombe
	18th	Weymouth	H	Dorset & Dist	5-0	Bowen, Hayward 2 (1 pen), C Larcombe, Harbour
	25th	Street	A	Som Senior Lge	1-3	R Larcombe
Feb	1st	Trowbridge Town	H	" "	4-1	Hayward 3, C Larcombe
	8th	Portland	A	Dorset & Dist	1-3	Hayward
	15th	Warminster	H	Som Senior Lge	7-1	R Larcombe 3, Hayward, Maughan, C Larcombe, Harbour
	22nd	Dorchester Town	A	Dorset & Dist	1-2	Davey
Mar.	1st	Bournemouth Wand	H	" "	2-1	Hayward, Bowen
	8th	Branksome Gas	A	" "	0-0	
	22nd	Frome Town	H	Som Senior Lge	3-1	Bowen, Hayward 2
	24th	Branksome Gas	H	Dorset & Dist	1-2	Hayward
	25th	Trowbridge Town	A	Som Senior Lge	1-1	C Larcombe
	29th	Poole	H	Dorset & Dist	6-1	C Larcombe, W Seymour, Glanville, Harbour, H Seymour pen, Hayward
April	3rd	Street	H	Som Senior Lge	0-0	
	5th	Petters United	A	" "	4-0	Hayward 3, Bowen
	12th	Poole	A	Dorset & Dist	1-3	C Larcombe
	17th	Welton Rovers (at Frome Town FC)		Som Senior League Cup Final	1-0	C Larcombe
	19th	Longfleet St Mary	A	Dorset & Dist	3-1	H Seymour pen, Hayward 2
	30th	Longfleet St Mary	H	" "	5-1	Hayward 4, Glanville

importantly three days later at St Michaels Ave, Petters United were waiting for them in the Charity Cup. Glanville, Hayward and Larcombe secured the win in an intense game against a side which was believed to be every bit as strong as Town for the 1913 season.

Hayward's goals brought wins over Spencer Moulton and when he scored three more in the Charity Cup at home to

Stoke-under-Ham the season was set up to possibly eclipse the one before.

The Petters rivalry filtered down to the reserves, as the two battled out a 3-3 draw in the Yeovil Hospital Charity Cup on the day that Bournemouth Wanderers took the wind out of Town's sails.

The Gas Works were again top with seven wins from eight and another defeat, this time by the Fusiliers, was a blow. Four goals by Bowen against the RGA did not do enough to encourage the side, for they lost again at Weymouth which all but killed their chances.

In Somerset, Petters once again provided the opposition over Christmas, a 3-3 draw enthralling the 2000 plus crowd, but that was the best it got, as on and off the field Yeovil and the rest of football had reached 1914, the most catastrophic year in history. So many amateur players in Somerset had no idea that they were entering the last few months of their careers, and none would have known on January 3rd 1914 as Yeovil Town and Minehead contested the Charity Cup final on the ground of Holyrood Mill at Chard.

The biggest crowd ever for a football match in the town assembled to watch the top two in the Senior League battle for honours. Johnny Hayward's two penalties were not enough to retain the cup, indeed the crowd and some of the press were so disappointed that they begun calling for a shake up of the club and some new blood, a desperately poignant choice of words considering what was about to take off in Europe.

Petters United as ever were waiting in the wings and at St Michaels Ave they dished out Town's biggest defeat for years,



Walter Sweet and Jack Taylor with the Somerset Senior League trophy.



Somerset Senior League Champions 1913

<p>Wire-TRAC Mical are ywhere. Material Only.</p> <p>RESTAURANT, L. LEMENTS TWIS. ly Catered Notice.</p> <p>EST. Prices.</p> <p>VALE LES, EYOIL.</p> <p>or live at Proprietor.</p> <p>Silver and that</p> <p>le for is or</p> <p>VIL.</p> <p>'s</p>	<p><b>E. WILSON &amp; SONS.</b> Athletic Outfitters YEovil.</p> <p>Noted for Football Knikors &amp; Stockings.</p> <p>WEAR DUNN'S FAMOUS HATS.</p> <p>Sole Agent: <b>S. Gaylard,</b> 112, Middle St., YEovil.</p> <p>Next Week's Match: <b>YEovil RESERVES v. AXMINSTER</b></p> <p><b>GENERAL TAYLOR BROS., DRAPERS</b> Near The Triangle, YEovil.</p> <p>Bious . . . Specialists.</p> <p>Ladies' . . . Outfitters.</p> <p>THE ABBOT PRESS, VICARAGE STREET, YEovil.</p>	<p><b>LENNARD'S LIMITED,</b> PUBLIC-BENEFIT BOOT CO., 7, High Street, YEovil.</p> <p>NOTED FOR FINE FOOTWEAR.</p> <p><b>Football Boots</b> From 4/11 1/2 to 10/6.</p>	<p><b>HARTREE &amp; SON, General</b> 1, Middle Street, YEovil</p> <p>Specialists in BANKERS, FINEST SHIRTS, HOSIERY, AND FLANNELS Largest Assortment at Wholesale and Retail</p>
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The programme for the 4-1 home defeat of Trowbridge on 1st February 1913.

With the goals coming from Johnny Hayward, who scored his second hat-trick of the season, and Charlie Larcombe.

a 7-0 demolition which stunned everyone at Pen Mill. It also stunned the press, who rounded on the committee, suggesting that 'surely the Town club should do better than this.'

Sadly they couldn't, drawing with Minehead and losing to Street, a game played with little spirit and no skill. When only ten players journeyed to play Longfleet the season was all but dead, Petters having done what they threatened to do and taken the upper hand in the town.

A 6-1 win over the Fusiliers was little consolation as most of their side were in Malta and only old soldiers and young recruits were left to fulfill the fixtures.

Minehead eventually took the title when beating Yeovil 1-0 in March, but in Dorset Yeovil had a say in the final run in, beating Poole and then amazing all by beating the Gas Works side 5-0, thus giving the title to Weymouth.

### First talks of a merger

April 1914 was not half way through when the club announced that preliminary talks were being held between themselves and Petters United with regard to a merger. It was seen by some as a sudden departure from what had gone on before, and was almost certainly a panic measure as United had undoubtedly ruffled a few feathers in gaining ground so quickly. Town lent United Hayward, Day and Seymour for their game against Melksham in the Wiltshire League, and a 14-0 win ensued which doubtless displeased many in that part of the world, but it would prove irrelevant in the short term.

The final match of the season was against the RGA and sadly the last match that the club was to play in its guise as the first Yeovil Town was spoiled when the players pockets were rifled and £1 4/- was stolen. It was a sorry end to an anticlimactic season which saw Petters take runners up in front of third placed Town.

The rumours and suggestions of a merger had gathered pace, fuelled as early as January when after the 7-0 victory, the President of United, Mr EW Petter, had entertained both teams in the Town Hall. Supporters of both clubs crammed in along with committee men and players, with the top table decorated in the respective colours and a set of goal posts set up across it.

Petters reserves won both the District and Perry Street Leagues to increase the pressure on Town to seek a merger to preserve their position, and by May both committees had met, announcing that 'in all probability the two clubs will merge for next season', their decision being made public through the auspices of the County FA.

Yeovil Town held their annual dinner at the Borough Restaurant and most of the speeches were devoted to the merger. Petters were originally all in favour but as the weeks went by the general mood changed to one of suspicion, the chief worry being that it would mean longer journeys, as the new club would almost certainly be playing in the Western League. Two days later both sets of supporters met at separate venues, where Town voted for and Petters against, both with large majorities.

#### Dorset District League 1913-1914

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Weymouth	18	15	1	2	75	14	31
Branksome Gas	18	12	2	4	38	17	26
Yeovil Town	18	11	1	6	47	24	23
Longfleet St Mary	18	7	6	5	36	24	20
Poole Town	18	6	5	7	44	52	17
Bournemouth Wan*	18	9	2	7	44	34	16
RGA Weymouth	18	6	4	8	31	23	16
Royal Welsh Fus	18	7	1	10	50	51	15
Dorchester Town	18	3	1	14	14	90	7
Blandford	18	2	1	15	16	53	5

• 4 pts deducted

#### Somerset Senior League 1913-1914

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Minehead	8	5	2	1	14	8	12
Street	8	4	1	3	20	13	9
Yeovil Town	8	4	1	3	20	18	9
Petters United	8	3	2	3	26	19	8
Shepton Mallet	8	1	1	6	10	32	3

#### Appearance 1913-1914

J Taylor 33, E Gregory, W Seymour 32, F Peaty 30, F Day 28, R Bowen 27, H Harbour, J Hayward 26, W Glanville 24, B Maughan 20, W Curtis 14, H Seymour 13, R Larcombe 10, Davey, S Webb, E Boobyer 6, Hurley 4, Johnson, T Taylor, Cook, H Webb 3, Sims, W Stidson, Maidment 2, Foyle, Ewens, Hawke, Llewellyn, L Cook, W Penny 1

#### Goalscorers 1913-1914

J Hayward 30, R Larcombe 13, Bowen 6, Davey, Glanville 5, S Webb, F Peaty, W Seymour 4, Curtis, J Taylor, H Seymour 3, Maughan 2, Ewens, T Taylor 1

Town were still hopeful of joining the Western League, with or without United and the meeting, in the Victoria Hall, ended in favour. Conversely in the club Social Rooms the works side were adamantly against, but after the meeting the committee decided that the decision was not in accordance with the general wishes of the workforce, and convened

#### Season 1913-1914

Sept	6th	Dorchester Town	A	Dorset & Dist	6-0	Hayward 2, Curtis 2, R Larcombe 2
	13th	St Austell	H	English Cup Prel	1-1	Hayward
	17th	St Austell	A	Replay	0-2	
	20th	Petters United	A	Som Char Cup 1	3-2	Glanville, Hayward, R Larcombe
Oct	4th	Spencer Moulton	A	Som Senior Lge	5-3	Maughan, Hayward 2, R Larcombe 2
	11th	St Lukes College	H	Friendly	4-3	Taylor, R Larcombe 2, Ewens
	18th	Spencer Moulton	H	Som Senior Lge	8-0	Glanville 2, Hayward 4(1pen), R Larcombe 2
	25th	Stoke-under-Ham	H	Som Char Cup 2	5-1	Hayward 3, W Seymour, Bowen
Nov	15th	Blandford	H	Dorset & Dist	1-0	Hayward
	22nd	HMS Lion	H	Friendly	2-2	Curtis, T Taylor
	29th	Bournemouth Wand	A	Dorset & Dist	0-1	
Dec	6th	Royal Welsh Fus	H	" "	1-3	Hayward
	13th	RGA Weymouth	H	" "	4-1	Bowen 4
	20th	Weymouth	A	" "	1-2	Maughan
	26th	Street	H	Som Senior Lge	3-1	Hayward, R Larcombe, Peaty
	27th	Petters United	H	" "	3-3	R Larcombe 2, Peaty
Jan	3rd	Minehead (at Holyrood Mill FC)		Som Charity Cup Final	2-3	Hayward 2 pens
	10th	Petters United	A	Som Senior Lge	0-7	
	17th	Minehead	H	" "	0-0	
	24th	Street	A	" "	1-3	Glanville
	31st	Longfleet St Mary	A	Dorset & Dist	0-2	
Feb	7th	Weymouth	H	" "	0-2	
	14th	Royal Welsh Fus	A	" "	6-1	W Seymour 2, Hayward 3, Bowen
	21st	Dorchester Town	H	" "	6-2	Hayward 3, Davey 3
	28th	Poole	A	" "	2-4	Webb 2
Mar.	7th	Bournemouth Wand	H	" "	3-1	Hayward 2, Glanville
	14th	Blandford	A	" "	1-0	Davey
	21st	Minehead	A	Som Senior Lge	0-1	
	28th	Poole	H	Dorset & Dist	6-1	W Seymour, Hayward Webb, J Taylor, H Seymour
April	4th	Branksome Gas	A	" "	5-0	J Taylor, H Webb, Hayward, S Webb, Peaty
	11th	Longfleet St Mary	H	" "	2-2	R Larcombe, H Seymour
	13th	Branksome Gas	H	" "	2-1	Peaty, Hayward
	25th	RGA Weymouth	A	" "	2-1	H Seymour, Davey

another meeting for three days time. After a new vote those for the switch got their way as a vote on the shop floor of 199 to 11 was conclusive.

Seven days later both clubs met at Victoria Hall where the meeting was chaired by EJ Davis with Ernest Sercombe assisting. Over 60 attended to hear Mr Tavener propose the amalgamation which was carried 32-20. And so on Friday May 22nd 1914 a dawn broke over the footballing town of Yeovil. Yeovil and Petters United would play in the Western League if accepted, with teams in the Somerset and Dorset Leagues and would enter the English Cup, Challenge Cup and Charity Cup as well as having junior sides in the Shaftesbury, Perry St and Yeovil Leagues. With various junior and Charity Cups to aim for, the whole set up was to be split into two within the one larger club, each run by its own secretary.

With both clubs having originally entered the English Cup one of the draws was scratched and the clubs resolved to move



the year old grandstand down to Pen Mill, to be situated behind the goal at the Hotel end.

On June 23rd 1914 the club was accepted into the Western League, but the Dorset League would only allow the club's strongest side to join, and so on July 20th the first AGM was called in front of a large attendance. Season tickets were set at 4/- for the ground and 7/6 for the stand and the club colours were agreed at white shirts with black knickers, the Borough Arms to be shown on the breast.

It had been a hectic summer, but tragically the whole episode would become irrelevant as War clouds suddenly spread over Europe, the Austrian heir to the throne having been murdered at Sarajevo, capital of Bosnia. Austria threatened to retaliate on Serbia and soon with Russia and Germany involved and armies mobilising the threat of War could not be avoided.

Germany's declarations brought in Britain and, with men

joining up, the possibility of the new season beginning was remote. The County met to consider whether it was advisable to continue and when Mr EJ Davis was called up by the Territorials, Yeovil and Petters United FC cancelled their league appointments for that season. The Western League took a slightly more optimistic view and postponed all matches until Christmas but clubs were losing players and closing down and before long football was lost in serious form for some five blood soaked years. In fact the new club played just one game, on November 21st in front of a large crowd at Pen Mill, goals from Hayward 2, Webb 3, Gould and Seymour helped beat the 5th Battalion Somerset Light Infantry in a match played to raise funds to send tobacco to the Somerset Regiment abroad. That historic side was Knowles, H Seymour, Peaty, J Taylor, W Seymour, Sgt Gould, Rouse, Bowen, Hayward, Webb and Harbour.



Yeovil Town Football Club 1st XI Season 1912-1913. Cups: Somerset Senior League and Somerset Charity. Back row (left to right): G. Lewis, J. Taylor, W. Seymour (Vice-Captain), W. Sweet, A. Johnson, B. E. Maughan, A. R. Gould. Front row: W. J. Culliford (Hon. Treasurer), W. Glanville, H. Bowen, F. Hayward, E. J. Farr (President), E. J. Sercombe (Hon. Secretary), H. Seymour (Captain), C. Larcombe, H. Harbour, W. Tavener (Chairman).



## CHAPTER FOUR

# The war ends and a new era begins

### *Huish is born*

Along with every town and village in the country and almost every major sporting club, Yeovil lost several playing members, most tragically the Larcombe brothers, Charlie and Dicky, who were both killed in action in France. Also lost were S Bowerman and EJ Luffman, both prominent playing members before the War.

The Pen Mill ground had survived more or less intact, as had the grandstand and by the summer of 1919 Petters United had begun playing friendlies, beating RGA Weymouth 6-0 and an Exeter City XI 5-0 before some 2500 football starved supporters saw the Light Infantry play a friendly on May 3rd 1919

The matches were light hearted and served to raise funds as well as act as a means to reunite the players. Petters were apparently going it alone as plans were drawn up for the 1919 season, when football would recommence with sufficient able bodied men. Axminster FC were the first to start up, playing at their new home in Sector Lane, then as now, but the two Yeovil clubs were not to remain individual for long, as a joint meeting was held at the Town Hall to sanction another amalgamation and elect officers. Again Messrs Sercombe and Davis chaired it, along with Mr Guy Petter.

Earlier Town had approached Petters with the proposal which was accepted with some urgency, the clubs agreeing to retain their individuality but for the purposes of the merger they would be called Yeovil and Petters United FC for a minimum of three years, or more if so determined. There was to be a 40 member committee, consisting of twenty from each club with joint honorary secretaries. Four teams were suggested, two senior and two junior and there was a working capital of £30, with the two grandstands now at Pen Mill belonging to Town FC, the worth being estimated at £150. The motion was passed unanimously with Guy Petter becoming President.

The new club entered the Western League once again, along with the Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire Leagues. With matches in the English and Somerset Challenge Cups, the first season promised to be hectic in the extreme.

The two sides were interchangeable, with one playing Western and Dorset League fixtures, whilst the other played in both Wiltshire and Somerset Leagues and what proved to be a long season began with many players still waiting to be demobbed. Johnny Hayward was back in the squad and he was soon amongst the goals, although not in the F.A. Cup replay where Bath City triumphed at Pen Mill in front of 2000 fans. A newly formed club, Yeovil Disabled and Demobbed Soldiers and Sailors FC, took on the joint club in the Charity Cup and lost 4-0 which took them into the semi-final where they played

Minehead, a comfortable 4-1 win putting them into their first peace time final. Earlier peace was not on the menu during the Wiltshire League match at Pen Mill against Devizes Town as one of the Nutland brothers was sent off. The home crowd became incensed by the injustice as they believed the Devizes player equally guilty, and invaded the pitch insisting that he be sent off also. Fearing a backlash the player left the field of his own accord and the match continued, Yeovil losing 2-0.

The Charity Cup Final was held at West Clewes, home of Welton Rovers FC and was against Timsbury, the Division Two side. The players and many of the fans travelled to the match by char-a-banc and they went home reasonably content with a 1-1 draw, the recipients of the Charity being more pleased by the prospect of a replay. The various league matches passed off with little excitement, United settled into mid table in all of them, the main contention being the goalscoring of Johnny Hayward who netted four against Glastonbury a week before the Cup replay at Frome Town's Badgers Hill.

The clubs battled another 1-1 draw, this time after extra time and over 2000 people, some 600 having taken use of GWR's first football special since 1914, paid over £60 in gate money.

*“At Huish after feverish activity the first ever match was played with virtually no pomp or previous advertising”*

A fortnight later the two tried again, this time at Street FC and once again the game was level at 1-1 before Timsbury finally took the cup with two goals in extra time. The resources at the club had been stretched to the limit on that day, with three sides playing at the same time in Dorset, Somerset and Charity Cup action. Through February and March the fixtures came and went, the match with Wells St Cuthberts being in doubt when the motor lorry which was carrying the United side ran out of petrol. They eventually arrived and won 2-0. Johnny Hayward enjoyed a spree against the Tank Corps, scoring six in a 9-0 win and he netted four more against another forces side, the RGA in April. Ten days later his hat-trick was responsible for a 5-4 Western League victory over Peasedown. His season was rounded off with yet another treble, again against the Tank Corps, the last he was to score whilst the club were at Pen Mill.

Unbeknown to many, negotiations had been going on to vacate Pen Mill for the more central Huish field, owned by Bruttons Brewery. It was the beginning of the development of one of the most famous little grounds in the world.



**Known Appearances 1919-1920  
(Joint Senior Sides)**

S Abbott 35, E Gregory 34, W May, J Hayward 33, P Webb 32, B Garrett 31, P May 28, F Hicks 17, L Berkeley 16, J Taylor 15, B Stevens 14, H Brown, L Pilkington 13, A England 12, AR Hicks 11, Winzar 9, E Francis 7, Maidment 6, Vincent, Miller 4, R Nutland, H Francis, Buchanan, Blake, Ewens 3, Styles, W Creese, Beale, P Swetman 2, Rouse, W Sweet, W Day, A Francis, H Sutton, W Abbott, T Parkin 1

**Goalscorers 1919-1920**

J Hayward 52, L Pilkington 25, Beale 18, P Webb 15, P Nutland 12, A Hicks 10, B Garrett 7, F Hicks, W Day 6, Blake, Brown 4, Swetman, Creese, Winzar 3, R Nutland, Miller, S Abbott 2, Taylor, Stevens, W May, Ewens, L Hicks, A Pilkington 1, 4 og's

**Season 1919-1920**

Sept	6th	Glastonbury	A	Som Senior Lge	1-1	Nutland
	6th	Trowbridge Town	H	Western Lge 2	1-5	Webb
	13th	RAF Blandford	H	Friendly	4-0	W Day 3, Hayward
	13th	Frome Town	A	Wilts League	2-2	Swetman, L. Pilkington
	27th	Bath City	A	English Cup Prel	4-4	Winzar, Garrett, Hayward 2
	27th	Warminster	H	Wilts League	1-3	Nutland
Oct	2nd	Bath City	H	Eng Cup Pr Rep	1-2	Webb
	4th	Holt	A	Wilts League	3-1	P Nutland, L Pilkington pen, A Pilkington
	4th	Trowbridge Town	A	Western Lge 2	1-5	Hayward
	11th	Wells St Cuthberts	H	Som Senior Lge	5-1	Pilkington 4, Creese
	18th	Peasedown St John	A	" "	1-1	Taylor
	18th	Yeovil D&D S&S	H	Som Char Cup 2	4-0	Webb 2, Hayward 2
	25th	Frome Town	H	Western Lge 2	3-4	Hayward, Webb 2
	25th	Devizes Town	A	Wilts League	1-4	Nutland
Nov	1st	Street	A	Western Lge 2	1-4	Hayward pen
	1st	Tisbury Athletic	H	Som Senior Lge	0-4	
	8th	Poole St Marys	H	" "	2-1	Hayward 2
	15th	Weymouth	A	" "	3-0	Blake, Webb 2
	15th	Holt	H	Wilts League	7-0	Nutland 3, Swetman 2, 1 Pilkington 2
	22nd	Devizes Town	H	Som Senior Lge	0-2	
	22nd	Branksome Gas	A	Dorset & Dist	0-3	
	29th	Minehead	H	Som Charity Cup Semi-final	4-1	Webb 2, Hayward pen, Winzar
Dec	6th	Trowbridge Town	H	Wilts League	1-2	Pilkington
	6th	Glastonbury	H	Som Senior Lge	2-0	Hayward, Winzar
	13th	Spencer-Moulton	H	Wilts League	4-3	Brown, Pilkington 3
	20th	Paulton Rovers	A	Som Senior Lge	1-2	L Pilkington pen
	20th	Tisbury Athletic (at Welton Rovers FC)		Som Charity Cup Final	1-1	F Hicks
	25th	Yeovil D&D S&S	H	Friendly	7-1	Blake, L Pilkington 4 (1pen), Miller, og
	26th	Blandford	H	Dorset & Dist	3-1	Hayward 2, F Hicks
	27th	Blandford	A	" "	1-2	Hayward
	27th	Caine Town	H	Wilts League	3-1	Creese, Nutland, og
Jan	3rd	Street	H	Western Lge 2	7-2	F Hicks 4, Hayward 2, Garrett
	3rd	Spencer-Moulton	A	Wilts League	2-5	Blake, Nutland
	10th	Glastonbury	H	Western Lge 2	5-1	Hayward 4, Stevens
	10th	Swindon Victoria	A	Wilts League	0-6	
	17th	Tisbury Athletic (at Frome Town FC)		Som Charity Cup Final Replay	1-1	W May
	24th	Frome Town	A	Western Lge 2	3-3	Webb, Hayward 2
	24th	Swindon Victoria	H	Wilts League	1-2	L Pilkington pen
	31st	Paulton Rovers	H	Som Senior Lge	1-0	Blake

**Season 1919-1920 continued**

	31st	Dorchester Town	A	Dorset & Dist	0-2	
	31st	Tisbury Athletic (at Street FC)		Som Charity Cup Final 2nd Replay	1-3	Webb AET
Feb	7th	Dorchester Town	H	Dorset & Dist	5-1	Hayward 4, Ewens
	7th	Chippenham Town	A	Wilts League	0-0	
	14th	Paulton Rovers	A	Western Lge 2	3-0	L Pilkington 2, Garrett
	14th	Chippenham Town	H	Wilts League	4-1	P Nutland, R Nutland 2, Beale
	21st	RGA Weymouth	A	Dorset & Dist	2-1	L Pilkington, og
	21st	Peasedown St John	H	Som Senior Lge	4-1	P Nutland, Brown, Beale 2
	28th	Minehead	A	" "	0-1	
	28th	Weymouth	H	Dorset & Dist	2-2	Miller, L Pilkington pen
Mar.	6th	Street	A	Som Senior Lge	3-0	Beale 2, A Hicks
	6th	Branksome Gas	H	Dorset & Dist	1-2	Hayward
	13th	Tisbury Athletic	A	Western Lge 2	2-4	Abbott 2
	13th	Glastonbury	A	" "	5-0	Beale 4, Creese
	20th	Tisbury Athletic	H	" "	5-0	Hayward 2, og, Webb, A Hicks
	20th	Wells St Cuthberts	A	Som Senior Lge	2-0	Beale, Brown
	25th	Tank Corps	H	Dorset & Dist	9-0	Hayward 6, Garrett, AR Hicks 2
	27th	Paulton Rovers	H	Western Lge 2	1-1	L Pilkington
	27th	Warminster	A	Wilts League	3-3	W Day, Beale 2 (1 pen)
April	1st	Melksham Town	A	" "	3-3	Beale 2, L Pilkington
	2nd	Poole St Mary	A	Dorset & Dist	4-2	Pilkington 2 (1 pen), A Hicks 2
	3rd	Bournemouth Trams	H	" "	6-0	Webb, Pilkington, AR Hicks, Hayward 2, Garrett
	5th	Minehead	H	Som Senior Lge	0-1	
	5th	RGA Weymouth	H	Dorset & Dist	5-0	Hayward 4, L Pilkington
	10th	Peasedown St John	A	Western Lge 2	2-1	A Hicks
	10th	Street	H	Som Senior Lge	7-1	L Hicks, Brown, Beale 3, W Day 2
	15th	Peasedown St John	H	Western Lge 2	5-4	A Hicks, Hayward 3, Webb
	17th	Frome Town	H	Som Senior Lge	3-2	A Hicks 2, P Nutland
	17th	Bournemouth	H	Dorset & Dist	3-2	Hayward 3
	21st	Trowbridge Town	A	Wilts Lge	2-4	Garrett 2
	24th	Melksham Town	H	" "	3-1	R Nutland, Beale 2
	24th	Tank Corps	A	Dorset & Dist	3-3	Hayward 3
May	1st	Tisbury Athletic	A	Som Senior Lge	0-4	

**Western League Div 2, 1919-1920**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Frome Town	14	10	2	2	33	20	22
Trowbridge Town	14	8	2	4	36	18	18
Peasedown St John	14	8	2	4	22	14	18
Paulton Rovers	14	6	4	4	26	21	16
Yeovil & Petters U	14	7	2	5	41	34	16
Tisbury	14	4	1	9	19	32	9
Glastonbury	14	2	2	10	8	35	6

**Dorset League 1919-1920**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Branksome Gas	16	13	1	2	47	19	27
Bournemouth Trams	16	11	2	3	40	20	24
Weymouth	16	10	2	4	49	25	22
Blandford	16	8	5	3	33	21	21
Yeovil & Petters U	16	9	2	5	48	23	20
Tank Corps	16	5	1	10	20	43	11
Poole St Marys	16	3	3	10	26	51	9
RGA Weymouth	16	2	2	12	18	47	6
Dorchester Town	16	1	2	13	22	55	4

**Wiltshire League 1919-1920**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swindon Victoria	20	14	4	2	58	22	32
Trowbridge Town	20	12	6	2	46	19	30
Devizes Town	20	11	3	6	34	31	25
Chippenham Town	20	9	6	5	39	26	24
Warminster	20	8	4	8	51	50	20
Spencer Moulton	20	8	3	9	36	39	19
Yeovil & Petters U	20	7	5	8	45	46	19
Melksham Town	20	6	4	10	42	50	16
Frome Town	20	6	2	12	48	50	14
Calne Town	20	4	5	11	30	54	13
Holt	20	1	2	17	20	73	4

**Somerset Senior League 1919-20**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Timsbury Athletic	14	11	1	2	36	12	23
Peasedown St John	14	8	3	3	27	16	19
Minehead	14	8	2	4	38	19	18
Yeovil & Petters U	14	7	2	5	31	18	16
Paulton Rovers	14	7	2	5	36	29	16
Street	14	2	5	7	20	40	9
Glastonbury	14	2	3	9	19	36	7
Wells St Cuthberts	14	1	2	11	11	55	4

As football had more or less got back into its stride by the summer of 1920 and many clubs had regained strength through the able bodied men returning, the Western League was extended to include a number of Welsh clubs. Yeovil's man power and administrative skills had led the Western League to promote them to the top division, where they would meet the likes of Abertillery, Swansea Town, Pontypridd, Mid Rhondda and Barry. It would be a completely different proposition to previous seasons where a trip to Blandford could be fraught with danger. The Somerset Senior League was also recruiting, and was considering embracing professionalism, as were Yeovil themselves who realised that to expect men to lose money through travelling and having time off work, simply to play football, was unrealistic. The Senior League began with southern and northern divisions, only six clubs playing in Yeovil's section and so the continued Dorset League membership was imperative.

Whilst all that was going on the club had negotiated with Bruttons and had taken over the new ground, with preparations under way to lay it out into one off the best surfaces in the county. The main grandstand from Pen Mill was to come over to Huish and with all hands to the pumps the members began the long process to be in time for a September start.

The club AGM was full of optimism again, despite the previous season tailing off into mid-table obscurity and those gathered heard that the Somerset League had rejected professionalism, although the Western League had not, meaning that the club would field an amateur and pro side each week, using the Dorset League to supplement fixtures. However the club had withdrawn from the Wiltshire League.

Yeovil and Petters United Supporters Club was formed around the same time, principally to raise funds for the Western League side, as each game with travelling and three neutral officials would be costing upwards of £30 a match.

Pen Mill Athletic Ground was taken over by Yeovil Athletic FC and at Huish after feverish activity the first ever match was played with virtually no pomp or previous advertising on Saturday August 28th 1920, when Christchurch were beaten 5-0 in a Dorset League game which kicked off an hour late.



*Jack Taylor, pictured before the Great War, won many honours. He returned to play another season or so at Pen Mill.*

Interestingly the winners of the toss were described as kicking down the slope, rather than the pronounced sidewise slant that was to be the club's trademark. The team which played in that first game lined up Swetman, R Nutland, Belben, Crowder, Swetman, Evans, Pilkington, Day, Ewens, Webb, Crease.

With the bonus of the more central ground and the attraction of better quality opposition, Yeovil were within their rights to expect higher crowds as a payback for their investment, and they were not disappointed as over 3,500 flocked to Huish for the match with Bristol Rovers Reserves. That game was lost, as was the FA Cup tie with Frome, the national competition at last being addressed by its correct title. Johnny Hayward was still finding the net, as was Beale and his hard running performances were often the talk of the press, his hat-trick at Welton Rovers helping them to 7-3 victory. Crowds continued to arrive, another 3000 saw the friendly with the County XI and the same number witnessed an extraordinary game against Mid-Rhondda, where United had four goals disallowed for various offences. It soon became apparent that there was to be no title push in the club's first season, but it mattered little, with more emphasis going on balancing the books and getting used to the travelling. With the railway company often offering cheap excursions for

## Season 1920-1921 – Professional Side

Aug	20th	Bristol Rovers Res	A	Western Div 1	3-2	Pilkington 2, Beale
Sept	4th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	" "	0-2	
	11th	Frome Town	A	FA Cup Ex-Pr Rd	1-3	Abbott
	18th	Barry Res	H	Western Div 1	3-1	P Nutland, Hayward, Beale
	25th	HMS Valiant	H	Friendly	7-1	Hayward, P Nutland 3, Garrett, Beale 3
Oct	2nd	Abertillery Town	H	Western Div 1	3-1	Mortimer, Beale, Hayward
	9th	Boscombe	H	Friendly	3-1	Hayward 2, Beale
	16th	Bristol City Res	H	Western Div 1	1-2	Hayward
	23rd	Douglas	A	" "	0-4	
Nov	6th	Swansea Town Res	H	" "	2-0	Hayward, Pilkington
	13th	Welton Rovers	A	" "	7-3	Hayward 3, Mortimer 2, Pilkington, P Nutland
	20th	Somerset County X1	H	Friendly	1-1	Hayward
	27th	Pontypridd	A	Western Div 1	1-3	Hayward
Dec	4th	Mid-Rhondda	H	" "	1-1	Hayward
	11th	Exeter City Res	A	" "	0-2	
	18th	Ton Pentre	H	" "	2-0	Mortimer, Ewens
	27th	Abertillery Town	H	Friendly	3-0	Pilkington, Hayward
Jan	1st	Bristol City Res	A	Western Div 1	0-3	
	8th	Douglas	H	" "	4-0	Hayward 2, Abbott, Pilkington
	15th	Pill Athletic	H	Som Sen Cup 1	0-2	
	20th	Cardiff City Res	H	Western Div 1	2-1	Hayward 2
	22nd	Cardiff Corries	A	" "	2-1	Mortimer, England
	29th	Bath City	A	" "	0-1	
Feb	5th	Torquay Town	A	Friendly	4-1	Hayward 4
	12th	Welton Rovers	H	Western Div 1	1-3	Hayward
	19th	Bristol University	H	Friendly	3-0	Abbott, P May, Rice
	24th	Swansea Town Res	A	Western Div 1	1-1	P Nutland
	26th	Exeter City Res	H	" "	3-3	P Nutland, Hayward, Rice
Mar.	5th	Mid-Rhondda	A	" "	0-0	
	12th	Cardiff City Res	A	" "	0-1	
	14th	Barry Res	A	" "	4-2	Hayward 4
	19th	Abertillery Town	A	" "	0-3	
	26th	London Caledonian	H	Friendly	4-1	Hayward 2, R Nutland, Evans
	28th	Cardiff Corries	H	Western Div 1	1-1	P Nutland
April	2nd	Swindon Town Res	H	" "	2-1	Hayward 2
	9th	Bath City	H	" "	3-1	Hayward, Rice, R Nutland
	13th	Chard Town	A	Friendly	2-0	Hayward 2
	16th	Pontypridd	H	Western Div 1	4-0	Hayward 2, Ewens 2
	23rd	Swindon Town Res	A	" "	0-1	
	30th	Ton Pentre	A	" "	2-2	Hayward, R Nutland

players and supporters alike, the many Welsh trips were made less laborious and negated the use of the motor lorry, where men would arrange themselves in the back as best they could so as to avoid damaging their clothes. The crowds stayed with the club all season, despite a number of defeats, as the opposition often included players who had League experience and were working their way back in the reserves. The Easter card brought a visit from London Caledonians, the famous side from the capital, but Hayward, Nutland and company saw them off amid much excitement, which made up for a bleak period through March when, in a spell of three weeks, there were no home games as the senior side made four consecutive league visits to Wales, losing three and winning at Barry Res with Hayward claiming all four.

On Wednesday April 13th Yeovil and Petters United journeyed to Chard, to play in the new club's inaugural match, played not at their new Bonfire Close ground but at

## Season 1920-1921 – Amateur Side

Aug	28th	Christchurch	H	Dorset League	5-0	W Day 4, og
Sept	4th	Street	A	Som Sen League	1-1	Ewens
	11th	Tank Corps	H	Dorset League	2-0	Toogood, W Day
	18th	Yeovil Athletic	A	Som Char Cup 1	6-1	Berkeley, W Day, Swetman, Webb 3
Oct	2nd	Watchet	A	Som Sen League	1-0	R Nutland
	9th	Holyrood Mill	A	Chard Char Cup 1	0-1	
	16th	Minehead	A	Som Char. Cup 2	7-0	W. Day 7
	23rd	Inniskilling Fusiliers	H	Friendly	2-2	AR Hicks, Berkeley
	30th	Watchet	H	Som Sen League	3-1	Webb, W Day, Brown
Nov	13th	Portland United	H	Dorset League	2-0	W Day, A Hicks
	27th	Glastonbury	A	Som Charity Cup	0-4	Semi-final
Dec	4th	Dorchester Town	A	Dorset League	2-3	Beale, Webb
	11th	Weymouth	H	" "	3-1	R Nutland, Sparks, Webb
	18th	Glastonbury	A	Som Sen League	2-0	H Brown 2
	26th	Blandford	A	Dorset League	1-3	Beale
	27th	Blandford	H	" "	4-1	Beale 2, Abbott, R Nutland
Jan	1st	Street	H	Som Sen League	5-0	Brown 2, Creese, R Nutland 2
	22nd	Minehead	H	" "	2-1	R Nutland, og
Feb	5th	Bournemouth Tram	H	Dorset League	2-4	Brown, Sparks
	19th	Weymouth	A	" "	0-1	
Mar.	5th	Dorchester Town	H	" "	7-1	Toogood 4, Webb, Sparks, W Day
	12th	Blandford	H	Dorset League	2-1	Webb, Brown
	19th	Yeovil & Dist Lge	H	Friendly	3-1	Mortimer, Berkeley, Brown
	26th	Poole	A	Dorset League	2-4	Goal scorers not known
April	7th	Glastonbury	H	Som Sen League	5-0	Webb, Sparks, L Berkeley, G Berkeley, Creese
	9th	Portland United	A	Dorset League	2-2	L Pilkington, Brown
	16th	Christchurch	A	" "	0-3	
	18th	Minehead	A	Som Sen League	1-2	H Pilkington
	21st	Poole	H	Dorset League	2-2	Webb, Ewens
	23rd	Bournemouth Gas	H	" "	0-4	
	28th	Peasedown St John (at Frome Town FC)		Som Senior League Play-off	0-1	
	30th	Tank Corps	A	Som Senior League	2-0	W Day, Webb
May	2nd	Bournemouth Tram	A	Dorset League	1-4	Webb
	7th	Bournemouth Gas	A	" "	1-3	Webb

Holyrood Mill, where the largest ever crowd for a match in the town, over 2000, watched the spectacle.

The reserve's season was a little better, indeed they topped the Somerset Senior League Southern Division and also had some success in Dorset, Bill Day netting four in the ground opener and creating a record by claiming all seven in a 7-1 win over Minehead in the Charity Cup. Attendances for the amateur side's games were around half that of the pro side, but welcome all the same as very few Saturdays went by without a match of some kind at Huish, many regulars of course chose when possible to follow the club away. The winners of the northern section were the miners from Peasedown, and the play-off at Frome saw them take the cup with a hard earned 1-0 win which meant that there would be no trophies on the top table at the AGM.

Johnny Hayward's goals took him unofficially past the 300 barrier, taking into account all matches including his 23 appearances for the county, and it led to some quarters of the press wondering just how many goals Johnny would have accumulated had the Great War not taken six years out of his career.



This undated and uncaptioned photo is taken in the field close to the Pen Mill pitch. It is thought to be the Yeovil & Petters Amateur side which won the Somerset Senior Div. 1 South in 1921. Although the club had moved to Huish by then, the HQ was at Pen Mill Hotel, hence the photo.

Indeed he did not turn professional until he was in his thirties, the only real interest having been shown of him came from Exeter City, who gave him trials which did not work out well. It was to the advantage of the people of Yeovil, as Johnny continued to top the charts well into his thirties.

#### Known Appearances Western League Side 1920-1921

F Day 39, P May, S Abbott 38, W England, E Gregory 37, P Nutland 36, J Hayward 35, L Pilkington 34, G Potter 32, Mortimer 30, Rice 13, Ewens 12, Evans 11, R Nutland 9, Beale 8, Garrett 6, Brown 4, E Swetman, W Day 3, L Berkeley, Hicks, Creese, Belben, Sparks 2, Webb, W May 1

#### Goalscorers combined 1920-1921

J Hayward 38, W Day 17, Webb 13, Beale 11, R Nutland, Brown 9, P Nutland 8, L Pilkington 7, Mortimer 6, Ewens, Toogood 5, Abbott, Sparks, L Berkeley 4, Rice 3, Creese, A Hicks 2, Garrett, England, P May, Evans, E Swetman, G Berkeley 1, 2 og's

### The development of Huish.....

The healthy sized committee was hard at work during the summer to improve facilities at the new ground as there was increased clamour for Southern League football. It was believed that if the senior side were to continue travelling to Bristol, Wales and so on then the jump to Southern League and professional football was not that great. At that time the league was split into English and Welsh sections with trips to Gillingham, Norwich, Millwall, Watford and Brighton's Reserves and that would not change for a couple of years, so any decision was to be carefully thought out. The league also required grounds to have dressing rooms, which Huish at that time did not, and so another Western League season beckoned. The Southern League reverted again to one nine team division and the club also entered the Bristol Charity League with the reserves, ultimately the third side, playing in the Dorset Junior League, playing home matches on Westland Aerodrome.

Between the seasons Huish gained a further three turnstiles at the main entrance and was terraced at the top end and nearly along the whole length of the ground and the work was

completed in time for the visit of Cardiff Corinthians in August. The side which began the season as first choice was Gregory in goal, with F Day and W May as full backs, the half back trio of Abbott, England and Potter, with the Nutland brothers, Pilkington, Hayward and Webb as the forwards. The forward line gelled nicely in the FA Cup tie with Welton Rovers, Hayward's hat-trick followed a week later by another five in a Dorset League game at home to the previously strong Branksome Gasworks.

In the next round of the Cup, United were drawn away to Clutton Wanderers who were to have such a successful time in the Senior League, but the serious local unemployment and drop in trade after the War meant that the club was forced to switch the game to the Huish to make the most of the finances. Hayward and Webb sent the club through, pigeons were later released to send news of the result back to Clutton.

In the Second Preliminary round Yeovil travelled to Bristol to face Hanham Athletic but despite Johnny Hayward's double, they lost 3-2.

#### Somerset Senior League Southern Division 1920-1921

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil & Petters U	8	6	1	1	20	5	13
Minehead	8	3	3	2	14	12	9
Street	7	2	3	2	14	12	7
Watchet	8	2	2	4	8	11	6
Glastonbury	7	0	3	4	4	13	3

#### Dorset League 1920-1921

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bournemouth Gas	18	15	2	1	52	19	32
Weymouth Res	18	10	4	4	40	23	24
Bournemouth Trams	18	9	2	7	42	31	20
Portland United	18	7	5	6	55	27	19
Poole Town	18	7	5	6	31	27	19
Yeovil & Pett Utd	18	7	2	9	36	36	16
Christchurch	18	6	2	10	31	50	14
1st Batt Tank Corps	18	4	1	13	26	59	9
Dorchester Town	18	4	0	14	22	71	8

#### Western League 1920-1921

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol City Res	30	18	5	7	58	27	41
Cardiff City Res	30	20	1	9	64	42	41
Abertillery Town	30	16	7	7	61	35	39
Swansea Town Res	30	15	8	7	60	29	38
Douglas	30	15	8	7	52	32	38
Pontypridd	30	15	6	9	60	40	36
Yeovil & Petters U	30	13	6	11	52	46	32
Bath City	30	12	7	11	45	45	31
Swindon Town Res	30	12	6	12	62	50	30
Exeter City Res	30	10	9	11	48	53	29
Bristol Rovers Res	30	10	5	15	45	53	25
Ton Pentre	30	10	5	15	43	60	25
Welton Rovers	30	9	6	15	39	67	24
Mid Rhondda	30	8	6	16	23	57	22
Barry Res	30	6	5	19	33	72	17
Cardiff Corries	30	4	4	22	24	62	12

The eight team first division of the Western League produced less than half the fixtures it did a year before, having suffered from the mass exodus of the Welsh clubs to the Southern League, and the locals were beginning to stay away because of the drop in quality, but it did allow Yeovil to dominate the division as well as the Charity League and, as the new year arrived, they were second behind Weymouth in

Dorset and fifth in the Western League, but with matches in hand. To add to the tenseness the second string were third in the Somerset League behind Clutton and Chard Town. Johnny Hayward continued to flourish, scoring all four in the game at Horfield in February but Senior League hopes were dashed when losing 5-0 to champions elect Clutton Wanderers, a side made up entirely of local colliers.

At that time the joint honorary secretaries were forced to make a plea through the press for the unsportsmanlike comments to cease, which had been coming from the grandstand and directed at the reserve players who had been drafted in because of men making themselves unavailable. It all passed over and when Hayward notched yet another hat-trick against Horfield in the Western League the title suddenly appeared a possibility. Two more from him a week later against Cardiff Corries saw the club go top and a further win against Peasedown St John saw them two points clear and also saw the 50th goal of the season for Johnny Hayward, a feat marked by the passing of a lucky horseshoe by the Supporters Club.

Yeovil took the largely irrelevant three team Charity League and at the end of April a crowd of over 2500 saw them beat Torquay United Reserves to clinch the Western League title. It was a fine achievement, if a touch devalued by the exodus to the Southern League, but it was well timed as during the spring the committee released a statement which was greeted with much excitement..... "It is understood that officers and committee of Yeovil and Petters United Football Club have under consideration the advisability of making an application to the Southern League for membership. Everything depends on the response to the public appeal to put the club on a sound financial footing. There have been strong and insistent demands for better quality football at Yeovil, but the stumbling block is travelling expenses."



Yeovil & Petters United F.C. Winners of the Western League and the Bristol Charity Cup 1922.

Back Row (l to r): W. Culliford, D. Gould, F. Day, P. May, E. W. Gregory, Ted England, G. Lewis, F. Holland. Centre Row: W. Tavener, T. Wrench, K. Ley, R. Nutland, Johnny Hayward, L. Pilkington, W. Creese, E. Sercombe, W. Hitchcock. Front: Stan Abbott, Ben Potter.

It left the last few weeks for the public to digest the news and left Johnny Hayward to take his tally to an astonishing 60 goals from 36 appearances as Yeovil finished the season with a benefit match against runners up Trowbridge Town. The Western League and Bristol Charity Cup trophies were presented from a table in the grandstand as a black cat, the club's mascot sat alongside, bedecked in green and white ribbons.

The speeches called for hopes that many of the old clubs would return to the Western League and gold and illuminated medals were presented to the players. When the dust settled the club was forced to take stock of what was the single most important decision that they had been asked to make since either was formed in the last century. Southern

League football would mean endless travel and more improvements to Huish and would not be possible without substantial help from local benefactors and businessmen. Decision time would be in mid-May.

#### Western League Div 1, 1921-1922

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil & Petters U	14	10	2	2	26	9	22
Trowbridge Town	14	8	1	5	18	15	17
Welton Rovers	14	7	2	5	31	27	16
Cardiff Corinthians	14	7	1	6	30	22	15
Torquay Utd Res	14	6	2	6	25	17	14
Peasedown St John	14	5	3	6	21	19	13
Weymouth	14	5	1	8	15	25	11
Horfield United	14	1	2	11	10	42	4

#### Somerset Senior League 1921-1922

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Clutton Wanderers	16	12	1	3	35	6	25
Watchet	16	9	4	3	34	10	22
Newtons & Taunton	16	8	1	7	29	32	17
Minehead	16	7	3	6	21	22	17
Yeovil & Petters U	16	6	3	7	29	33	15
Wells City	16	5	3	8	20	31	13
Chard Town	16	5	3	8	21	22	13
Street	16	4	4	8	19	31	12
Glastonbury	16	3	4	9	12	33	10

#### Dorset League 1921-1922

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Weymouth	16	12	0	4	32	16	24
Portland United	16	8	2	6	40	25	18
Welton Rovers	16	8	2	6	39	27	18
Yeovil & Petters U	16	7	3	6	36	25	17
Westham	16	6	4	6	38	27	16
Blandford	16	7	2	7	32	41	16
Poole	16	6	3	7	22	26	15
Branksome Gas	16	6	3	7	28	33	15
Dorchester Town	16	2	1	13	23	76	5

#### Yeovil and District Junior League 1921-1922

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stoke-under-Ham	14	13	1	0	50	10	27
Yeo & Pett U Res	16	9	2	5	45	30	20
Shepton Beauchamp	15	8	2	5	29	25	18
South Petherton	16	7	3	6	36	30	17
Wincanton	15	7	2	6	43	29	16
Barwick & Stoford	16	7	2	7	28	23	16
Milborne Port	14	5	2	7	19	26	13
CSOB	15	3	1	11	19	43	7
Martock	15	0	3	12	15	68	3

#### Bristol Charity League 1921-1922

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil & Petters Utd	4	3	1	0	10	4	7
Welton Rovers	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
United	3	0	0	3	2	8	0

#### Senior Appearance 1921-1922

J Hayward 36, F Day, England 34, P May, Abbott, Potter 33, R Nutland 32, Gregory 31, Bruzas 24, L Pilkington 23, Lay 20, Webb 19, Blake 6, Berkeley, Treasure, Jones 5, Creese 3, Stidson, R Day, W Day 2, H Pilkington, J Pilkington, W May, Hann, Swetman, Sparks, Beale 1



### Total Goalscorers 1921-1922

J Hayward 50, R Nutland 12, Webb, G Berkeley 10, Beale, Ewens 9, Sparks 7, W Day 4, P Nutland 3, Berry, Swetman, Lay, Stidson, R Day Jones 2, England, L Pilkington, Pomeroy, Dunster, Blake, Bruzas, Abbott, Creese, og 1

## 1922 and the advent of professionalism...

By the end of May there had been promising progress. A hastily put together financial committee met with a number of prominent gentlemen of the town who were interested in the club's aspirations. A list of guarantees was drawn up which came to over £400 and as the Southern League insisted upon dressing rooms on the ground a public subscription was begun which soon yielded a further £60.

On May 30th 1922 came the news that the whole town had been waiting for; Yeovil and Petters United Football Club were elected to the Southern League, and with it came warm congratulations showered upon them by other Somerset clubs, all eager to join in the celebrations of what was an astonishing accomplishment in such a short time since the Great War.

It could not be denied that the standard in the Western League had fallen dramatically and if the club was strong and able enough to sustain it, then the move was the right one. The ground at Huish was improving fast and the dressing rooms, complete with baths, referee's room and separate home and away rooms were all but ready as the fixture list came out on June 2nd. 1922. It made awesome reading and brought home to all at Huish just what an expensive and difficult season lay ahead.

Amongst those to be visited were the reserve teams of Watford, Portsmouth, Coventry City, Southend United and Norwich City, although it was later to transpire that the opposition would radically change almost as soon as the Glovers joined the league.

At the all important AGM the assembled heard how the Easter matches were a financial success, bringing in nearly £250, a vital sum considering the expenditure to come. Almost inevitably the admission charges for first team games was raised to the dreaded 1/-, with 5d for boys and 2/- for the grandstand and 1/6d for the enclosure. As well as the Southern League the Western League was entered again, this time with one division of ten teams after the resignations. With the club now fully professional there was no shortage of players making themselves available as the trials commenced, but Johnny Hayward happily did not take any persuading to sign on once again. As well as the work on the dressing rooms there was also much levelling going on for the pitch, although the world's most famous slope was not catered for, it remaining for the entire life of Huish. At the end of July Yeovil finally bade farewell to the Somerset Senior League, at least for the time being, as they prepared to travel to all points in search of elusive points. They would do it with a number of new players – Killen, formerly with Llanelly and Belfast United, Jack Gallen from Chelsea, Wilding from Wolves, Money who was with Clydebank and Norwich City, Tommy Matthews from Ton Pentre and Wright who came back to the west country from Huddersfield Town. The retained pros were George Bruzas, Johnny Hayward, Stan Abbott, G Potter, Bill England, F Gregory, Fred Day and H May, with a list of amateurs backing them up. Huish had already grown to be able to accommodate 10,000, with 600 in the old stand from Pen Mill and 200 in the enclosure.

### Season 1921-1922

Aug	27th	Blandford	A	Dorset League	0-2	
	27th	Cardiff Corries	H	Western Div 1	2-2	P Nutland, England
Sept	1st	Ilminster	H	Friendly	7-1	W Day 4 (1pen), Webb, Berry, L Pilkington
	3rd	Street	A	Som Senior Lge	1-1	Berry
	3rd	HMS Gibraltar	H	Friendly	6-1	Hayward 4, Webb 2
	10th	Weymouth	A	Dorset League	0-2	
	10th	Welton Rovers	H	FA Cup Ex-Pr Rd	5-0	R Nutland 2, Hayward 3
	17th	Branksome Gas	H	Dorset League	7-2	R Nutland, Hayward 5, Webb
	24th	Glastonbury	A	Som Senior Lge	1-0	Pomeroy
	24th	Clutton Wanderers	H	FA Cup Prel Rd	2-0	Hayward, Webb
Oct	1st	Street	H	Som Senior Lge	3-1	Ewens 2, Dunster
	1st	Branksome Gas	A	Dorset League	1-0	R Nutland
	8th	Hanham Athletic	A	FA Cup 2nd Prel	2-3	Hayward 2
	8th	Portland United	H	Dorset League	2-2	Swetman 2
	15th	Horfield United	H	Bris Charity Lge	4-2	Hayward 3, Webb
	15th	Chard Town	A	Som Char Cup 2	1-2	Sparks
	22nd	Bristol University	H	Friendly	5-1	Webb 2, Hayward 2, P Nutland
	22nd	Portland United	A	Dorset League	0-2	
	29th	Minehead	H	Som Senior Lge	3-1	Ewens 2, Blake
Nov	5th	Thornycrofts Ath	H	Friendly	3-0	R Nutland, Lay, og
	5th	Dorchester Town	A	Dorset League	3-1	Sparks, Stidson, G Berkeley
	12th	Welton Rovers	H	Western Div 1	2-0	Webb, Hayward
	12th	Minehead	A	Som Senior Lge	1-2	Stidson
	19th	Plymouth Arg Res	H	Friendly	0-2	
	19th	Watchet	A	Som Senior Lge	0-5	
	26th	Trowbridge Town	H	Western Div 1	2-0	Webb, Hayward
Dec	3rd	Dorchester Town	H	Dorset League	4-3	Hayward 3, Sparks
	10th	Welton Rovers	A	Western Div 1	0-1	
	10th	Wells City	H	Som Senior Lge	0-3	
	17th	Welton Rovers	H	Bris Charity Lge	3-0	Hayward 3 (1pen)
	17th	Chard Town	A	Som Senior Lge	1-3	Sparks
	31st	Southampton Res	H	Friendly	3-2	R Nutland, Hayward 2
	31st	Poole	A	Dorset League	0-1	
Jan	7th	Trowbridge Town	A	Western Div 1	1-3	R Nutland
	7th	Blandford	H	Dorset League	2-1	Ewens 2
	14th	Newtons & Taunton	A	Som Senior Lge	3-3	Berkeley 2, Beale
	21st	Exeter City Res	A	Friendly	1-2	Hayward
	21st	Westham	H	Dorset League	4-1	Beale, Creese, R Nutland, Ewens
	28th	Horfield United	A	Bris Charity Lge	2-1	Hayward, R Nutland
	28th	Chard Town	H	Som Senior Lge	4-1	Sparks, Beale, Berkeley 2
Feb	4th	Weymouth	H	Western Div 1	2-1	Abbott, Hayward
	4th	Clutton Wanderers	A	Som Senior Lge	0-2	
	11th	Horfield United	A	Western Div 1	4-0	Hayward 4
	11th	Watchet	H	Som Senior Lge	2-2	Beale pen, Berkeley
	18th	Torquay United Res	A	Western Div 1	1-0	P Nutland
	18th	Clutton Wanderers	H	Som Senior Lge	0-5	
	25th	Bristol City Res	H	Friendly	0-2	
Mar.	4th	Horfield United	H	Western Div 1	4-2	Bruzas, Hayward 3 (1pen)
	4th	Welton Rovers	A	Dorset League	0-2	
	11th	Cardiff Corries	A	Western Div 1	2-0	Hayward 2
	11th	Weymouth	H	Dorset League	1-3	G Berkeley
	18th	Wells City	A	Som Senior Lge	0-1	
	18th	Bristol & Dist X1	H	Friendly	1-2	Jones
	25th	Bristol University	H	" "	3-4	Beale, R Day, Ewens
	25th	Welton Rovers	A	Bris Charity Lge	1-1	R Nutland
April	6th	Peasedown St John	H	Western Div 1	2-0	Jones, Hayward
	8th	Peasedown St John	A	" "	0-0	

**Season 1921-1922 continued**

April	8th	Newton & Taunton	H	Som Senior Lge	8-2	Beale 3, R Day, Ewens, Sparks 2 G Berkeley
	14th	Dulwich Hamlet	H	Friendly	1-5	R Nutland pen
	15th	Exeter City Res	H	" "	2-1	Hayward 2
	17th	Gt Eastern Railway	H	" "	2-1	Hayward, R Nutland
	22nd	Torquay Utd Res	H	Western Div 1	2-0	Hayward, Lay
	22nd	Glastonbury	H	Som Senior Lge	3-1	Beale, G Berkeley 2
	29th	Weymouth	A	Western Div 1	2-0	Hayward 2
	29th	Poole	H	Dorset League	1-1	Beale
May	6th	Trowbridge Town	H	Benefit	0-1	
also		Westham	A	Dorset League	4-4	Hayward 4

It was all set to be a memorable season, which if not managed properly and supported to the fullest, could prove disastrous. The public certainly responded, with wild applause all 3,300 of them greeted the players for the first game, against Coventry City Reserves. Although Yeovil made it through to the next round of the cup at the expense of Spencer-Moulton and Peasedown St John, the league form was missing and after losing to Boscombe they were already bottom of the league. One good piece of news was the opening of the dressing rooms before the Portsmouth game. At a cost of £400, they were timber on brick foundations and were the first the club had ever enjoyed on their home grounds. The cup run ended sadly at Welton Rovers, 2,000 packed into West Clewes, and it came not a moment too soon, as the team began to warm to the task, finally winning at Coventry City after the longest and most expensive trip the club had ever undertaken, costing upwards of £40. Leaving Yeovil at 7am they reached London at 10.30, travelling across to Euston for the 11.30 which got to Coventry at 1.45pm. Johnny Hayward's brace of goals made it all worthwhile.

Two days before Christmas Yeovil finally announced to the rest that they had arrived, coming back from 3-0 down at home to Southampton to win 4-3, Wright scoring all four. Unprecedented scenes followed as Yeovil's fanatical supporters acclaimed their heroes. The near farcically long trip to Norwich on Christmas Day not surprisingly ended in defeat, but travelling back together for the Boxing Day return, the players served up a 3-0 win in front of a huge 4,000 plus crowd. The heavy fixture list caught up with the players a couple of days later when Brighton and Hove Reserves hammered them 8-0, but that paled when Bristol City Reserves handed out a 10-2 thrashing at Ashton Gate in February. They stumbled on, trying to acclimatise, but the first season drifted away, closing with only Norwich, Exeter and Reading under them.

The reserve season was a different matter, finishing joint top of the Dorset League with Weymouth, only denied the title by having two points deducted for an infringement, and complementing that with a third place in the Western League, the highlights being a 14-0 win over Wimborne and an 11-0 victory over Dorchester Town.

**Known First Team Appearance 1922-1923**

J Gardner 41, D Wright 39, G Bruzas 37, W England 35, J Hayward 31, J Gallen 30, W Day 28, T Edwards, W May 27, Jones 22, Hayes 17, F Day 16, Potter 15, S Abbott 14, E Gregory 13, Corbett 10, Bell, J Vallis, Brown 9, T Matthews 6, L Hillier 5, J Money, Hann 4, Pilkington, Beale 3, E Swetman 2, Lay, Collins, Wilson, Kimpton, Muskett 1

**Known First Team Goalscorers 1922-1923**

D Wright 30, J Hayward 19, J Gardner 8, T Edwards 7, J Money, W England, G Kimpton 2, Hillier, Matthews, W Day, S Abbott, Potter 1

**Known Reserve Team Appearance 1922-1923**

T Matthews 36, E Swetman 33, Lay, Beale 32, F Day 28, B Gregory 26, Potter, W Nutland 25, Bell 24, S Abbott 22, W Day 19, Corbett 16, Pilkington, Hayes 15, P May 14, Jones 13, W Wilding 11, W England, D Wright, Muskett 10, J Gardner, Hayward 9, J Money 8, G Bruzas 6, Sparks, Berkeley 4, Hann, Wilson, W May, Collins, J Gallen 3, Exell, Henwood, Gillingham, Fisher, Payne 2, F May, Milligan, Prowse, Brown, Vallis, Pomeroy, H Seymour, Henning, Evans 1

**Known Reserve Team Goalscorers 1922-1923**

W Nutland 30, Beale 27, D Wright 25, Bell 13, J Hayward 11, J Lay 10, Pilkington 9, Matthews 7, Jones 4, Potter, J Money 3, Swetman, S Abbott 2, Collins, Fisher, P Nutland, Corbett, May, Muskett, Ewens, Exell 1, 4 og's

**First Team – Season 1922-1923**

Aug	26th	Coventry City Res	H	SL English Sect	0-2	
Sept	2nd	Southend Utd Res	H	" "	2-2	Money 2
	9th	Spencer-Moulton	A	FA Cup Ex-Pr Rd	3-1	Hayward, Wright 2
	13th	Reading Res	A	SL English Sect	1-2	Wright
	16th	Portsmouth Res	H	" "	1-2	Hayward
	23rd	Peasedown St John	A	FA Cup Prel Rd	5-2	Hayward 2, Wright 2, Hillier
	30th	Boscombe	A	SL English Sect	0-4	
Oct	7th	Calne & Harris Utd	H	FA Cup 1st Qual	8-1	Gardner, Hayward 3, Wright 4
	14th	Luton Town Res	A	SL English Sect	0-5	
	21st	Welton Rovers	A	FA Cup 2nd Qual	1-2	Wright
	28th	Watford Res	H	SL English Sect	0-1	
Nov	4th	Coventry City Res	A	" "	2-0	Hayward 2
	9th	Luton Town Res	H	" "	1-1	Hayward
	11th	Swindon Town Res	H	" "	1-3	Gardner pen
	18th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	" "	1-2	
	25th	Reading Res	H	" "	3-1	Hayward 2, Edwards
Dec	2nd	Guildford United	A	" "	1-6	Gardner pen
	9th	Plymouth Arg Res	H	" "	0-0	
	16th	Southampton Res	A	" "	0-4	
	18th	Millwall Res	A	" "	1-4	Hayward
	23rd	Southampton Res	H	" "	4-3	Wright 4
	25th	Norwich City Res	A	" "	2-5	Matthews, Edwards
	26th	Norwich City Res	H	" "	3-0	Hayward, England 2
	28th	Brighton AHA Res	A	" "	0-8	
Jan	3rd	Bath City	H	" "	3-1	Wright, Hayward, Gardner pen
	13th	Bristol Rovers	H	Friendly	0-2	
	20th	Guildford United	H	SL English Sect	2-3	Wright, Hayward
	27th	Bath City	A	" "	1-4	Wright
Feb	3rd	Bristol City Res	H	" "	2-1	Hayward, Wright
	10th	Bristol City Res	A	" "	2-10	Hayward, Wright
	17th	Bristol Suburban Lg	H	Friendly	3-3	Kimpton 2, Wright
	24th	Torquay United Res	A	SL English Sect	1-4	Edwards
Mar.	3rd	Torquay United Res	H	" "	4-3	Edwards 2, Gardner pen, Wright
	10th	Swindon Town Res	A	" "	1-1	Wright
	17th	Exeter City Res	H	" "	2-2	Day, Hayward
	21st	Watford Res	A	" "	0-4	
	24th	Exeter City Res	A	" "	3-0	Wright 2, Edwards
	30th	Southend Utd Res	A	" "	0-3	
April	3rd	Brighton AHA Res	H	" "	3-3	Wright pen, Gardner, Potter
	14th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	" "	3-0	Abbott, Edwards, Gardner
	21st	Bristol Rovers Res	A	" "	0-2	
	26th	Millwall Res	H	" "	4-1	Wright 3, Gardner
	28th	Portsmouth Res	A	" "	2-4	Wright 2
May	5th	Boscombe	H	" "	0-3	

### Southern League English Section 1922-1923

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol City Res	38	24	5	9	84	39	53
Boscombe	38	22	7	9	67	34	51
Portsmouth Res	38	23	3	12	93	51	49
Bristol Rovers Res	38	20	8	10	59	41	48
Plymouth Arg Res	38	20	7	11	74	41	47
Torquay United	38	18	8	12	63	38	44
Brighton AHA Res	38	20	3	15	95	60	43
Luton Town Res	38	16	11	11	67	56	43
Southend Utd Res	38	18	6	14	69	68	42
Southampton Res	38	18	5	15	65	54	41
Millwall Res	38	15	10	13	61	55	40
Coventry City Res	38	15	8	15	56	61	38
Guildford Utd Res	38	15	7	16	65	59	37
Swindon Town Res	38	13	6	19	54	73	32
Bath City	38	10	8	20	44	71	28
Watford Res	38	11	6	21	34	79	28
Yeovil & Petters Utd	38	10	6	22	56	104	26
Norwich City Res	38	9	7	22	42	68	25
Exeter City Res	38	10	5	23	43	81	25
Reading Res	38	7	6	25	43	95	20

### Western League 1922-1923

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Weymouth	16	10	2	4	35	14	22
Welton Rovers	16	9	2	5	27	14	20
Yeovil & Petters Utd	16	7	5	4	28	19	19
Trowbridge Town	16	6	6	4	14	22	18
Peasedown St John	16	5	5	6	20	22	15
Radstock Town	16	4	7	5	14	19	15
Hanham Athletic	16	5	3	8	18	31	13
Bath City	16	4	3	9	15	19	11
Cardiff Corinthians	16	3	5	8	14	25	11

### Bristol Charity League 1922-1923

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol Rov Res	14	12	0	2	46	13	24
Peasedown St John	14	8	1	5	24	13	17
Welton Rovers	14	6	3	5	25	21	15
Radstock Town	14	6	1	7	18	19	13
Hanham Athletic	14	6	1	7	16	26	13
Yeovil & Pett Utd	14	6	0	8	30	32	12
Trowbridge Town	14	5	0	9	21	41	10

### Dorset League Div 1 – 1922-1923

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil & P Utd Res	18	15	1	2	88	19	29*
Weymouth Res	18	14	1	3	71	20	29
Portland United	17	9	3	5	37	22	23
Bournemouth Gas	18	9	3	6	44	28	21
Poole Town	18	7	4	7	24	51	18
Westham	18	6	1	11	48	60	13
Chard Town	17	4	4	9	26	44	12
Blandford United	18	5	3	10	28	36	11*
Dorchester Town	18	3	3	12	24	78	9
Wimborne Town	18	3	3	12	16	59	7*

\*Points deducted

### Reserves – Season 1922-1923

Aug	26th	Welton Rovers	A	Bris Charity Lge	2-5	Beale, Pilkington
Sept	2nd	Portland United	A	Dorset League	3-1	Beale 2, Sweetman
	9th	Trowbridge Town	H	Western League	1-1	Beale
	16th	Weymouth	A	" "	1-7	Abbott
	20th	Wimborne Town	A	Dorset League	4-1	Beale 2, Wright 2
	23rd	Poole	A	" "	0-2	
	30th	Bristol University	H	Friendly	4-0	Lay 2, og, Collins
Oct	2nd	Bristol Rovers Res	A	Bris Charity Lge	3-6	Wright 2, Beale
	14th	Bristol Suburban Lg	H	Friendly	3-2	Beale, Bell, Fisher
	19th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	Bris Charity Lge	1-4	Hayward
	21st	Bath City Res	H	Western League	2-0	W Nutland, Matthews
	28th	Welton Rovers	A	" "	0-1	
Nov	4th	Wimborne Town	H	Dorset League	14-0	Nutland 5, Beale 4, Bell 3, Potter pen, Matthews
	11th	Bath City Res	A	Western League	1-1	W Nutland
	15th	Branksome Gas	A	Dorset League	2-2	Wright 2
	18th	Hanham Athletic	H	Bris Chairty Lge	6-0	Beale 3, Bell, W Nutland, Matthews
	25th	Radstock Town	A	Western League	2-2	Lay, o.g.
Dec	2nd	Peasedown St John	H	" "	3-1	Bell, Nutland, Lay
	16th	Street	H	Som Sen Cup 1	4-1	Beale, Nutland 2, Bell
	23rd	Radstock Town	A	Bris Charity Lge	1-2	Money
	25th	Chard Town	H	Dorset Lge	7-0	W. Nutland 2, Money 2, o.g., Hayward, P Nutland
	30th	Peasedown St John	H	Bris Chairty Lge	0-1	
Jan	3rd	Bristol St George	A	" "	1-5	Lay
	11th	Dorchester Town	A	Dorset Lge	8-0	Wright 4, Hayward 4
	13th	Blandford United	A	" "	5-2	Lay, Nutland, o.g., Matthews, Corbett
	20th	Trowbridge Town	A	Western League	4-0	Bell, Beale, Nutland, Lay
	27th	Cardiff Corries	H	" "	2-0	Beale 2
Feb	3rd	Hanham Athletic	H	" "	1-0	Beale
	10th	Trowbridge Topwn	H	Bris Chairty Lge	7-1	May pen, Potter, Beale, Bell, Pilkington 3
	17th	Weymouth	A	Dorset League	1-4	Nutland
	24th	Portland United	H	" "	7-0	Nutland 3, Lay 2, Potter, Sweetman
March	1st	Radstock Town	H	Bris Chairty Lge	3-2	Wright 2 (1pen), Beale
	3rd	Cardiff Corries	A	Western League	3-1	Matthews, Beale 2
	10th	Hanham Athletic	A	" "	7-0	Nutland 4, Matthews, Beale 2
	15th	Welton Rovers	H	Bris Charity Lge	1-0	Hayward
	17th	Westham	A	Dorset League	6-1	Beale, Nutland 2, Lay, Bell 2
	24th	Weymouth	H	Western League	0-1	
	30th	Poole	H	Dorset League	3-0	Pilkington 2, Nutland
	31st	Peasedown St John	A	Bris Charity Lge	1-0	Nutland
April	2nd	Hanham Athletic	A	" "	0-2	
	4th	Bristol St George	H	" "	2-1	Exell, Pilkington
April	5th	Branksome Gas	H	Dorset League	3-2	Jones, Bell, Abbott
	7th	Westham	H	" "	7-2	Wright 2, Nutland 3, Bell, Ewens
	12th	Dorchester Town	H	" "	11-0	Wright 7, Jones 3, Pilkington
	14th	Peasedown St John	A	Western League	0-3	
	19th	Weymouth	H	Dorset League	4-0	Wright 3, Muskett
	21st	Radstock Town	H	Western League	1-1	Hayward
	25th	Trowbridge Town	A	Bris Charity Lge	2-3	Wright, Matthews
	28th	Welton Rovers	H	Western League	0-0	
May	3rd	Blandford United	H	Dorset League	1-0	Hayward
	5th	Chard Town	A	" "	3-2	Hayward 2, Pilkington

## Excursions to the valleys...

The first term in the Southern League was undoubtedly a shock to the system, not only from a travelling and financial point of view but simply from the standpoint of being on or near the bottom of the league for such a long time. From playing on provincial grounds such as Blandford United, Clutton Wanderers and Chard Town with the odd excursion to Plymouth's Home Park, the same squad was now playing regularly at the likes of Fratton Park, Goldstone Ground, Elm Park and The Den. Scarcely had they settled in to the routine, when the league announced that for the 1923 season there would be Western and Eastern Sections, with the Welsh clubs such as Llanelly, Ebbw Vale and Pontypridd to negotiate.

No less than nine visits to the principality were in store, before any cup matches, and these would often be reached by boat train from Weston-Super-Mare. Once arrived, especially in the coal mining areas, the pitches would resemble a huge inky morass, with clouds of coal dust hanging overhead.

1923 was another significant year in the structure of the Club, it being agreed to form the Yeovil Football and Athletic Club Limited. It was laid down that the number of Directors should not exceed 14, of whom four should be nominated by the members of the Yeovil Town Football Club, four by members of Petters United, two by members of Yeovil & Petters United Football Supporter's Club and the remaining four by the shareholders. M.E.J. Farr was appointed the first Chairman of the Limited Company and 1000 £1 shares were issued.

The new company took over the lease of Huish from the football club, which had 21 years to run.

It was said that with the increase in the availability of motor transport, some 50,000 extra people were attracted to the town which improved local trading dramatically. It was a well timed and ultimately essential move which would be just the start of the most remarkable season that the club had to that date.

Prior to the big kick-off manager Jack Gregory signed John Thompson, a centre-half from Harlesden Town with both Tommy Edwards and George Bruzas turning pro. The first team were in the Southern League Western Section, with the reserves in both the Western and Dorset Leagues. There would be no third team, which resigned from the Perry Street League mid way through the previous season.

It all began on Aug 25th 1923 with a visit from the second string of Bristol City in front of what was described as a record crowd, who roared their delight whenever the Glovers threatened to score. Sadly Freddy Watts' goal was not enough to prevent a 2-1 defeat but it was avenged a week later at Ashton Gate as the new forward line got into top gear, veteran Johnny Hayward still performing miracles up front, although often he was used as an outside left, his crosses causing the best defences much trouble. The same three, Gregory, Watts and Hayward all found the net against Exeter City Reserves before the visit of Llanelly, complete with two ex-Internationals. Yeovil's crowd excelled themselves, as according to reports, "the roar from those standing and shouting themselves hoarse in the grandstand filled the sky." What was no more than a pipedream had all of a sudden, under the leadership of Jack Gregory, become a possibility, although a distant one with endless trips to foreign climes and the awesomely bad weather to contend with.

The FA Cup win over Frome had brought Westbury United to Huish, and they soon wished they hadn't bothered as Johnny Hayward led the way to a 12-1 romp with a double hat-trick. Having beaten Bridgend Town the next round saw them face Welton Rovers, old adversaries, who fought hard but were also beaten.

### First Team – Season 1923-1924

Aug	25th	Bristol City Res	H	Southern Lge W	1-2	Watts
Sept	1st	Bristol City Res	A	" "	4-1	Hayward, Watts 2 (1 pen), Gregory
	8th	Charlton Ath Res	H	Friendly	3-2	Hayward 2, H Pidgeon
	15th	Exeter City Res	A	Southern Lge W	3-1	Gregory, Hayward, Watts pen
	22nd	Frome Town	H	FA Cup Prel Rd	2-0	H Pidgeon 2
	29th	Llanelly	H	Southern Lge W	2-0	Hayward 2
Oct	6th	Westbury United	H	FA Cup 1st Q	12-1	Hayward 6, H Pidgeon 2, Warren 3, Abbott, Gardner
	13th	Bridgend Town	A	Southern Lge W	4-1	Thompson, H Pidgeon 2, Gregory
	20th	Welton Rovers	A	FA Cup 2nd Qual	2-1	Thompson, Gardner
	27th	Exeter City Res	H	Southern Lge W	1-0	Warren
Nov	3rd	Torquay United	H	FA Cup 3rd Qual	1-1	Warren
	7th	Torquay United	A	Replay	1-2	Hayward
	10th	Ebbw Vale	H	Southern Lge W	2-1	Hayward, Warren
	17th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	" "	2-1	Watts, og
	24th	Plymouth Arg Res	H	" "	3-1	Gregory, Hayward, Gardner
Dec	1st	Bath City	A	Friendly	7-1	Warren 2, H Pidgeon 3, Hayward 2
	8th	Aberaman Athletic	A	Southern Lge W	3-0	Gregory, Warren 2
	10th	Llanelly	A	" "	1-0	Hayward
	15th	Weymouth	H	" "	2-0	Warren, Hayward
	22nd	Bridgend Town	H	" "	2-0	H Pidgeon, Hayward
	25th	Bristol Rovers Res	A	" "	3-2	Edwards, Warren, H Pidgeon
	26th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	" "	3-3	Hayward 2, Gregory
	29th	Cardiff City Res	A	" "	2-3	Hayward, Edwards
Jan	5th	Barry	H	" "	3-0	Hayward 2, Radford
	12th	Aberaman Athletic	H	" "	2-0	Hayward, og
	19th	Barry	A	" "	2-0	Edwards, H Pidgeon
	26th	Weymouth	A	" "	2-3	Abbott, Hayward
Feb	2nd	Swindon Town Res	H	" "	0-0	
	9th	Swindon Town Res	A	" "	1-0	H Pidgeon
	16th	Newport Co Res	H	" "	4-0	Hayward 3, H Pidgeon
	23rd	Torquay United	H	" "	3-2	H Pidgeon 2, Radford
Mar	1st	Pontypridd	A	" "	0-2	
	8th	Newport Co Res	A	" "	1-0	Abbott
	15th	Cardiff City Res	H	" "	2-1	H Pidgeon, Gardner
	19th	Weymouth	A	Weym Hos Cup	2-1	Thompson, Gardner
	22nd	Bristol City Res	H	Guarantee match	4-2	Thompson 2 pens, Hayward 2
	29th	Swansea Town Res	A	Southern Lge W	0-3	
April	5th	Swansea Town Res	H	" "	5-1	Bruzas, Gardner 2, Gregory, Edwards
	7th	Street	A	Friendly	5-1	Warren 2, H Pidgeon, Gardner, Hayward
	12th	Pontypridd	H	Southern Lge W	0-1	
	18th	Bath City	A	" "	2-0	H Pidgeon, Abbott
	21st	Bath City	H	" "	2-0	Hayward, Warren
	22nd	Dulwich Hamlet	H	Friendly	3-1	H Pidgeon 2, Hayward
	26th	Ebbw Vale	A	Southern Lge W	4-1	Warren, H Pidgeon 2, Gardner
	30th	Torquay United	A	" "	0-0	
May	3rd	Coventry City	H	Friendly	3-0	H Pidgeon, Hayward 2

Reserve Team – Season 1923-1924						
Sept	1st	Poole	H	Dorset Lge	4-1	Nutland, Hutchings 2 (1pen), Bell
	8th	Weymouth Res	A	" "	0-1	
	11th	Weymouth Res	A	1922-23 Dorset Championship Decider	3-2	Hayward 2 (1pen), Gardner
	15th	Lovells Athletic	H	Western Lge	0-3	
	20th	Branksome Gas	H	Dorset Lge	0-1	
	22nd	Wimborne Town	A	" "	4-4	Bell 2, W Nutland, Russell
	29th	Poole	A	" "	2-4	Bell, Hutchings
Oct	13th	Poole	H	Western Lge	3-2	Russell, Lay, og
	20th	Paulton Rovers	H	" "	2-3	Lay, Hutchings
Nov	3rd	Blandford United	A	Dorset Lge	2-3	Lay, Edwards
	10th	Cardiff Corinthians	A	Western Lge	0-1	
	17th	Minehead	H	" "	3-2	Radford, Bell, Hutchings
	24th	Westham	A	Dorset Lge	4-0	Hutchings, Radford, Lay, Gallon
Dec	1st	Peasedown St John	H	Western Lge	1-1	Radford
	8th	HMS Valiant	H	Friendly	2-1	Radford, Scott
	15th	Glastonbury	A	Som Sen Cup 1	4-3	Bell, Russell, Radford, Hutchings
	22nd	Branksome Gas	A	Dorset Lge	3-2	Radford 3
	29th	Dorchester Town	H	" "	7-2	Radford 2, Lay 2, Muskett 2, J Pidgoen
Jan	12th	Street	A	Som Sen Cup 2	1-2	Hutchings
	19th	Trowbridge Town	H	Western Lge	4-1	Radford 2, Lay, Hutchings
	26th	Weymouth Res	H	" "	3-0	Radford 2, Edwards
Feb	2nd	Portland United	A	Dorset Lge	1-1	H Pidgoen
	9th	Wimborne Town	H	" "	5-0	Bell, Russell, Gregory, Lay, Hutchings
	23rd	Lovells Athletic	A	Western Lge	0-4	
Mar	1st	Portland United	H	Dorset Lge	1-2	Bell
	8th	HMS Tiger	H	Friendly	8-1	og, Canvin, Radford 4, Hutchings, Hockey
	13th	Weymouth Res	H	Dorset Lge	1-1	Radford
	15th	Peasedown St John	A	Western Lge	1-2	Radford
	22nd	Poole	A	" "	1-5	Bell
	29th	Radstock Town	H	" "	2-1	Radford, Russell
April	5th	Radstock Town	A	" "	0-6	
	9th	Weymouth Res	A	" "	0-4	
	12th	Bath City Res	A	" "	1-0	Swetman
	18th	Bath City Res	H	" "	1-2	Swetman
	19th	Dorchester Town	A	Dorset Lge	2-2	Radford, Thompson
	22nd	Cardiff Corinthians	H	Western Lge	6-0	Gregory 2, Bell, Radford, Thompson 2
	24th	Blandford United	H	Dorset Lge	5-1	Radford 2, Swetman, Thompson, B Gregory
	26th	Paulton Rovers	A	Western Lge	2-2	Thompson 2
May	3rd	Trowbridge Town	A	" "	4-2	Radford 3, B Gregory

The string of league wins had taken the team to the top of the table which had deflected some of the excitement away from the FA Cup, which, although generating much excitement, especially after the first Wembley final, did not cause the pandemonium it was to be known for in later years.

3,000 saw Torquay United, then also a Southern League club, draw 1-1 before the Glovers finally went down in a mid-week replay at Plainmoor.

With no League Cups, Charity or County Cups to contend with, from November onwards it was league matches all the way for the rapidly growing support, the programme for the two sides arranged to more or less guarantee football at the ground every week from August to May. Small wonder that pitches soon resembled paddy fields whenever the rains came.

**THE YEOVIL FOOTBALL & ATHLETIC CLUB LIMITED.**

Registered Offices:—THE YEOVIL ATHLETIC GROUND, HUISH, YEOVIL.

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS.**

To be submitted at the Statutory General Meeting of the Company pursuant to Sec. 65 of the Companies' (Consolidation) Act 1908.

The Directors beg to present the following report to the Shareholders:—

1—The total number of Shares of £1 each allotted is 1,600 (Ordinary). The 1,600 Shares have been allotted wholly for Cash.

2—The total amount of cash received by the Company in respect of the 1,600 Shares is £1,558 15s. 0d.

3—The Receipts and Payments to the 12th September, 1923, are as follows:—

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
In respect of 1,600 Shares	1,558 15 0	Liabilities due 5th May, 1923	1,345 6 11
Cash in hand 5th May, 1923	7 2 0	Sundry payments to 12th Sept., 1923, on Trading Account	758 13 5
Sundry Debtors 5th May, 1923	52 2 0	Balance of Cash at Bank	552 10 6
Sundry receipts to 12th Sept., 1923, on Trading Account	933 11 10		
	<b>£2,561 10 10</b>		<b>£2,561 10 10</b>

4—The following is an account of the Preliminary Expenses of the Company:—

Registration Duty Fees, Legal Expenses, Printing, Advertising and Sundries	£120 10 10
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5—The following are the names, addresses and descriptions of the Directors, Auditors and Secretary of the Company:—

**DIRECTORS:**

ERNEST J. FARR, J.P., 45, Hendford Hill, Yeovil, Merchant.  
 WALTER STANLEY JOHNSON, Kyber Lodge, Hendford Hill, Yeovil, Glove Manufacturer.  
 WILLIAM JAMES DAVIS, 28, The Park, Yeovil, Director of Aspin & Barrow, & Co., Ltd.  
 RICHARD VICTOR BOWMAN, 27, Middle Street, Yeovil, Fish and Ice Merchant.  
 WILLIAM JAMES CULFORD, 81, Crofton Park, Yeovil, Glove Manufacturer's Foreman.  
 EDWIN DUNCAN WILSON, 12, 14, Peter Street, Yeovil, Clerk.  
 WALTER HENRY CLAYTON, J.P., 12, Wyndham Street, Yeovil, Glover.  
 JOHN FRED WYLLIAR, 18, Cambridge Grove, Yeovil, Clerk.  
 ALFRED JAMES BARTLEY, Trowbridge, Walsland Road, Yeovil, Sales Manager.  
 WILLIAM HENRY EASTMAN, 60, Skilton Road, Yeovil, Engineer.  
 EDWARD HITCHCOCK, 83, Crofton Park, Yeovil, Accountant.  
 EDWIN DUNCAN WILSON, Brightcliffe, Goldcroft, Yeovil, Engineer.  
 ALBERT EDWIN SHERRETT, 4, Vicarage Street, Yeovil, Company Secretary.  
 JOHN WILLIAM TRANK, 49, Vicarage Street, Yeovil, Mineral Water Manufacturer.

**AUDITORS:**

CHALMERS, WADE & CO., Bank Chambers, Yeovil, Chartered Accountants.

**SECRETARY:**

ERNEST JAMES RENOCOUR, 10, Crofton Park, Yeovil, Printer's Manager.

We hereby certify that this Report is correct.

ERNEST J. FARR, }  
 EDWIN P. WILNCH, } Directors.

We hereby certify that so much of this Report as relates to the Shares allotted by the Company and to the cash received in respect of such shares, and to the receipts and payments of the Company on Capital Account is correct.

CHALMERS, WADE & Co., Auditors.

Dated this 18th September, 1923.

**THE YEOVIL FOOTBALL AND ATHLETIC CLUB LIMITED.**

The Yeovil Athletic Ground, Huiush, Yeovil,  
 18th September, 1923.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the provisions of the Companies' Acts 1908-1917, the Statutory Meeting of the Yeovil Football and Athletic Club Limited will be held at the Oddfellows' Hall, Earle Street, Yeovil, on Wednesday, the 26th day of September, 1923, at eight o'clock in the evening, for the purpose following, namely:—

- To receive and pass such Resolution as may be thought fit for the adoption of "the Statutory Report" which accompanies this Notice.
- To receive List of Shareholders.
- To hear and discuss any matter relating to the formation of the Company and its undertaking or arising out of the Statutory Report.
- General Business.

ERNEST J. SERCOMBE,  
 Secretary.

NOTE.—Shareholders may exchange their Allotment Letters and Receipts for Share Certificates at this Meeting.





Yeovil & Petters United F.C. (season 1923-24) with the Southern League Western Section Trophy.

The seniors did the double over Plymouth Argyle's reserves before wins over Aberaman Athletic, Weymouth and Llanelly made it eleven straight wins, they only being kept from the top by Swindon Town and Plymouth who, being reserve sides, did not have the encumbrance of Cup fixtures and were therefore well ahead on games played.

The run was concluded over Christmas, when exhaustion set in, the players having had to contend with a match on the 22nd December, followed by a double header with Bristol Rovers Reserves on Christmas morning and Boxing Day, and a trip to Cardiff two days after that. The Boxing Day game attracted a crowd of 4,550 to Huish for the 3-3 draw, Hayward continuing his goalscoring streak with a brace. Finally, in early January, after two more wins the Glovers went top, and with no less than six games in hand the press and supporters were already talking of the most momentous season in the history of football in the town.

The crowds continued to flock in, often taking advantage of the railway company's cheap travel, and many hundreds travelled down to Weymouth for the local derby which the Terras won 3-2, 4,000 watching. Johnny Hayward's hat-trick against Newport County and Harry Pidgeon's double a week later against Torquay saw United two points ahead, with four games in hand. Pontypridd were enjoying a good run, and when they beat Yeovil in Wales in a 1st v 3rd encounter, they reduced the deficit to 4 points, with both having played 26 games. Much praise at that time was being heaped upon not only the players, but also the supporters club and the committee, whose tireless work ensured that the long trips to Wales, often by boat, ran as smoothly as possible. The ridiculous two day jaunts to the likes of Norwich and Coventry were a thing of the past, but Wales was not that accessible by road, and once there the grounds often left something to be desired.

On the 15th March 1923 Yeovil gained revenge on Cardiff City in front of 3,300 fans, and with Pontypridd and Torquay United both losing, it virtually heralded the beginning of the celebrations. Such were the feelings the club stirred up at the time, that four days later, having gone to Weymouth as invited guests to play for the obscure Weymouth Hospital Charity Cup, their return was marked by a remarkable scene, 1000 or more folk cheering the train as it pulled into Pen Mill Station with the cup being waved out of a window. As usual the eponymous band struck up 'See The Conquering Heroes Come', and the streets were lined all the way to the Borough as the team went by charabanc to a reception. It was a dress rehearsal for the real thing which would surely come for Gregory and his free scoring band.

United's furthest trip, to the Vetch Field in Swansea, ended in defeat, but it was avenged a week later, in time for the top of the table clash with Pontypridd at Huish on April 12th. The pitch resembled a frozen pond which did little to help the likes of Hayward and Pidgeon and the match, refereed by that year's Cup Final official, ended in defeat, leaving Yeovil two points ahead with one game in hand.

Thankfully it was too little too late for after beating lowly Bath City at Lambridge, they completed the double on Good Friday and secured the Southern League Western Section title for the first time in only their second season as members. Pontypridd had faded and Plymouth drew both remaining games, leaving the Glovers as champions with two matches to go. It was a stunning success for Jack Gregory, the side only tasting defeat six times, the whole thing rounded off in fine style with a prestige friendly with Coventry City, 3,000 seeing 'one of the best displays of football ever given', the Glovers rounding off a spectacular season with a 3-0 win, inevitably led by Johnny Hayward.

Naturally the limelight fell on the senior side throughout the campaign, whilst the reserves went along with their fixtures, once again in the Dorset and Western Leagues. With a total of 36 games there was much to play for, and although the Western League form was not so good with nine wins from 20 games and a mid table spot, the smaller Dorset League provided some entertainment and a platform for the likes of Dick Radford whose 28 goals in 28 games made him into a natural successor to Johnny Hayward, should he ever decide to hang up his boots. At the back end of the season there were a series of meetings designed to test the water for a possible South-Western Towns league, with Newtons-Taunton, Torrington, Axminster and Yeovil amongst those interested. Many saw that as a more favourable alternative to what they had, but after some enthusiasm the idea lost momentum and faded away.

As far as the Southern League side were concerned, it remained to be seen if they could maintain their own momentum to match that of the ground, and only time would tell.

#### First Team Appearances 1923-1924

J Vallis 46, J Gardner, S Abbott 44, J Hayward 43, F Watts, J Gregory, H Pidgeon 42, G Bruzas 41, F Day 39, J Thompson 38, C Warren 36, J Gallon 11, T Edwards 10, Brown 7, R Radford, B Russell 4, P May, Matthews, J Pidgeon, D Smith 1

**First Team Goalscorers 1923-1924**

J Hayward 37, H Pidgeon 25, C Warren 16, J Gardner 9, J Gregory 7, F Watts, J Thompson 5, S Abbott, T Edwards 4, R Radford 2, G Bruzas 1, 2 og's

**Reserve Appearances 1923-1924**

J Pidgeon 29, E Swetman, R Radford 28 B Russell 27, P Lay 26, W Bell, E Canvin 25, C Hutchings, J Hobbs, Smith 21, B Gregory 16, A Muskett 12, J Gallon 11, T Edwards 10, H Hockey 8, E Hole 7, W Day, May 6, J Chase, L Henwood, Brown, C Warren 5, J Thompson, Hann 4, Matthews, Scott 3, W Nutland, J Gardner, Norris, Gillard 2, S Abbott, J Hayward, Warner, F Rynall, Wells, Gosnell, Motague, G Bruzas, Ford 1

**Reserve Goalscorers 1923-1924**

R Radford 28, C Hutchings 11, Bell 10, Lay 8, J Thompson 6, Russell 5, J Gregory 3, B Gregory, Muskett, W Nutland, J Haywards T Edwards 2, H Pidgeon, J Pidgeon, E Carvin, J Gardner, J Gallon, Scott, Hockey, Swetman 1, 2 og's

**Southern League  
Western Section 1923-1924**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil & Petters U	34	25	3	6	71	30	53
Plymouth Arg Res	34	21	5	8	74	37	47
Pontypridd	34	19	8	7	81	44	46
Torquay United	34	19	7	8	59	25	45
Bristol City Res	34	17	9	8	63	39	43
Swansea Town Res	34	19	5	10	62	38	43
Bristol Rovers Res	34	17	6	11	69	43	40
Cardiff City Res	34	15	4	15	55	31	34
Exeter City Res	34	11	11	12	48	47	33
Weymouth	34	15	3	16	48	60	33
Llanelly	34	14	5	15	47	62	33
Swindon Town Res	34	11	6	17	36	60	28
Bridgend Town	34	11	5	18	57	72	27
Newport Co Res	34	10	7	17	57	78	27
Ebbw Vale	34	8	8	18	38	62	24
Bath City	34	6	9	19	32	71	21
Barry	34	6	7	21	36	74	19
Aberaman Athletic	34	6	4	24	41	87	16

**Western League 1923-1924**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lovells Athletic	20	16	3	1	43	10	35
Radstock Town	20	13	3	4	43	12	29
Weymouth	20	10	5	5	38	24	25
Cardiff Corinthians	20	11	3	6	32	26	25
Poole	20	8	6	6	37	35	22
Yeovil & Petters U	20	9	2	9	35	42	20
Trowbridge Town	20	6	2	12	29	42	14
Peasedown St John	20	6	2	12	33	42	14
Minehead	20	5	3	12	32	44	13
Bath City	20	5	2	13	21	38	12
Paulton Rovers	20	3	5	12	20	38	11

**Dorset League 1923-1924**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Weymouth Res	16	11	3	2	64	17	25
Portland United	16	11	1	4	35	19	23
Yeovil & Petters U	16	7	4	5	50	26	18
Poole	16	7	3	6	36	30	17
Branksome Gas	16	8	1	7	31	34	15*
Wimborne Town	16	5	4	7	33	40	14
Blandford United	16	6	1	9	32	32	13
Westham	16	5	2	9	25	47	12
Dorchester Town	16	1	3	12	17	78	5

## Terracing at Huish as capacity rises to 6,000

The feeling of well-being following the Southern League triumph was understandably still to the fore as the summer rolled by, the club utilising the supporters who were only too pleased to help out in the continuation of the work on the ground. The capacity had been increased to 6,000 or thereabouts with the Queen Street side now fully terraced, courtesy of hundreds of redundant railway sleepers. The old stand which had survived not only the Great War but also being shifted across town to Huish from Pen Mill had been extended and could seat almost 1000 and with most of the standing areas already banked up, Huish was becoming an imposing stadium, and one which would hold more than twice that amount twenty odd years from then. By July manager Gregory had signed a whole host of pros, many from previous seasons, including evergreens such as Stan Abbott, Fred Day, Tom Edwards, and Johnny Hayward. Ernest Hyman, the former Radstock Town and Welton Rovers half back signed on, having moved into the area to work at Petters, and Andrew Wilson, an outside right or left who had played for such diverse outfits as Plymouth Argyle and Alloa Athletic was on board. The club also took a chance with 16 year old Harry Scott, a forward who had been with Torquay United. With Bruzas having gone to Bath City and Warren to Walsall the season began anew, and not just at Huish, for at Chard Town, the relatively new club, their new ground was ready for opening. Having only been at Bonfire Close for around four years, they moved the wooden grandstand down into the town where the cricket ground had been extended to allow a self supporting football ground to be laid out. It was opened on September 17th 1924 before a match with Brighton and Hove Albion, its fearsome slope having been slightly lessened to the none the less imposing one that is still there.

The new season got off to a good start with 3,300 in to see Exeter City Reserves beaten, and after a fine win at Bristol Rovers young Scott and his forward partner Johnny Hayward, comfortably twice his age, netted five between them in a 7-1 thrashing of Llanelly. The championship match between Yeovil, winners of the Western Section, and Peterborough and Fletton United, champions in the East, had been held over from May, and on Sept 17th 1924 a party from Yeovil set off to play what was then the championship decider, a whole lot more important than it is today. The team left the town on the 7.25pm train, eventually arriving at Anderton's Hotel in Fleet Street. The following morning saw them catching the 11.30am from Kings Cross, arriving in Peterborough in plenty of time for the 5.15 kick-off. Some 4,000 saw the Eastern champions take the overall title, but a cup and gold medals were presented to Yeovil as winners of the Western Section before they did the reverse trip, arriving back on Friday morning, a day before their FA Cup tie with Westbury United. Having won 12-1 a year earlier, few were expecting much trouble and so it was with Scott netting six, most from crosses from Johnny Hayward, now playing as an outside right.

A week later the coffers, already stretched by the Peterborough excursion, were again raided, as the team played in Barry before staying over Sunday, moving on to the Monday evening game with Llanelly, the games yielding just one point.

The FA Cup run continued with a win over Clevedon and then a Hayward hat-trick at Warminster edged them closer to a League club. The latter win was not without its problems, the referee having to contend with the home team and a linesman appealing for a penalty! The Wiltshire club were another to be

## First Team – Season 1924-1925

Aug	30th	Exeter City Res	H	Southern Lge W	1-0	H Pidgeon
Sept	6th	Bristol Rovers Res	A	" "	2-0	Gregory, Gardner
	11th	Llanely	H	" "	7-1	Scott 3, Hayward 2, H Pidgeon, Abbott
	13th	Torquay United	H	" "	1-2	Gregory
	18th	Peterboro & Flet Utd	A	SL Chall 1924	1-3	Watts
	20th	Westbury United	H	FA Cup Prel Rd	9-1	Scott 6, Hayward, H Edwards, H Pidgeon
	27th	Barry	A	Southern Lge W	0-1	
	29th	Llanely	A	" "	2-2	H Pidgeon, H Edwards
Oct	4th	Clevedon	H	FA Cup 1st Qual	5-1	H Edwards 2, T Edwards 3
	11th	Torquay United	A	Southern Lge W	0-3	
	18th	Warminster Town	A	FA Cup 2nd Qual	3-1	Hayward 3
	25th	Taunton United	H	Friendly	5-1	H Edwards, T Edwards 2, Hayward pen, H Pidgeon
Nov	6th	Taunton United	A	FA Cup 3rd Qual	2-1	T Edwards, J Pidgeon
	15th	Bournemouth & BA	H	FA Cup 4th Qual	3-2	T Edwards, Hayward 2
	22nd	Plymouth Arg Res	A	Southern Lge W	2-1	T Edwards, H Pidgeon
	29th	Bristol Rovers	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	2-4	Gardner, Hayward
Dec	6th	Ebbw Vale	A	Southern Lge W	1-1	Mahoney
	13th	Ebbw Vale	H	" "	2-0	Hayward 2
	20th	Swindon Town Res	A	" "	0-1	
	25th	Weymouth	A	Southern Lge W	1-4	Gardner
	26th	Taunton United	H	" "	1-0	Radford
	27th	Chelmsford City	H	Friendly	6-3	H Pidgeon 2, Hayward 3, Radford
Jan	3rd	Mid-Rhondda	A	Southern Lge W	1-6	Hayward
	10th	Pontypridd	H	" "	4-0	Hayward 2, Gardner
	17th	Exeter City Res	A	" "	1-1	Hayward
	24th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	" "	2-1	Hayward 2
	31st	Aberaman Athletic	H	" "	1-0	H Pidgeon
Feb	7th	Taunton United	A	" "	0-1	
	14th	Cardiff City Res	H	" "	1-2	Hayward
	20th	Pontypridd	A	" "	0-1	
	21st	Aberaman Athletic	A	" "	3-1	Watts pen, J Gregory, Scott
	28th	Barry	H	" "	2-1	og, Gardner
Mar	12th	Mid-Rhondda	H	" "	0-0	
	14th	Plymouth Arg Res	H	" "	2-2	H Pidgeon, Gardner
	19th	Bristol City Res	H	" "	2-0	Gregory, og
	21st	Bristol City Res	A	" "	0-2	
	25th	Cardiff City Res	A	" "	0-2	
	28th	Bridgend Town	H	" "	0-0	
April	4th	Swansea Town Res	H	" "	1-0	Scott
	10th	Bath City	A	" "	1-1	Scott
	11th	Weymouth	H	" "	2-0	Hayward, Scott
	13th	Bath City	H	" "	2-1	Bell, Hayward
	14th	Swindon Town Res	H	" "	0-0	
	18th	Bridgend Town	A	" "	3-6	Hayward, J Pidgeon 2
	23rd	Beaminster	A	Friendly	2-1	Hayward, Scott
	25th	Newport Co Res	A	Southern Lge W	1-1	Scott
	27th	Swansea Town Res	A	" "	0-5	
May	2nd	Newport Co Res	H	" "	0-0	

improving their facilities, their Weymouth Street ground having a grandstand opened that summer, which survived until recent times, its huge lettering on view across the town from its vantage point.

The draw had given them a local derby with Taunton United, yet another club on a new ground, but for once the club showed its rawness, playing a friendly against the same club seven days before the FA Cup tie, something no club

## Reserves – Season 1924-1925

Aug	30th	Minehead	A	Western League	4-3	Radford 2, J Gregory, Lay
Sept	3rd	Weymouth Res	A	Dorset League	0-5	
	6th	Blandford United	H	" "	7-0	T Edwards 2 (1pen), Radford 2, Hyman, B Gregory 2
	10th	Sherborne	A	Benefit	6-3	Hyman 3, Radford 2, Lay
	13th	Peasedown St John	A	Western League	4-1	Hyman 2, Radford 2
	20th	Blandford Utd	A	Dorset League	1-1	og
	25th	Weymouth Res	H	Dorset League	2-0	Radford 2 (1pen)
	27th	Welton Rovers	H	Western League	0-0	
Oct	11th	HMS Tiger	H	Friendly	2-4	Scorers not known
	18th	Dorchester T Res	H	Dorset League	4-0	Scott 3, B Gregory
	25th	Paulton Rovers	A	Western League	3-2	B Gregory, Scott, Radford
Nov	1st	Lovells Athletic	H	Western League	3-1	Radford 2, Scott
	8th	Branksome Gas	H	Dorset League	5-1	Bell 2, Scott, J Pidgeon 2
	15th	Wimborne Town	A	" "	4-0	Hyman, Mahoney 2, P May pen
	22nd	Paulton Rovers	H	Western League	1-1	Scott
	29th	Branksome Gas	A	Dorset League	0-1	
Dec	6th	Portland United	H	" "	3-1	J Pidgeon, Radford, Wilson
	13th	Dorchester T Res	A	Dorset League	4-0	Scott 2, Wilson, B Gregory
	20th	Weymouth	H	Western League	0-1	
	27th	Frome Town	A	" "	2-1	Mahoney, Wilson
Jan	3rd	Minehead	H	" "	8-1	Mahoney 3, Hyman, Scott 3, Wilson
	10th	Trowbridge Town	A	" "	1-3	Radford
	17th	Frome Town	H	" "	2-1	Hyman, og
	31st	Axminster Town	A	Friendly	4-2	T Edwards, B Gregory, Hyman, og
Feb	7th	Bath City	H	Western League	2-0	Radford, B Gregory
	14th	Lovells Athletic	A	" "	3-1	B Gregory 2, Radford
	21st	Trowbridge Town	H	" "	3-0	Radford 2, Hayward
	28th	Westbourne Ath	A	Dorset League	2-1	Lay, B Gregory
Mar	7th	Radstock Town	H	Western League	6-0	Radford 3, H Pidgeon, Scott, Hayward
	14th	Bath City	A	" "	3-2	Radford 2, Mahoney
	21st	Poole	H	" "	4-0	B Gregory 2, Mahoney 2
	26th	Westbourne Ath	H	Dorset League	3-0	Radford, B Gregory, P May
	28th	Welton Rovers	A	Western League	1-0	og
April	1st	Poole	H	Dorset League	4-0	B Gregory, J Pidgeon, Mahoney, Wilson
	4th	Swindon Victoria	A	Western League	2-0	Mahoney, Lay
	10th	Peasedown St John	H	" "	4-2	Hayward 2, Hyman, Mahoney
	11th	Weymouth	A	" "	0-0	
	15th	Poole	A	Dorset League	3-1	B Gregory 2, Hicks
	18th	Portland United	A	" "	1-2	Mahoney
	22nd	Poole	A	Western League	2-0	H Pidgeon, Radford
	25th	Swindon Victoria	H	" "	6-0	B Gregory, Mahoney 2, Hyman 3
May	2nd	Radstock Town	A	" "	1-0	Hyman
	4th	Wimborne Town	H	Dorset League	3-1	Scorers not known

would even dream of doing nowadays. 2,500 crammed in to see Joe Pidgeon win the tie with the last kick of the game, a goal which brought a League club to Huish for the first of many times in the years ahead. Bournemouth and Boscombe Athletic were the visitors in what was described as 'one of the most remarkable games ever seen in the town.'

The first visit of Football League opposition to Huish

attracted a short-lived record crowd of 5,500 who paid a total of £304 9s 0d of this sum, £49 10s 6d was paid as entertainment tax and £19 10s 6d was spent on advertising, visitor's travel and match expenses. The Club's share of the net gate was a princely £117 14s 0d. The crowd came from all parts of Somerset, Dorset and Hampshire, by cheap rail ticket or by charabanc and fully vindicating the decision to extend the ground only a matter of weeks earlier.

Boscombe had little or no answer to the ferocious challenge and skillful forward play, Johnny Hayward excelling in a central role and Jack Vallis performing miracles in the home goal. A 3-2 win meant that on 15th November 1924 Boscombe became the first League club to be beaten in the Cup by Yeovil and as history unfolded, they were certainly not to be the last. Jack Vallis was shouldered off the pitch to a hero's welcome as the whole of Yeovil appeared to go mad.

The next round draw was again kind to Yeovil and Petters United, for it gave them Bristol Rovers, already regular visitors with their first team and well liked in the area. Again the public swarmed all over the ground, smashing the record for the second time in two weeks, as 6,600 crammed in, hundreds more than Huish was officially capable of holding. Again Johnny Hayward was instrumental and netted, as did Jimmy Gardner, but the robust play of the Pirates saw two men injured and for much of the second half the Glovers played with nine men, eventually losing 4-2. The gate receipts of nearly £400 went a long way to soothing the pain of defeat.

With the Cup finished the club looked to improving their league position, which at that time was fourth from bottom, but with a little matter of 12 games in hand on leaders Plymouth Argyle. December arrived with the debut of Jack Mahoney, a bustling centre-forward who partnered Hayward and scored on his debut at Ebbw Vale. Around that time the press was full of the suggestions which had come out of the FA, concerning the offside law, which as it stood came into play if less than three defenders were in front of the ball, many goals having been chalked off due to technical infringements, there being five forwards in virtually every team, none of whom were allowed to get in front of the ball if defenders played what was called the 'one back game', a twenties version of the classic Arsenal offside trap. Yeovil club put their full weight behind the proposals which were given a trial airing in a minor league in the north-west.

The new year saw Yeovil playing in Tonypany, at the Mid-Rhondda ground, a less than welcoming bowl, the ground of which was jet black from the coal below, and with a constant cloud of coal dust above. Jack Vallis played not for the first time, against one of his brothers in a 6-1 defeat by a team expensively put together with ex-pros from all parts of the country.

With the Cup fever having worn off and a mid-table finish all but assured, the crowds tailed off from January onwards, the bad weather also not helping to raise them above 1500. They were sorely needed, for the team had another double header in Wales, with Pontypridd and Aberaman providing the opposition. It was to be one of the last overnights in Wales, for a week later it was announced that the Southern League was to be altered with four of the Welsh clubs leaving the competition, a decision which was not lamented by many in Somerset. The unfairness of the league rules at that time were there for all to see, with each club having to hand over 20% of its gate takings to the visiting club. Not a little bad feeling was encountered on some visits up country where gates were less than spectacular and the take home pay even less so, a number of clubs relying on the gate money from the well supported clubs such as Yeovil. The public voiced their displeasure at 'subsidising the Welsh clubs'

more than once. In some instances there was an £80 difference within ten matches, one club reportedly having lost £300 in the last season but regained it by playing English clubs in the Southern League. On the back of the announcements came news of a proposed professional section to the Western League, with League reserve teams replacing obscure Welsh clubs, most of whom were leaving to rejoin the Welsh League. The new division would consist of eight or ten Southern League clubs, including Rovers, City, Yeovil, Exeter, Weymouth, Torquay, Taunton, Plymouth, Swindon and Bath.

With much thought going into just what was going to happen in August the season petered out with a whimper for the first team, although the reverse was true of the reserves who enjoyed a battle royal with neighbours Weymouth from October onwards in both the Dorset and Western Leagues.

The tension came to a head on December 20th at Huish when the Western League game turned ugly following a series of unpunished fouls by the visiting defender Hillier. The angry crowd swarmed onto the pitch and then besieged the dressing rooms, furious that Hillier had been spoken too at least four times but not sent off. The back to back title chase gained momentum with an 8-1 win over Minehead, Scott and Mahoney both scoring hat-tricks against a team who sportingly played despite several teammates being unable to travel due to local flooding. Dick Radford and Jack Mahoney were forging a lethal partnership for the other three forwards to aim at and their goals carried Yeovil to within striking distance of triumph. A 0-0 draw at Weymouth in the Western League achieved little, but when Yeovil lost at their bogey ground, Grove Corner, Portland, it handed the Dorset title to Weymouth, but a 6-0 win over Swindon Victoria, the highlight being a hat-trick from young Ernie Hyman, set them up for a last day decider at home to Radstock Town. Fifteen minutes from the end Hyman again confirmed his hero status by netting the winner which brought the Western League championship to Huish. Ernie Hyman was never again to enjoy a moment of glory to rival that which he enjoyed during that last week of the season. Although he was to play for the club during the next season, tragic events would overtake the young inside forward.

Freddy Watts waved farewell to the club and the town in May, when he moved away, and Jim Gardner followed him, signing for Bristol Rovers in June. The Western League welcomed Portland United and bade farewell for then to Peasedown St John and the Southern League was reduced by seven Welsh clubs who resigned en masse. Yeovil's stand for the alteration of the infuriating offside law also worked for it was officially changed by the powers that be, to two defenders only, a decision welcomed by all players but not all referees, many of whom were removed from their respective lists, being unable to keep up with the pace of the new modern game.

On June 17th 1925 the shareholders of the Limited Company held their AGM, where the financial figures gave grim reading. The club had made a loss of nearly £600, almost all of which could be attributed to gate refunds, which stood at £667. The wage bill was quoted as £1,795 14-1d and entertainment duty took care of another £517. With ground upkeep, rent, rates, travel, sustenance and secretarial salaries amongst other items coming to over £1000, and league gate receipts being down to just over £2000, there was a total loss in two years of over £800, which was worrying and would have been a whole lot worse if not for the spectacular Cup run.

The chairman spelled it out when he said that "Either we attract more support to our games or there will be no Southern League football in Yeovil". The reserve team had been improved at the request of the regulars, to the tune of a

Western League win and a Dorset League runners up spot, but there was some discussion as to precisely why the gates had dropped off. The Chairman put the blame on the atrocious weather which seemed to bring rain virtually every Saturday. Mr Dodge, another committee man disagreed, stating that "It was a well known fact throughout the town that the drop in attendances is solely due to poor performances."

#### First Team Appearances 1924-1925

J Vallis 48, J Gallon, J Hayward 45, S Abbott 41, F Day 40, F Watts 38, J Gardner 36, H Scott 34, H Edwards 31, J Pidgeon 30, H Pidgeon 29, A Wilson 22, P May 18, T Edwards 9, R Radford 6, W England, J Mahoney 5, W Bell 4, W Day 1

#### First Team Goalscorers 1924-1925

J Hayward 26, H Scott 15, H Pidgeon 10, T Edwards 7, H Edwards, J Gardner 6, J Gregory 4, J Pidgeon 3, F Watts, R Radford 2, Bell, S Abbott, J Mahoney 1, 2 og's

#### Reserve Team Appearances 1924-1925

D Smith 42, B Gregory 39, R Radford, W Day 34, E Hyman 33, W England 27, E Canvin 26, J Pidgeon 24, W Bell 23, K Lay, J Mahoney 22, P May 21, A Wilson 20, P Gillingham 16, H Edwards 13, F Hicks, H Scott, A Muskett 11, E Swetman 9, J Hayward 4, L Henwood, Hussey 3, Hobbs, T Edwards, H Pidgeon 2, May, Fox, Hockey, J Gregory, F Watts, F Day 1

#### Known Reserve Team Goalscorers 1924-1925

R Radford 26, B Gregory 17, E Hyman, J Mahoney 15, H Scott 13, A Wilson 5, J Hayward, K Lay, J Pidgeon 4, T Edwards 3, H Pidgeon, W Bell, P May 2, Hicks, J Gregory 1, 4 og's

#### Southern League Western Section 1924-1925

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swansea Town Res	38	25	4	9	73	26	54
Plymouth Argyle Res	38	22	10	6	97	35	54
Pontypridd	38	24	4	10	81	39	52
Bridgend Town	38	20	11	7	74	52	51
Mid Rhondda Utd	38	21	6	11	79	48	48
Weymouth	38	21	4	13	77	50	46
Cardiff City Res	38	18	6	14	56	44	42
Newport County Res	38	17	8	13	71	60	42
Swindon Town Res	38	17	8	13	48	46	42
Bristol City Res	38	18	5	15	51	43	41
Yeovil & Petters Utd	38	15	10	13	49	50	40
Exeter City Res	38	16	6	16	78	55	38
Taunton United	38	15	6	17	55	51	36
Bristol Rovers Res	38	13	6	19	45	50	32
Torquay United	38	9	11	18	41	73	29
Llanelly	38	6	12	20	49	94	24
Ebbw Vale	38	9	6	23	40	91	24
Bath City	38	8	8	22	28	85	24
Barry	38	8	6	24	38	82	22
Aberaman Athletic	38	6	7	25	39	95	19

#### Dorset League 1924-1925

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Weymouth Reserves	16	13	1	2	62	14	27
Yeovil and Petters Utd Res	16	12	1	3	47	14	25
Poole Res	16	11	0	5	60	28	22
Blandford United	16	8	3	5	39	39	19
Portland United	16	6	3	7	32	31	13
Branksome Gas	16	5	3	8	25	35	13
Westbourne Athletic	16	4	4	8	18	30	12
Dorchester Town Res	16	3	3	10	20	64	9
Wimborne Town	16	1	0	15	12	59	2

#### Western League 1924-1925

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil & Petters Utd Res	24	19	3	2	65	20	41
Weymouth	24	18	3	3	74	17	39
Swindon Victoria	24	14	3	7	51	48	31
Welton Rovers	24	9	10	5	50	28	28
Poole	24	11	6	7	50	38	28
Radstock Town	24	9	9	6	35	31	27
Frome Town	24	10	6	8	50	44	26
Trowbridge Town	24	9	6	9	46	37	24
Paulton Rovers	24	6	7	11	39	54	19
Minehead	24	7	1	16	47	74	15
Bath City	24	4	5	15	26	58	13
Peasedown St John	24	4	5	15	19	65	13
Lovells Athletic	24	1	6	17	25	63	8

There was no lack of optimism in the camp during the summer break of 1925 with Jack Gregory as usual sniffing out any potential talent which became available. He had only lost Jim Gardner to Bristol Rovers after three years and Freddy Watts to Dartford FC from the Kent League, and plenty of new faces were willing and eager to play for the green and whites, Price from Oxford, Coaker from Shaftesbury, Dean from Stroud and Rogers from Beaminster all turned up for the trials, although only the latter made any impact in the season. There was once again a formidable programme of matches, with Southern and Western League football for the seniors, and Western League Division Two and Dorset League for the reserves. The fine FA Cup exploits meant that the club was exempt from the qualifying rounds, any cup ties to be added to the 44 senior matches. The Western League Division One would consist of the best professional teams from the Western Section of last year's Southern League, meaning four meetings per club and none of the 'less polished Welsh clubs,' as the press so tactfully put it. In an endeavour to attract back some of the missing support the club reduced admission to 3d for the enclosure, and then kept their fingers crossed for a good season on and off the pitch. Circumstances saw that the 1925-26 season was possibly the most mediocre one that the club had ever suffered with mid-table finishes or worse in all four divisions.

The campaign would be fought without the help of Jack Mahoney and Joe Pidgeon who had moved on to greener pastures but would still entail going to a number of Welsh clubs, usually by boat train, although when not available the trip would be somewhat tortuous in the extreme. The party would travel to Bristol by charabanc and thence to Newport by train before switching again to charabanc for the final leg to either Ebbw Vale or Barry or Mid-Rhondda. Not surprising that precious few points found their way from Wales to England.

The season started with a defeat at Barry but two wins over rivals Weymouth and three draws showed promise, although the public were unimpressed, preferring to stay away whenever the opposition were not of the best or the weather was in any way inclement. Johnny Hayward was still holding down a place in the forward line, mostly wide and was providing for young Scott, but too many games were being drawn or lost, despite the efforts of Dick Radford and company, the front line remaining unchanged for the first fourteen matches. Yeovil were lying fifth in the Southern League as November came, but could not take advantage when misfortune struck an opponent at Swindon Town. Half way through the match the defender received a telegram informing him that his wife was dangerously ill, and he left immediately reducing his side to ten. With a point lost and a hammering a week later by a full strength Exeter City Reserves, it was the wrong way to prepare for the FA Cup tie with Torquay United, which could have kick-started the season again. Only 1700 bothered to turn up on a depressing



## First Team – Season 1925-1926

Aug	29th	Barry	A	Southern Lge W	1-2	Hayward
	31st	Ebbw Vale	A	" "	1-1	Gregory
Sept	5th	Weymouth	A	" "	4-3	Hayward 2, Scott, Pidgeon
	7th	Swindon Town Res	A	Western Div 1	2-2	Silvester, Pidgeon
	10th	Bristol City Res	H	" "	1-1	Scott
	12th	Weymouth	H	" "	3-1	Silvester, Scott 2
	19th	Exeter City Res	H	" "	2-2	Abbott, Gregory
	24th	Bristol Rovers	H	Friendly	4-4	Scorers not know
	26th	Swindon Town Res	A	Southern Lge W	1-0	Scott
	30th	Chard Town	A	Friendly	7-0	Silvester 2, Haywood 2, Scott 2, Pidgeon
Oct	3rd	Plymouth Arg Res	A	Southern Lge W	1-4	Haywood
	10th	Torquay United	H	Western Div 1	0-0	
	17th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	Southern Lge W	2-2	Pidgeon, Scott
	24th	Plymouth Arg Res	H	" "	2-1	Gregory, Silvester
	31st	Swindon Town Res	H	" "	1-1	Hayward
Nov	7th	Exeter City Res	A	" "	0-6	
	14th	Torquay United	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	1-3	Hayward pen
	21st	Taunton United	H	Western Div 1	1-0	Pidgeon
	28th	Bristol City Res	A	" "	0-1	
Dec	5th	Bristol City Res	H	Southern Lge W	1-2	Scott
	12th	Bath City	H	" "	6-1	Scott 5, Haywood
	19th	Torquay United	A	Western Div 1	2-0	Edwards 2
	26th	Swindon Town Res	H	" "	3-3	Scott 2, Hayward pen
Jan	2nd	Exeter City Res	H	Southern Lge W	4-2	Pidgeon, Edwards, Gallon, Scott
	9th	Torquay United	A	" "	1-1	Scott
	16th	Plymouth Arg Res	H	Western Div 1	2-0	Wilson, Edwards
	23rd	Bristol City Res	A	Southern Lge W	2-3	Edwards, Hayward
	30th	Exeter City Res	A	Western Div 1	3-5	Scott 2, Edwards
Feb	6th	Taunton United	H	Southern Lge W	0-1	
	13th	Mid-Rhondda	A	" "	0-6	
	20th	Barry	H	" "	3-1	Hayward, Scott 2
	27th	Bristol Rovers Res	A	" "	1-1	Hayward
Mar	6th	Torquay United	H	" "	1-0	Hayward
	13th	Weymouth	H	" "	1-1	Edwards
	17th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	Western Div 1	2-0	Wilson, Edwards
	20th	Weymouth	A	" "	0-0	
	25th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	" "	4-0	Haywood 4
	27th	Taunton United	A	Southern Lge W	3-1	Gallon, Edwards, Haywood
April	2nd	Bournemouth & BA	A	Friendly	1-1	Haywood
	3rd	Ebbw Vale	H	Southern Lge W	2-2	Radford 2
	5th	Bournemouth & BA	H	Friendly	2-1	Wilson, Pidgeon
	6th	Bath City	H	Western Div 1	3-3	Scott 2, Edwards
	10th	Mid-Rhondda	H	Southern Lge W	1-2	Edwards
	14th	Bristol Rovers Res	A	Western Div 1	3-5	Wilson, Haywood 2 (1pen)
	17th	Bath City	A	Southern Lge W	1-2	Abbott
	24th	Pontypridd	H	" "	2-1	Wilson, Edwards
	29th	Taunton United	A	Western Div 1	2-0	Gregory, Wilson
May	1st	Pontypridd	A	Southern Lge W	1-1	Radford

day and, despite an inspired display on the wing by Hayward, Torquay won an otherwise poor game 3-1.

Yeovil's woes were moderate compared to those of Bath City, whose desperate financial straits had led them to shed players with the outcome being that they found themselves bottom of both the Western and Southern Leagues. The Glovers showed no mercy, Scott scoring five of the six goals against them.

Lambridge was again the centre of attention on Christmas Day when Yeovil travelled for a Western League fixture. Heavy overnight snow lay on the ground and more fell to obliterate the markings. A plea went out around the city for soot to mark the lines on top of the snow, but none was

## Reserve Team – Season 1925-1926

Aug	29th	Bath City Res	H	Western Div 2	3-2	Hyman, B Gregory 2
Sept	2nd	Radstock Town	A	" "	0-2	
	3rd	Branksome Gas	H	Dorset League	2-4	Scott, B Gregory
	5th	Weymouth Res	H	WL Benefit game	2-2	B Gregory, Pilkington
	12th	Welton Rovers	A	Western Div 2	1-2	Wilson
	17th	Poole	H	" "	2-1	Pilkington, Edwards
	19th	Minehead	A	" "	1-2	Lay
	26th	Paulton Rovers	H	" "	5-2	Edwards 4, B Gregory
Oct	3rd	Blandford United	H	Dorset League	1-3	Edwards
	10th	Paulton Rovers	A	Western Div 2	1-4	Edwards
	17th	Blandford United	A	Dorset League	1-1	Lay
	24th	Swindon Victoria	A	Western Div 2	4-2	Bell, Lay, Hyman, B Gregory
	31st	Westbourne Ath	A	Dorset League	1-2	Lay
Nov	7th	Portland United	H	" "	6-1	B Gregory, Hyman 2, Scott 3
	14th	Weymouth Res	H	" "	3-2	Hyman 2, og
	21st	Axminster Town	A	Friendly	1-1	Wilson
	28th	Minehead	H	Western Div 2	1-2	Pilkington
Dec	5th	Dorchester T Res	A	Dorset League	2-2	B Gregory, Hyman
	12th	Branksome Gas	A	" "	2-2	Radford, Silvester
	19th	Westbourne Ath	H	" "	10-0	Radford 6, Pilkington, Wilson, Silvester 2
Jan	2nd	Lovells Athletic	A	Western Div 2	0-2	
	9th	Weymouth Res	H	" "	2-1	Silvester 2
	23rd	Lovells Athletic	H	" "	0-3	
Feb	6th	Bath City Res	A	" "	1-2	B Gregory
	11th	Bath City Res	A	Southern Lge W	0-4	
	13th	Portland United	H	Western Div 2	2-2	Radford 2
	27th	Frome Town	H	" "	1-2	Day pen
Mar	10th	Weymouth Res	A	Dorset League	0-5	
	13th	Wimborne Town	H	" "	3-0	Haywood 2, Silvester
	20th	Trowbridge T Res	H	Western Div 2	6-1	Haywood 2, Pilkington, Abbott 2, B Gregory
	24th	Portland United	A	Dorset League	1-1	Scott
	27th	Welton Rovers	H	Western Div 2	2-3	Silvester, Scott
April	2nd	Poole Res	A	" "	0-5	
	3rd	Dorchester T Res	H	Dorset League	8-0	Silvester 3, Scott 2, Pilkington, B Gregory 2
	5th	Frome Town	A	Western Div 2	1-5	Hutchings
	10th	Poole Res	A	Dorset League	1-2	Lay
	15th	Poole Res	H	" "	2-1	Bell, Hyman
	17th	Wimborne Town	A	" "	2-0	White, Lay
	21st	Portland United	A	Western Div 2	3-3	White, Parker 2
	22nd	Radstock Town	H	" "	0-2	
	24th	Weymouth Res	A	" "	2-2	Scott 2
	28th	Trowbridge T Res	A	" "	4-4	Scorers not known
May	1st	Swindon Victoria	H	" "	6-1	Parsons 4, White 2

forthcoming, thus making the match officially postponed due to a shortage of soot in Bath.

The new year began promisingly, after 3000 had seen the Boxing Day game with Swindon another 1600 saw the game with Exeter City which saw a fine attacking performance from Yeovil. The poor weather continued with thick snow again on the ground for the match with Plymouth Argyle and a week later when Bristol City Reserves visited, Jack Vallis played in goal, with his younger brother in goal at the other end, a rare occurrence at that level. A third Vallis played at Huish in March when Torquay United came and went but he could do little to prevent a 1-0 win courtesy of Hayward. The up and down nature of the season showed itself after Easter, when having gone twelve matches without defeat, Yeovil undid all the good by losing the next three, eventually closing off the term in mid-table with just nine wins and 43 goals to their credit.



Yeovil & Petters United F.C. around 1926.

*...Yeovil had returned to being also rans once again, although again as history shows, it would not be for too long.*

For once the scenario was not changed by the second team, who also endured an ordinary season, the highlight being Dick Radford's six goals against Westbourne Athletic, a side destined to drop out of the league at the end after failing to obtain a ground of their own.

At Headquarters the club was dropping heavy hints that unless attendances bucked up, especially for the reserve matches, then due thought would have to be given to consider pulling out of one of the leagues or dropping down, a retrograde step out of touch with many of the die hards who were beginning to think in terms of Football League status, possibly still basking in the glory of the Cup match with Boscombe and the huge crowd which watched the Bristol Rovers match. All that was a long time in the past and Yeovil had returned to being also rans once again, although again as history shows, it would not be for too long.

**Southern League  
Western Section 1925-1926**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Plymouth Arg Res	26	20	1	5	67	31	41
Bristol City Res	26	16	4	6	48	28	36
Bristol Rovers Res	26	13	4	9	51	35	30
Swindon Town Res	26	13	4	9	57	40	30
Ebbw Vale	26	13	3	10	60	46	29
Torquay United	26	12	5	9	59	46	29
Yeovil & Petters U	26	9	8	9	43	48	26
Mid-Rhondda Utd	26	12	1	13	47	49	25
Weymouth	26	10	3	13	64	60	23
Exeter City Res	26	8	5	13	40	49	21
Barry	26	8	4	14	47	55	20
Taunton United	26	9	2	15	44	60	20
Pontypridd	26	7	5	14	44	77	19
Bath City	26	7	1	18	38	86	15

**Western League Div 1 – 1925-1926**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol City Res	18	10	7	1	58	19	27
Bristol Rovers Res	18	11	2	5	53	36	24
Torquay Utd Res	18	9	4	5	28	22	22
Yeovil & Petters U	18	7	7	4	33	27	21
Swindon Town Res	18	6	8	4	32	33	20
Weymouth	18	7	4	7	37	45	18
Plymouth Arg Res	18	6	5	7	31	25	17
Exeter City Res	18	6	4	8	33	41	16
Taunton United	18	3	3	12	18	45	9
Bath City	18	1	4	13	20	50	6

**Western League Div 1 – 1925-1926**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poole Res	24	17	3	4	76	30	37
Welton Rovers	24	16	4	4	62	37	36
Weymouth Res	24	12	4	8	69	47	28
Lovells Athletic	24	8	8	8	52	46	24
Radstock Town	24	9	6	9	31	28	24
Minehead	24	10	4	10	42	53	24
Portland United	24	8	7	9	49	56	23
Trowbridge T Res	24	8	6	10	56	68	22
Swindon Victoria	24	9	3	12	55	71	21
Paulton Rovers	24	7	6	11	48	68	20
Bath City Res	24	7	5	12	50	53	19
Yeovil & Pett U Res	24	7	4	13	48	57	18
Frome Town	24	5	6	13	40	64	16

**Known First Team Appearances 1925-1926**

J Hayward 46, J Vallis, H Pidgeon, F Day 45, J Gregory 44, P May 41, H Scott 39, J Gallon 38, S Abbott 36, Edwards 32, Haywood 30, A Wilson, R Radford 24, Silvester 18, W Day 7, D Smith 4, E Hyman 3, C Parker 2, R Rogers, Bell, L Henwood 1

**Known First Team Goalscorers 1925-1926**

H Scott 24, T Edwards, J Haywood 12, J Hayward 10, H Pidgeon 7, A Wilson 6, Silvester 5, J Gregory 4, R Radford 3, S Abbott, J Gallon 2

**Known Reserve Team  
Appearances 1925-1926**

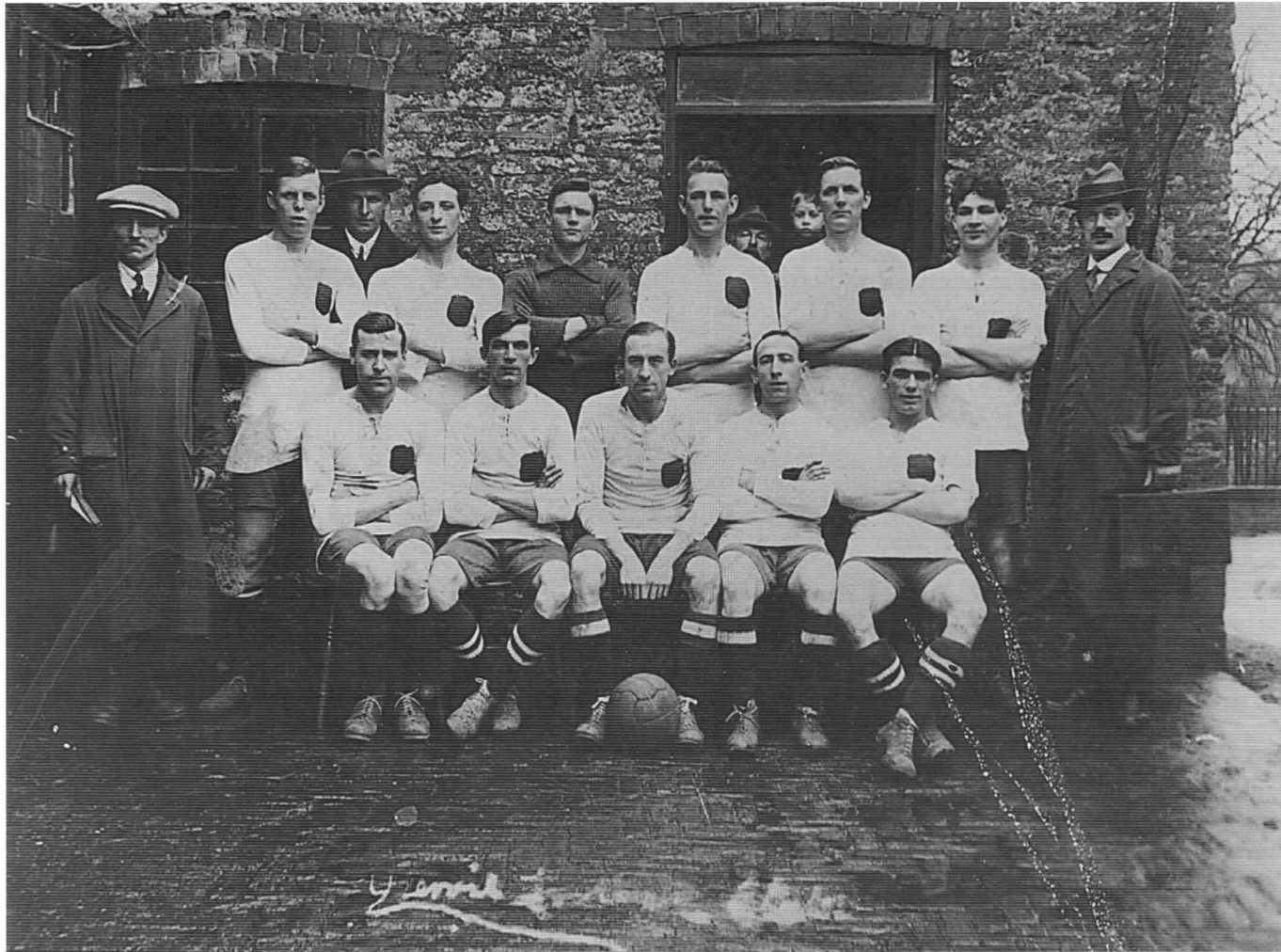
L Pilkington 35, E Hyman 34, W Day 33, B Gregory 28, R Rogers 27, Bell 25, Smith 24, E Canvin 23, Lay, L Henwood 22, Silvester 21, A Wilson 16, R Radford, F Pierce 12, H Edwards 11, F Chapman 10, Farr 8, May, H Scott, S Abbott, J Hayward 7, F Parsons 6, C White 5, C Parker, R Hobbs 4, F Robson 3, W Wright, Fox, F Parker 2, Fahmy, C Hutchings, R Price 1

**Known Reserve Team  
Goalscorers 1926**

B Gregory 12, H Scott 10, R Radford, Silvester 9, E Hyman 8, H Edwards 7, L Pilkington, Lay 6, J Haywood, F Parsons, C White 4, A Wilson 3, S Abbott, F Parker, Bell 2, W Day, C Hutchings, og 1

**Dorset League 1925-1926**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poole Res	16	12	1	3	56	17	25
Branksome Gas	16	9	3	4	42	29	21
Weymouth Res	16	8	4	4	47	26	20
Yeovil & Pett U Res	16	7	4	5	45	36	18
Portland United Res	16	8	2	6	28	28	18
Westbourne Ath	16	3	6	7	30	47	12
Blandford United	16	3	5	8	26	42	11
Dorchester T Res	16	3	4	9	19	49	10
Wimborne Town	16	4	1	11	24	51	9



Yeovil Town Football Club outside their headquarters at the Pen Mill Hotel in 1919

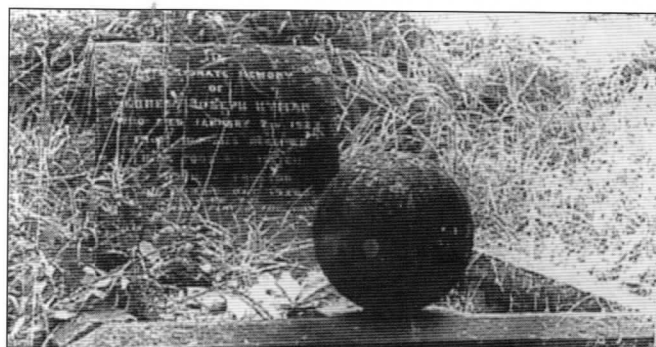


## CHAPTER FIVE

# Tragedy Overtakes Yeovil Town ...

The general euphoria which prevailed over the club after the Southern League championship had all but mellowed to nothing. The season gone had been bogged down with far too many fixtures at the end as four separate leagues were all vying to have their matches completed. There had been too many fixtures postponed when the interest was at its greatest, due to County Cup ties and bad weather and, by May, with nothing riding on most of them, the gates were down and the money slowed to a steady trickle. Despite the apathy there were few changes at Huish for the next campaign, which would again be masterminded by Jack Gregory who had signed on for two more years. Apart from himself, Harry Pidgeon, Fred Day, Stan Abbott, the young and exciting Peter Scott, Dick Radford, Jack Vallis, Jim Gallon and the inevitable Johnny Hayward were on board again as pros amongst others, but winger Andy Wilson had gone down the road to Taunton and Haywood had moved to play in Portsmouth. For emotional and tragic reasons it would also be the final season for two players at each end of their careers in Johnny Hayward and Ernest Hyman.

Both the Western and Southern Leagues were largely unaltered, but sadly Yeovil were back in the bowels of the FA Cup, having lost their first match last year, and that would mean yet more fixture congestion if they progressed, with no guarantee of any financial reward. Silvester moved on to Poole after his brief stay and a young full back called John, from Pembroke Dock also signed on, but he made just one appearance for each side before moving on again. One man who would make an impression was Thomas Lowes, a 27 year old inside-forward who had enjoyed four seasons with



### The Inscription reads:

Affectionate memory of Ernest Joseph Hyman who died January 7th 1927 from injuries received in a football match. Yeovil v. Taunton Town on Boxing Day 1926.

### First Team – Season 1926-1927

Aug	28th	Swindon Town Res	H	Southern Lge W	0-3	
Sept	1st	Poole	A	Western Div 1	4-1	Scott 2, Lowes, Abbott
	4th	Swindon Town Res	A	Southern Lge W	0-2	
	9th	Taunton United	H	Western Div 1	2-1	Scott 2
	11th	Exeter City Res	H	Southern Lge W	5-1	Hayward 3, Gallon, Pidgeon
	16th	Taunton United	A	Western Div 1	3-1	Lowes, Scott 2
	18th	Street	H	FA Cup Prel Rd	10-1	Hayward 3 (1pen), Lowes 5, Parker, Scott
	20th	Bristol Rovers Res	A	Western Div 1	1-2	Lowes
	25th	Barry	H	Southern Lge W	1-4	Lowes
	30th	Bristol City Res	H	Western Div 1	4-2	Scott 2, Gallon, og
Oct	2nd	Bristol St George	H	FA Cup 1st Qual	3-0	Scott, Lowes, Edwards
	6th	Weymouth	A	Western Div 1	0-4	
	9th	Bath City	H	Southern Lge W	6-3	Lowes 2, Hayward pen, Hyman, Radford, Edwards
	16th	St Austell	H	FA Cup 2nd Qual	5-0	Lowes, Poole 2, Scott, Hayward
	23rd	Bristol Rovers Res	H	Southern Lge W	2-2	Poole 2 (1pen)
	30th	Barry	H	FA Cup 3rd Qual	3-1	Poole 3
Nov	6th	Bath City	H	Western Div 1	3-0	Hayward, Lowes 2
	17th	Weymouth	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	1-4	Lowes
	20th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	Southern Lge W	1-5	Lowes
	27th	Lovells Athletic	H	Western Div 1	2-2	Lowes 2
Dec	4th	Torquay United	H	Southern Lge W	2-2	F Parker, Connor
	11th	Plymouth Arg Res	H	" "	3-2	Hayward 2 (1pen), Lowes
	18th	Newport Co Res	A	" "	3-3	Connor 2, Lowes
	25th	Taunton United	A	" "	1-0	Lowes
	27th	Taunton United	H	" "	1-0	Lowes
	28th	Exeter City Res	A	Western Div 1	3-5	Radford, Lowes, Abbot
Jan	1st	Ebbw Vale	H	Southern Lge W	3-2	F Parker, Lowes, Hayward pen
	15th	Bristol City Res	H	" "	2-2	Hayward, Lowes
	22nd	Bristol City Res	A	" "	1-6	Edwards
Jan	29th	Newport Co Res	H	" "	2-3	Lowes, Hayward
Feb	5th	Lovells Athletic	A	Western Div 1	0-6	
	12th	Bath City	A	" "	0-1	
	16th	Exeter City Res	A	Southern Lge W	2-5	Connor 2
	19th	Torquay United	A	Western Div 1	1-5	Lowes
	26th	Poole	H	" "	3-0	Edwards, Hayward, og
March	5th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	" "	0-5	
	12th	Plymouth Arg Res	H	" "	0-2	
	16th	Bristol City Res	A	" "	0-2	



Season 1926-1927 First Team - continued					
19th	Bath City	A	Southern Lge W	0-1	
26th	Torquay United	H	Western Div 1	2-3	Hayward pen, Scott
April 1st	Mid-Rhondda	A	Southern Lge W	0-4	
2nd	Ebbw Vale	A	" "	0-4	
7th	Weymouth	H	Western Div 1	7-0	Scott 4, Hayward pen, Lowes, Pidgeon
9th	Bristol Rovers Res	A	Southern Lge W	0-0	
15th	Weymouth	A	" "	4-2	Connor, Lowes, Scott 2
16th	Swindon Town Res	H	Western Div 1	6-1	Scott 2, Connor, Lowes 2, Radford
18th	Weymouth	H	Southern Lge W	4-0	Lowes, Pidgeon, Radford, Parker
19th	Mid-Rhondda	H	" "	3-1	Lowes, Hayward, Wilson
20th	Swindon Town Res	A	" "	0-2	
23rd	Barry	A	" "	1-6	Parker
28th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	Western Div 1	3-1	Pidgeon 2, Lowes
30th	Exeter City Res	H	" "	5-2	Lowes 3, Scott 2
May 4th	Beaminster	A	Friendly	4-1	Lowes, Pidgeon, 2 ogs
7th	Torquay United	A	Western Div 1	0-1	

Newport County after spells with Newcastle United and Coventry City. Further south Weymouth Football Club were suffering from a lack of support and finances and looked coastwards in a bid to lure Portland United into a merger. The island side had just laid out Grove Corner complete with a new grandstand and countered with a polite no thank you. Another new sports ground to open was the Perry Street and Yonder Hill complex which was dedicated on July 31st 1926 amidst much pomp, with cricket, football, tennis and bowls all catered for.

At Huish, the opening game of the 1926-27 season against Swindon Town Reserves was just five minutes old when Yeovil lost keeper Jack Vallis with a shoulder injury, the

SOUTHERN LEAGUE. KICK-OFF 2.30 P.M.

**R** **YEOVIL & PETERS** **L**

Vallis 1

Day, F. 2

Howe 3

Hyman 4

Gallon 5

Pidgeon 7

Lowes 8

Connor 9

Hayward 10

Parker, F. W. 11

Gregory 6

Referee: Mr. A. C. ROGERS (Dorset F.A.)

Linesmen: Mr. G. R. Jones (Dorset F.A.)  
Mr. E. Welsh (Som. F.A.)

McQuade 12

Randall 13

G. E. Clemett 17

Davies 20

Dickie 14

Curtis 18

Godford 21

Wilson 15

Crawshaw 16

McLean 19

Lee 21

**L** **TAUNTON UNITED.** **R**

Ernie Hyman's tragic final game for Yeovil.

Colours: Green Shirts, White Knickers.

## OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

OF THE

# Yeovil and Petters United Football Club.

ISSUED BY THE

### YEOVIL & PETERS SUPPORTERS' CLUB.

Phone: Saturdays only, Ground 278. Hon. Sec.: Mr. H. SEYMOUR, 1, WYNDHAM ST., YEOVIL.

No. 20. SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 1927. PRICE 1d.

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**EDITORIAL.**

Ebbw Vale favoured us with a very fine afternoon's entertainment on Saturday, and but for our latest casualty we should all have been thoroughly satisfied with the game. They proved themselves quite up to our expectations with their fine exhibition of the art of football.

Whatever comments may have been made on the game at Exeter on the previous Tuesday, when Yeovil, with a little luck, should have returned victors, they were reversed on Saturday, as the luck did favour Yeovil a little. With the fine display of defence by our latest acquisition, we have to say our gods played a good game. Howe missed his partner "Dapper" considerably, on account of Will Day having an off day and not playing his usual game. But nevertheless Tommy rose to the occasion, and proved to all that Jack Gregory knew what he was about when he made that early morning journey north to obtain his signature.

It was undoubtedly one of the best encounters seen on the Yeovil enclosure this season, and we feel sure all will join in wishing our player-manager a speedy recovery to enable him to once more renew his acquaintance with the playing field.

The Reserves paid a visit to Poole, and suffered defeat to the tune of 9-0. Many are aware that such was caused through Yeovil being unable to field a representative team. Our Christmas casualties rendered it impossible to send the usual eleven, as some were required against Ebbw Vale. Such misfortune must not be overlooked when criticising this heavy reverse.

This week the First XI. are without a fixture, as Exeter 1st are at home, and their Reserves cannot fulfil their engagement with Yeovil on the Devon ground.

We are to be favoured with a Somerset Cup match at Yeovil, which should prove most interesting from the point that it will be all amateurs playing. We understand that the Players' Manager has got a good number of enterprising young enthusiasts together to pick from, and we feel sure that those

loyal supporters who rally on the Huish ground will be favoured with a good game, as it will be mostly Yeovilians who will be fielded against Taunton United Reserves, who, we might add, are by no means to be taken lightly, as their encounters in West Somerset have proved.

It was with unfeigned sorrow and regret that the Directors, officials and players, and we are sure every supporter of the Club, heard of the passing of our popular right-half—Ernie Hyman.

Ernie came to us three seasons ago, became one of our most promising players, and was held in the greatest respect and esteem by members of the two teams and supporters. His last appearance for his Club was on Boxing-Day, when during the progress of the game he had to be taken from the field, and after examination by a doctor was conveyed to the Yeovil and District Hospital, where on the following day an operation was performed. His life has remained in the balance ever since, and he died on Friday morning at the age of 22 years.

To his bereaved parents, the Club and the people of Yeovil extend their heartfelt sympathy at this sudden end to a promising career. To the doctors and staff of the Hospital also, the Directors and officials offer their sincere thanks for the noble effort they made to save his life.

The funeral will take place at Radstock where his parents reside, and playing members of Yeovil and Petters United will pay their last tribute to his memory by acting as bearers.

"NEMO II"

handicap proving too much in a 3-0 defeat, but wins over Poole and Taunton United, both due to the scoring power of Peter Scott, were followed by two hat-tricks in three games from Johnny Hayward, the second in the FA Cup tie with Street saw him lauded in the press for scoring his 500th goal, the 250th having been netted back in September 1919, his performances earning him 22 county caps. The goals which have been traced to Johnny, just for Yeovil Town before any county or other matches, tally to 495 goals from 525 known appearances, with possibly another dozen or so unaccounted for when matches were not covered by the press or reported by the club. What can be safely assumed is that Johnny scored over the magic 500 for the Glovers and that will never be passed.

The 10-1 win over Street brought Bristol St George to Huish, a club which was to become a force in West Country football, but they could not hold Scott, Edwards and Lowes, and nor could St Austell, who lost 5-0 in the next round. Jack Gregory had signed a young centre-forward in the summer by the name of Poole, but he was hurt in a trial match and did not appear until October, whereupon he scored seven goals in just four games, including three in front of 3,200 against Barry in the Cup. It brought what should have been a money spinning 4th round tie at Weymouth, only for the weather to intervene on the Saturday, to the chagrin of 500 Yeovilians who had travelled. The Wednesday afternoon saw the tie re-staged and in a massive anti-climax Yeovil lost 4-1, their hang-over compounded by a 5-1 defeat a few days later down at Plymouth Argyle. Jack Gregory signed John Connor, a vastly experienced centre-forward who had been top scorer in the 3rd Division for Crystal Palace and had also played for Millwall. On a more serious note, the programme of 27th November reported: "For the benefit of those readers who are not already aware of the fact, W. H. Poole has been given notice to terminate his engagement with the club. We regret the necessity of this step, but when a man is not amenable to discipline it is to the interest of the club, no matter how good a player maybe, that they part company and this is the course adopted by the Directors."

The forward line seemed to be changing too frequently but Lowes was well on his way to taking over the mantle of Hayward, who was still wheeling away out on the wing, and his single goals in both games with Taunton over Christmas brought four points. Tragically that was the only good news in what was a desperate time for the club. On Boxing Day at



## Reserve Team – Season 1926-1927

Aug	28th	Radstock Town	A	Western Div 2	3-2	White 2, B Gregory
Sept	4th	Blandford United	H	Dorset League	1-0	Radford
	11th	Trowbridge Town	A	Western Div 2	2-5	Radford 2
	18th	Blandford United	A	Dorset League	2-0	Pickering, Edwards
	25th	Minehead	A	Western Div 2	1-0	Parker
Oct	2nd	Central School RTC	A	Dorset League	1-3	White
	9th	Portland United	A	Western Div 2	1-3	Ward
	16th	Castle Hill	H	Dorset League	2-2	White, Radford
	23rd	Frome Town	A	Western Div 2	4-1	C Parker 3, Radford
	30th	Poole Res	A	Dorset League	2-7	Farr, C Parker
Nov	13th	Central School RTC	H	" "	4-1	Edwards 2, C Parker 2
	20th	Trowbridge Town	H	Western Div 2	2-2	C Parker, Abbott
Dec	18th	Portland United	H	Dorset League	3-0	C Parker pen, Scott 2
	25th	Weymouth Res	H	" "	5-2	Scott 5
	27th	Weymouth Res	A	" "	5-0	Scott 2, Edwards, Parsons, C Parker
Jan	1st	Poole Res	A	Western Div 2	0-9	
	8th	Taunton Utd Res	H	Som Sen Cup 1	1-2	White
	15th	Branksome Gas	A	Dorset League	3-5	C Parker, Jenvey, og
	22nd	Dorchester T Res	H	" "	4-1	C Parker, Cleall 2, Jenvey
	29th	Lovells Athletic Res	A	Western Div 2	3-5	Cleall, Ley, Radford
Feb	5th	Minehead	H	" "	4-0	Cleall 3, Jenvey
	12th	Frome Town	H	" "	2-0	Scott 2
	19th	Radstock Town	H	" "	1-1	C Parker
Mar	5th	Poole Res	H	Western Div 2	1-2	Connor
	12th	Portland United	A	Dorset League	0-2	
	19th	Poole Res	H	" "	5-1	Hayward 2, Radford, Edwards pen, Cleall
	26th	Dorchester T Res	A	" "	4-0	Jenvey, Cleall 2, Lay
April	2nd	Portland United	H	Western Div 2	2-4	Edwards, Hayward
	9th	Castle Hill	H	Dorset League	4-3	Hayward 2, Jenvey, Edwards
	15th	Weymouth Res	H	Western Div 2	2-0	Hayward, Cleall
	18th	Weymouth Res	A	" "	1-1	Cleall
	21st	Branksome Gas	H	Dorset League	2-1	Cleall, Hayward
	25th	Welton Rovers	A	Western Div 2	0-3	
May	5th	Welton Rovers	H	" "	3-0	Hayward 2, Cleall
	6th	Poole Res		Dorset League Championship play-off (at Weymouth FC)	4-3	Parsons, Wilson, Scott 2
	7th	Lovells Athletic Res	A	Western Div 2	12-1	Hayward 7, Brock, Lay 2, Jenvey, Edwards

Huish, 21 year old half-back Ernest Hyman was playing his fourteenth first team match of the season when he was injured following a challenge near the half way line. An opponent's knee caught him in the abdomen, and being unable to continue he was carried off and transferred to hospital. Having been detained it began to appear that his injury was worse than at first thought and on the Tuesday he underwent an operation. On Wednesday 29th December he was critical with internal injuries and, after rallying over the New Year, he sadly passed away on the morning of January 7th 1927.

He had been signed in August 1924 from Welton Rovers as an inside right, having first played for Writhlington as a 17 year old and then Radstock Town in the Western League. Having been offered work by his cousin Harry Edwards at Petters, he moved to work and play in Yeovil alongside Harry. His father, William Hyman was well known as a cricketer for Somerset, and he, and Ernest's mother and fiance were at his bedside.

The inquest recorded a verdict of accident, Ernest succumbing to a ruptured bowel. A fund was set up which amounted to £80 6s 0d which was invested in War Stock.

It put a huge cloud over Huish, which with the Cup run

and the new cover over the Queens Street end and the improved terracing, courtesy of 1000 redundant railway sleepers, had been bubbling.

On January 15th Bristol City Reserves visited for a Southern League match and before the kick-off the crowd as one stood bare-headed whilst the players formed a circle around the referee, the Petters Band playing 'Abide With Me' in memory of Ernest Hyman. Not surprisingly the season collapsed, the team failing to win more than one game from then until April 7th, when Peter Scott netted four in a 7-0 win over ailing Weymouth. Connor, Scott and Lowes all finished in goalscoring mood, but the real excitement was in the reserves, where Charlie Parker and Peter Scott had helped the side to the top of the Dorset League where they battled with Poole Reserves and Portland United for the title. By then Johnny Hayward had been lending his experience to the second string, few realising that his 20 year career with Yeovil was drawing to a marvellous climax. His goal against Branksome Gasworks in the final game brought them level with Poole, who won their match to apparently clinch the title. They had however played an unqualified man in an earlier game, and were surprisingly ordered to play the game again, rather than have two points deducted. Incredibly they did the same again in the replayed game, and so having lost patience, the league took away two points and ordered Poole Reserves and Yeovil and Petters United Reserves to play off for the championship. The match was played at Weymouth in bright sunshine and in front of nearly 1000 supporters, with Yeovil winning an exciting match 4-3, Scott's double helping them on to victory. What was a long and tragic season came to a fine climax, but the best was yet to come, for Yeovil had but one match left, away to Lovells Athletic Reserves. It was a meaningless match save for the fact that it was the last which the great Johnny Hayward would play for the club. He had not announced his retirement at that stage, so no fanfare was given, but just in case the public were about to forget him, he signed off with no less than seven goals in a 12-1 demolition of the Newport side.

At the sharp end Torquay United were crowned champions of the Southern League and were voted into the Football League in place of Aberdare Athletic, who joined the Southern League, Lovells dropping out. Taunton United were replaced almost overnight by Taunton Town.

At the end of the season, the Club made its first ever application to join the Third Division of the Football League. A report at the time states: "A big effort is to be made to gain admission to the English League (Div III). The meeting at the Town Hall on Tuesday, 26th April, 1927, was most successful and the motion that application be made was carried with enthusiasm. For the Directors to be able to carry forward the project is entirely due to the work during the past few weeks of the Shareholders' Committee, who have worked untiringly. The satisfactory report they were able to put forward was most encouraging and with still further promises of financial support being made, it only remains for those present to formally confirm an application going forward. From information to hand we are able to state that the Club is hopeful of being successful in their application. Yeovil has for many years been one of the principal association football districts in the West of England and should this important step forward be confirmed and Yeovil & Peters next season figure in English League football, then this will have mainly been brought about by the work of the Committee of which Mr C. E. R. Dye has been such an enthusiastic Chairman and Mr Stanley Vincent an indefatigable secretary. Both these gentlemen and their fellow workers have spared no effort to bring about achievement of the object in view and they are to be commended for what they have done."

At that time there was still a good deal to be done, as others such as Kettering Town were also on the up. There had been a clamour from many supporters wanting a more senior grade of football, but the enormous expense and the much smaller population of the town compared to the likes of Bournemouth, Torquay, Plymouth and Bristol had sharply divided opinion around the club.

The AGM in June 1927 showed the realism of things as they stood. Gates would need to reach the 4000 mark at least to make it possible, but the club had made a loss, although it was rightly said that too many Southern League matches were played in mid-week due to Cup ties, which lost money hand over fist. The structural changes in the Southern League meant that the fixture list would be even heavier, the first team down for a staggering 50 matches before FA Cup ties came into play. It would be a taxing time for the club, as well as the spectators, who were becoming disenchanted with the lack of success at first team level.

#### Southern League Western Section 1926-1927

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Torquay United	26	17	4	5	63	30	38
Bristol City Res	26	14	10	2	77	37	38
Plymouth Arg Res	26	15	4	7	56	38	34
Ebbw Vale	26	14	2	10	67	45	30
Bristol Rovers Res	26	12	4	10	51	43	28
Swindon Town Res	26	11	5	10	60	57	27
Barry	26	11	4	11	65	50	26
Exeter City Res	26	10	6	10	62	49	26
Weymouth	26	12	2	12	48	65	26
Newport Cty Res	26	9	6	11	57	53	24
Bath City	26	7	9	10	44	52	23
Yeovil & Petters Utd	26	9	5	12	49	66	23
Taunton United	26	4	4	18	36	83	12
Mid Rhondda United	26	2	5	19	22	89	9

#### First team appearances 1926-1927

J Gallon 54, H Pidgeon 53, T Lowes 49, F Day, P Scott 42, Howe 39, F Parker 36, S Abbott 35, J Hayward 32, J Gregory 28, J Connor 27, R Radford 25, R Rogers, A Wilson 22, J Vallis 19, T Edwards, W Day 16, The late E Hyman 14, Packer 13, Poole 4, L Henwood 2, J Cleall, F John 1

#### First team goalscorers 1926-1927

T Lowes 39, P Scott 22, J Hayward 18, Poole, J Connor 7, H Pidgeon 6, F Parker 5, T Edwards, R Radford, og's 4, S Abbott, J Gallon 2, the late E Hyman, A Wilson 1

#### Reserve appearances 1926-1927

L Henwood, C Parker 30, H Meaker 27, L Parsons 26, T Edwards, J Cleall 22, R Rogers 18, Lay 17, W Day 16, C White 15, W Ostler 14, W Jenvey 13, R Radford, S Abbott 12, C Farr, Ball 11, F Day 10, F Parker, L Pilkington, Gregory, J Hayward 8, P Scott 7, Brock, the late E Hyman 6, J Vallis 5, Pickering, Toogood 3, W Stoodley, Harris, Ward, J Gregory, Packer 2, F John, Murray, A Wilson, Smith, W Robbins, J Connor 1

#### Reserve team goalscorers 1926-1927

J Hayward 16, C Parker, P Scott, Cleall 13, Edwards 8, R Radford 7, Jenvey 6, White 5, Lay 4, Parsons 2, B Gregory, Pickering, Ward, Farr, S Abbott, Brock, J Connor, A Wilson, og 1

#### Western League Div 1 – 1926-1927

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol City Res	22	16	2	4	59	32	34
Torquay United	22	14	4	4	47	27	32
Plymouth Arg Res	22	13	1	8	63	37	27
Lovell's Athletic	22	11	5	6	47	36	27
Bristol Rovers Res	22	12	3	7	49	41	27
Exeter City Res	22	10	3	9	61	53	23
Yeovil & Petters U	22	10	1	11	48	44	21
Swindon Town Res	22	9	2	11	41	47	20
Bath City	22	8	3	11	35	50	19
Poole	22	6	2	14	40	69	14
Taunton United	22	4	3	15	28	55	11
Weymouth	22	3	3	16	30	57	9

#### Western League Div 2 – 1926-1927

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poole Res	18	14	2	2	68	19	30
Radstock Town	18	12	1	5	43	29	25
Portland United	18	12	0	6	62	31	24
Welton Rovers	18	9	2	7	61	39	20
Yeovil & Pett U Res	18	8	3	7	44	40	19
Lovells Ath Res	18	8	0	10	48	48	16
Trowbridge Town	18	5	2	11	44	52	12
Frome Town	18	5	2	11	28	62	12
Weymouth Res	18	4	4	10	25	60	12
Minehead	18	5	0	13	24	67	10

#### Dorset League 1926-1927

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil & Pett U Res	16	11	1	4	47	28	23
Poole Res	16	12	1	3	57	24	23
Portland United	16	10	1	5	56	25	21
Castle Hill	16	6	7	3	44	31	19
Weymouth Res	16	7	3	6	42	40	17
Central School RTC	16	6	1	9	46	59	13
Branksome Gas	16	5	2	9	36	46	12
Blandford United	16	5	2	9	29	40	12
Dorchester T Res	16	0	2	14	17	80	2

The summer of 1927 did indeed bring the end of an era, as Johnny Hayward quietly bowed out of the limelight he had enjoyed for some 20 years. Also going was Fred Day, who was trying his luck at Taunton, although brother Bill was staying put. Jack Gregory was back in training after missing most of the season, and in his last contracted year as manager he signed a number of new faces for the season. Ex Army man W Grimster, outside right Newman and Pullen, both from Exeter City, and Cotton from Crewe Alexandra were new faces. The trials began with the press commenting on how much heavier the new teams looked, not a reference to good living in the cricket season, but sheer bulk needed to cope with the rigours of uncompromising Southern League teams. Another trialist was FG Williams, a Kettering man who scored four and was immediately signed on.

The first game, at Huish against Barry, was described as exhilarating, with new wingers Newman and Grist providing much for the 3000 crowd to enthuse over. Bert Grist was later to serve the club for many years as groundsman.

Despite that, it was five games before a win came along, and that was at home to Aberdare and Aberaman United, a combination of two clubs who got together when the former dropped out of the Football League.

The FA Cup draw was unkind and had sent Yeovil down

First Team – Season 1927-1928					
Aug	27th	Barry	H	Southern Lge W	0-1
	29th	Aberdare & Aber U	A	" "	2-2 Grist, Lowes
Sept	1st	Taunton Town	A	Western Div 1	1-1 Williams
	3rd	Newport Co Res	H	Southern Lge W	2-3 Cotton, Lowes
	8th	Aberdare & Aber U	H	" "	5-3 Lowes 2, Cotton 3 (1pen)
	10th	Swindon Town Res	A	" "	2-4 Williams 2
	15th	Bath City	H	Western Div 1	5-2 Lloyd 2, Williams 2, Grist
	17th	Green Waves	A	FA Cup Prel Rd	3-0 Lloyd 2, Williams
	22nd	Bristol Rovers Res	H	Western Div 1	2-2 Lloyd, Wilson
	24th	Exeter City Res	A	Southern Lge W	0-4
	29th	Lovells Athletic	A	Western Div 1	6-5 Lloyd 3, Williams 2, Scott
Oct	1st	Civil Service Plym	A	FA Cup 1st Ql Rd	1-3 Scott
	8th	Bristol City Res	A	Western Div 1	1-3 Williams
	15th	Bristol City Res	H	" "	1-0 Lowes
	22nd	Ebbw Vale	A	Southern Lge W	1-4 Lowes
	29th	Bideford Town	A	Friendly	9-0 Scott 6, Lowes 2, Grimster
Nov	5th	Bristol City Res	H	Southern Lge W	1-2 Grist
	12th	Ebbw Vale	H	" "	9-1 Scott 6, Williams 2, Lowes
	19th	Bristol Rovers Res	A	" "	1-5 Lowes
	26th	Swindon Town Res	H	" "	3-1 Radford, Lowes, Scott
Dec	3rd	Weymouth	A	Western Div 1	3-1 Scott 2, Howe pen
	10th	Mid-Rhondda Utd	A	Southern Lge W	2-2 Pullen pen, Newman
	17th	Exeter City Res	H	" "	3-1 Scott, Lowes 2
	24th	Plymouth Arg Res	H	" "	3-3 Scott 2, Radford
	27th	Taunton Town	A	" "	1-1 Scott
	31st	Weymouth	H	Western Div 1	6-3 Scott 3, Lowes, Gregory, Radford
Jan	7th	Bristol City Res	A	Southern Lge W	0-6
	14th	Reading Res	H	Friendly	3-1 Scott 2, Pullen
	21st	Plymouth Arg Res	A	Western Div 1	2-8 Pullen pen, Radford
	28th	Salisbury City	H	" "	4-1 Scott 2, Pullen pen, eg
Feb	4th	Torquay Utd Res	H	Southern Lge W	4-1 Scott 2, Radford 2
	11th	Mid-Rhondda Utd	H	" "	6-1 Scott 2, Radford 2, Wilson 2
	18th	Lovells Athletic	H	Western Div 1	1-0 Scott
	25th	Plymouth Arg Res	H	" "	0-2
March	1st	Bath City	A	" "	4-2 Scott 2, Radford 2
	3rd	Barry	A	Southern Lge W	3-0 Scott 2, Wilson
	7th	Torquay Utd Res	A	Western Div 1	1-3 Radford
	10th	Exeter City Res	H	" "	2-3 Radford, Scott
	17th	Weymouth	A	Southern Lge W	0-1
	22nd	Taunton Town	H	" "	0-1
	24th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	" "	1-5 Davies
	28th	Exeter City Res	A	" "	1-2 Grist
	31st	Merthyr Town Res	H	" "	1-2 Pullen pen
April	6th	Bath City	A	" "	1-0 Radford
	7th	Weymouth	H	" "	1-1 Edwards
	9th	Bath City	H	" "	2-1 Radford, Scott
	10th	Newport Co Res	A	" "	1-1 Radford
	14th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	" "	5-1 Pullen, Lowes, Newman, Scott 2
	18th	Salisbury City	A	Western Div 1	4-2 Scott, Rowlands, Day, Newman
	21st	Merthyr Town Res	A	Southern Lge W	2-2 Radford 2
	26th	Torquay Utd Res	H	" "	7-1 Scott 4, Lowes, Radford, Pullen
	28th	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	1-0 Lowes
	30th	Bristol Rovers Res	A	Western Div 1	3-0 Pullen pen, Radford 2
May	5th	Taunton Town	H	" "	3-0 Radford 2, Lowes

Reserve Team – Season 1927-1928					
Aug	27th	Radstock Town	A	Western Div 2	5-3 Scott 3, Kenna, Abbott
Sept	3rd	Castle Hill	A	Dorset League	4-1 Scott 2, Abbott, Wilson
	10th	Minehead	H	Western Div 2	5-2 Scott, Ostler, F Parker, Cotton 2
	17th	Castle Hill	H	Dorset League	7-1 Scott 7
	24th	Portland United Res	H	" "	1-1 F Parker
Oct	1st	Branksome Gas	H	" "	6-0 Radford 2, C Parker 3 (1pen), Grimster
	8th	Westbourne Ath	H	" "	9-1 Scott 4 (1pen), Radford 4, F Parker
	22nd	Weymouth Res	A	" "	3-0 Lay, Wilson, Radford
	29th	Dorchester T Res	H	" "	9-0 Radford 6 (1pen), Jenvey, Lay, Ostler
Nov	5th	Poole Town Res	A	Western Div 2	3-3 Radford, Lay, Scott
	12th	Portland United	A	Dorset League	2-5 Parker 2
	19th	Portland United	H	Western Div 2	3-3 Wilson 2, Lloyd
	26th	Dorchester T Res	A	Dorset League	3-1 Abbott, Williams, Grist
Dec	3rd	Weymouth Res	H	Western Div 2	7-1 Abbott, Lay, Lloyd 3, Williams, Grimster
	10th	1st Glos Regiment	H	Friendly	14-2 Williams 5, Lloyd 2, Davies 3, Lay, Abbott, Grimster, F Parker
	27th	Yeovil & Dist Lge	H	" "	5-7 Williams 3, Abbott, Parsons
	31st	Weymouth Res	A	Western Div 2	3-0 Lloyd, Lay, Pilkington
Jan	7th	Wells City	A	Som Sen Cup 2	1-1 Lloyd
	14th	Wells City	A	Replay	1-3 Lloyd
	21st	Poole Town Res	H	Dorset League	6-0 Williams 2, Davies 2, Lay, Lloyd
Feb	4th	Branksome Gas	A	" "	0-2
	11th	Westbourne Ath	A	" "	2-2 FC Parker, Williams
	18th	Welton Rovers	A	Western Div 2	2-3 Williams, Lowes
	25th	Trowbridge Town	A	" "	2-1 Davies, Lay
March	3rd	Radstock Town	H	" "	4-1 Davies 2, Lowes, Edwards
	10th	Minehead	A	" "	7-1 Davies 4, Lowes 2, C Parker pen
	17th	Weymouth Res	H	Dorset League	7-0 Davies 2, Grimster, Lloyd 2, Edwards, Pullen
	24th	Trowbridge Town	H	Western Div 2	1-2 Wilson
	31st	Portland United	A	" "	2-0 FW Parker, Scott
April	6th	Poole Town Res	A	Dorset League	1-1 Davies
	10th	Welton Rovers	H	Western Div 2	2-0 Davies, Grimster
	14th	Bournemouth Trams	A	Dorset League	2-2 Davies 2
	19th	Bournemouth Trams	H	" "	3-1 Lloyd 2, Davies
	28th	Poole Town Res	H	Western Div 2	10-1 Williams 3 (1pen), Lloyd 3, Wilson, FW Parker, Davies 2

to Plymouth to face Green Waves FC, in a match where they had little chance of making money and every chance of losing it. The club was less than impressed when a repeat performance sent them back in the next round to face Civil Service on a pitch only shouting distance from Green Waves. The poor conditions were not to the players liking and a 3-1 defeat was almost inevitable, as was the scathing post mortem. It came just a week after a freakish 6-5 win at Lovells but as so often happened, it signalled a low spell for the side, which in effect killed off the season as far as honours were concerned.

Peter Scott showed his class in a friendly up at Bideford Town scoring in a match designed to help the club financially, although sadly it did not work for few people bothered and a month later the club folded.

Two weeks later, Scott did it again, netting another double

**Southern League  
Western Section 1927-1928**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol City Res	30	20	3	7	95	51	43
Exeter City Res	30	18	4	8	104	56	40
Bristol Rovers Res	30	16	3	11	80	64	35
Plymouth Arg Res	30	16	2	12	88	53	34
Newport Co Res	30	13	8	9	99	70	34
Ebbw Vale	30	15	3	12	67	74	33
Swindon Town Res	30	13	4	13	80	74	30
Aberdare & Ab Utd	30	12	6	12	62	68	30
Yeovil & Petters U	30	11	7	12	64	57	29
Torquay Utd Res	30	11	6	13	51	67	28
Bath City	30	12	3	15	64	68	27
Taunton Town	30	11	5	14	60	65	27
Weymouth	30	10	6	14	50	83	26
Merthyr Town Res	30	9	4	17	50	77	22
Barry	30	8	6	16	45	87	22
Mid-Rhondda Utd	30	7	6	17	36	81	20

**Dorset League 1927-1928**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portland Utd Res	16	12	2	2	61	20	26
Yeovil & Pett U Res	16	10	4	2	65	18	24
Weymouth Res	16	9	3	4	43	37	21
Castle Hill	16	7	2	7	44	36	16
Branksome Gas	16	7	1	8	40	45	15
Bournemouth Tram	16	5	4	7	46	41	14
Dorchester Town	16	4	2	10	29	57	10
Poole Res	16	4	3	9	26	62	10
Westbourne Ath	16	2	3	11	37	73	7

**Western League Div 1 1927-1928**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Plymouth Arg Res	20	13	5	2	76	32	31
Exeter City Res	20	13	4	3	50	24	30
Yeovil & Petters U	20	12	2	6	56	44	26
Bristol City Res	20	10	4	6	71	40	24
Bristol Rovers Res	20	11	2	7	61	39	24
Taunton Town	20	9	5	6	36	33	23
Lovell's Athletic	20	7	2	11	40	49	16
Bath City	20	5	3	12	36	54	13
Weymouth	20	3	3	14	16	60	9
Salisbury City	20	3	2	15	23	72	8

**Western League Div 2 1927-1928**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Trowbridge Town	14	12	0	2	43	16	24
Yeovil & Pett U Res	14	10	2	2	56	21	22
Portland United	14	7	1	6	35	30	15
Welton Rovers	14	7	0	7	44	26	14
Radstock Town	14	6	1	7	48	41	13
Weymouth Res	14	4	1	9	22	52	9
Poole Town Res	14	4	1	9	25	54	9
Minehead	14	3	0	11	17	50	6

hat-trick, against Ebbw Vale, but the Schoolboy International's goals were not enough to haul Yeovil off the bottom of the table. The run in to Christmas was more promising, seven matches went by without defeat, Scott's ten goals bringing much needed relief, but it all went sadly wrong on January 7th at Ashton Gate, as player-coach Jack Gregory was sent-off for the first time in 18 years as a player. The 6-0 defeat was followed by an even worse 8-2 loss at Plymouth, but from there the smiles slowly began to return as young Scott went into overdrive along with partner Dick

Radford. The topsy-turvy campaign stumbled through March, but April saw a glut of wins including a 1-0 score at Bath City's Lambridge ground in front of over 4000 people.

In all, the twelve Southern League wins dragged them up to mid-table, in a league completely dominated by the reserve sides of League clubs. The second team story was somewhat happier, with Peter Scott starting off with a stunning thirteen goals from his first four games, a rate which took him into the senior side where he stayed. His feat of scoring all seven in a 7-1 win over Castle Hill equalled anything Johnny Hayward had done, although Dick Radford went close with six out of nine against a poor Dorchester Town. The Glovers headed the Dorset League and were amongst the leaders of the Western League Div 2 throughout the season, but Portland United proved to be even more consistent, and when Yeovil dropped a point against Poole Town Reserves they were overtaken, the islanders eventually beating Dorchester on April 30th to sneak the championship. The season finished on a sour note at Salisbury City, a side which Yeovil had not played since the Wiltshire League days at Pen Mill. Scott and Newman were sent off and Gregory later reported for incidents in a match where three penalties were awarded. Incredibly the nine men won the match 4-2, and, gaining the respect of the home followers, were cheered from the pitch.

By the time the hearing came up, Jack Gregory's time at the club was over as his contract was up and not renewed. Scott and Pullen were cautioned for deliberately kicking an opponent, but it was all academic as yet another unremarkable campaign ground to a halt. Jack Gregory's time had begun with a stunning success, but it did not look like being repeated and with crowds not increasing and the reserve side not attracting the support the club desperately needed, a change was in the air, and it would come from within.

**First team appearances 1927-28**

J Gregory 53, Newman 52, R Pullen 45, W Day 44, H Grist 43, S Packer 41, R Radford, P Scott 37, J Gallon 33, T Lowes 32, Howe 30, S Abbott 28, FW Parker 19, F Williams 18, A Wilson, Rowlands 17, J Lloyd 14, L Clarke 10, Cotton, W Grimster, D Smith 5, F Toogood 4, F Davies, R Rogers 3, H Edwards, C Parker, Butler 1

**First team goalscorers 1927-28**

P Scott 46, R Radford 22, T Lowes 18, F Williams 11, R Pullen, J Lloyd 8, H Grist, Cotton, A Wilson 4, Newman 3, W Grimster, Howe, J Gregory, H Davies, H Edwards, Rowlands, W Day, og 1

**Reserve team appearances 1927-28**

L Clarke, W Grimster, C Parker, K Lay 27, R Rogers 24, A Wilson 21, D Smith, S Abbott, FW Parker 20, F Williams 19, F Toogood 18, J Lloyd 17, F Davies 14, Kenna 10, P Scott, W Ostler, S Packer 8, L Pilkington, R Radford, T Lowes 7, Parsons 5, H Edwards, H Grist 3, W Day 2, Hearley, Jenvey, Ball, L Henwood, Warner, L Abbott, FC Parker, R Pullen, Farr, Howe 1

**Reserve team goalscorers 1927-28**

H Davies 21, P Scott 19, J Lloyd, F Williams 17, R Radford 14, K Lay 8, S Abbott, A Wilson, C Parker 6, W Grimshaw 5, T Lowes 4, W Ostler, Cotton, H Edwards 2, Parsons, Kenna, Jenvey, H Grist, R Pullen, L Pilkington, FC Parker 1

It was generally accepted by all involved in football in the town, that the 1928-29 season was critical for the immediate future of Yeovil and Petters United Football Club, with there being a real possibility of dropping out of the Southern League if the malaise was not altered in some way. The

supporters were still doing their thing, but attendances had dropped with the national depression beginning to bite. Weymouth had bitten the bullet and resigned from the Southern League, taking the place of the reserves in Western League Division Two, and Poole Town were not to finish the season either, resigning with four games to go due to the desperate financial plight they found themselves in.

At Huish Tommy Lowes was offered and accepted the Player-coach job replacing Jack Gregory in July, after two seasons at the club, chiefly as an inside-left. He scoured the north of the country for players and by early August had signed Joe Campbell, a right-half with time spent at Bradford City and Hull City and David Baynham, a full-back from Bournemouth and Boscombe. Bill Dixon from Barrow, a left half, and centre half Billy Nairn, captain of the victorious Newport County side were also captured, but both opted to stay put in the end which threw Lowes' plans somewhat. The new coach did land Maurice White, a forward with League experience with Tranmere Rovers, with the rest at that time consisting of tried and tested amateurs such as Jack Lloyd, Frank Parker and Bert Thorne.

There were plenty of anxious faces around the club at the AGM, with the news of Weymouth's problems, and those of Sherborne and Gillingham, two other clubs from close by to fold in the summer. It was to be another exasperating season, and one which delayed the inevitable by a couple of years, and one which started with Maurice White netting seven goals in the first four games, the first being at Taunton where Bill Day met up to play against his brother Fred and the second against Merthyr Town where John Poole had pitched up, after his sensational but short Yeovil career had terminated abruptly. Four of the first six games were against Taunton, with the FA Cup tie going to a replay, which the Taunton club won comfortably 3-0. Sadly for them a discrepancy regarding their player Curtis meant that Yeovil were re-instated after they protested, a move which led to some bitterness in Taunton's camp and a stern letter by an anonymous footballer in the Pullmans Weekly decrying Yeovil's decision to protest as unsporting. The player was quite probably Fred Day, who had mentioned himself as an ex-Yeovil player, but the furore died down as soon as it began. The club was more than a little sceptical as to whether a protest was in their best interests in truth, the financial losses linked to the Cup a year earlier after successive visits to Plymouth to play in front of sparse crowds on less than impressive pitches still uppermost in the mind. A return to Civil Service's ground was a poor return, but after gaining a draw the replay on the Thursday afternoon was comfortable.

Lowes had signed two trialists, Powell an inside left from Merthyr, and Jock Goulden, another forward from Raith Rovers and they both played in the league win over Barry before Wells City in the Cup, and Cardiff City Reserves in a friendly, were both beaten 5-2. It was a nice run up to the Cup tie at Barry, the competition beginning to be significant as the better supported teams came into view. A Bill Day penalty gave Yeovil a draw at Jenner Park, but the Welsh survived the replay after extra time on the Thursday and both sides trooped up to Ashton Gate for the second replay, which Goulden won virtually single handed.

It left little time to prepare for the next round, which was on the following Saturday, at Salisbury City, and the team did well to come away with a 3-3 draw in what was the last qualifying round before the League clubs came in. A then record crowd of 2,750 watched the game, roughly the same attendance as saw the Wells game. It was already known that the winners were to play Plymouth Argyle when the replay took place and an inspired Yeovil won 5-2 to secure the big pay day. The interminable round of replays and second

### First Team – Season 1928-1929

Aug	25th	Taunton Town	A	Southern Lge W	1-1	White
Sept	1st	Merthyr Town Res	H	" "	4-2	White 3, Radford
	6th	Torquay Utd Res	H	Western Div 1	1-0	White
	8th	Taunton Town	H	Southern Lge W	2-1	White 2
	15th	Taunton Town	A	FA Cup Prel Rd	1-1	Day pen
	19th	Taunton Town	H	Replay	0-3	
	22nd	Swindon Town Res	H	Southern Lge W	1-3	White
	27th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	Western Div 1	1-4	Lloyd
	29th	Plymouth Civil Serv	A	FA Cup 1st Qual	2-2	Parker, White
Oct	4th	Plymouth Civil Serv	H	Replay	6-3	White, J Smith 2, Lloyd 2, Newman
	6th	Barry	H	Southern Lge W	2-1	Powell, White
	13th	Wells City	H	FA Cup 2nd Qual	5-2	Newman, Goulden, White 2, FW Parker
	20th	Cardiff City Res	H	Friendly	5-2	FW Parker, White, Goulden, Newman, Powell
	27th	Barry	A	FA Cup 3rd Qual	2-2	White, Day pen
Nov	1st	Barry	H	Replay	0-0	AET
	3rd	Plymouth Arg Res	H	Western Div 1	1-1	White
	5th	Barry		FA Cup 3rd Qual		
				2nd Replay	3-1	Goulden 2, White
	10th	Salisbury City	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	3-3	Powell, White, Newman
	15th	Salisbury City	H	Replay	5-2	White 2, Powell, Goulden, FW Parker
	17th	RAF X1	H	Friendly	4-2	Scott 2, Powell 2 (1 pen)
	24th	Plymouth Argyle	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	1-4	Rowlands
Dec	1st	Torquay Utd Res	H	Southern Lge W	0-1	
	8th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	" "	1-4	White
	15th	Bristol City Res	A	Western Div 1	0-3	
	22nd	Bristol City Res	H	" "	2-6	Lowes, Campbell
	25th	Taunton Town	A	" "	1-4	Rowlands
	26th	Taunton Town	H	" "	1-6	Lloyd
	29th	Newport Co Res	A	Southern Lge W	1-3	Day pen
Jan	5th	Ebbw Vale	H	" "	2-0	White, Lowes
	12th	Torquay Utd Res	A	Western Div 1	1-1	Lowes
	19th	Exeter City Res	H	Southern Lge W	2-1	Goulden 2
	26th	Bristol & Dist X1	H	Friendly	4-1	Goulden, Campbell, Grist, Lowes
Feb	2nd	Plymouth Arg Res	A	Western Div 1	1-5	Campbell
	9th	Exeter City Res	A	Southern Lge W	2-8	White 2
	21st	Bath City	A	Som Profess Cup	0-2	
	23rd	Plymouth Arg Res	H	Southern Lge W	2-3	Lloyd, Campbell
March	2nd	Bournemouth & BA	H	Friendly	3-2	Grist, White, Williams
	7th	Bath City	A	Western Div 1	5-1	White, Lloyd 4
	9th	Ebbw Vale	A	Southern Lge W	1-1	White
	16th	Bristol City Res	H	" "	3-0	Powell 2, Lowes
	19th	Bristol Rovers Res	A	" "	4-3	White 3, Williams
	23rd	Merthyr Town Res	A	" "	4-1	Powell, White, Lloyd 2
	29th	Bath City	A	" "	1-3	Grist
	30th	Lovells Athletic	H	" "	2-0	Campbell pen, Smith
April	1st	Bath City	H	" "	3-0	White 2, Goulden
	2nd	Barry	A	" "	0-3	
	4th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	" "	1-4	Lloyd
	6th	Exeter City Res	A	Western Div 1	1-5	Powell
	11th	Swindon Town Res	A	Southern Lge W	2-3	Powell 2
	13th	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	1-4	Grist
	17th	Bristol Rovers Res	A	Western Div 1	0-3	
	20th	Bristol City Res	A	Southern Lge W	0-3	
	25th	Bath City	H	Western Div 1	1-1	White
	27th	Exeter City Res	H	" "	3-3	White 3
	30th	Taunton Town	H	Som Profess Cup	2-0	White, og
May	4th	Newport Co Res	H	Southern Lge W	6-1	White 2, Lowes 2, Goulden, Powell
also		Lovells Athletic	A	Southern Lge W	1-3	Lowes



## Reserve Team – Season 1928-1929

Aug	25th	Westbourne Ath	H	Dorset League	9-0	Davies 3, Everson 2, Williams, Grimster, Lay, Grist
Sept	1st	Westbourne Ath	A	" "	8-0	Davies 2, Everson 2, Scott 3, Grist
	8th	Trowbridge Town	A	WL Benefit game	1-1	Scott
	12th	Blandford United	A	Dorset League	2-2	Everson, C Parker
	15th	Central School RTC	A	" "	3-1	Everson, Scott, Wright
	22nd	Weymouth Res	A	Western Div 2	2-3	Everson, Grist
	26th	Bournemouth Trams	A	Dorset League	2-6	Scott, Lay
	29th	Central School RTC	H	" "	5-1	Scott 3, Lay 2
Oct	13th	Dorchester Town	A	" "	1-0	Davies
	20th	Portland United	A	Western Div 2	2-3	Lay, Scott
	27th	Blandford United	H	Dorset League	3-1	Lloyd 2, Scott
Nov	3rd	Branksome Gas	A	" "	0-2	
	24th	Radstock Town	A	Western Div 2	3-3	Tulley, Parker, Davies
Dec	1st	Salisbury City Res	A	" "	1-3	C Parker pen
	8th	Branksome Gas	H	Dorset League	5-0	Davies 2, Everson 2, Lloyd
	15th	Dorchester Town	H	" "	4-2	Scott 4
	29th	Castle Hill	H	" "	4-0	Powell 3, Scott
Jan	5th	Welton Rovers	A	Western Div 2	2-3	Scott 2
	12th	Weymouth Res	H	" "	4-2	Davies 2, Scott, Lloyd
	19th	Bristol St George	A	" "	2-5	Radford, Emerson
	26th	Castle Hill	A	Dorset League	2-1	Wright, Scott
Feb	2nd	Portland United	H	" "	2-2	Davies, Grimster
	9th	Bath City Res	H	Western Div 2	3-1	Radford, Rowlands pen, Scott
Mar	2nd	Bath City Res	A	Dorset League	2-4	Scott 2
	9th	Trowbridge Town	H	" "	4-1	Radford, Davies 2, Parker
	16th	Swanage	A	" "	4-0	Radford, Davies, Scott 2
	21st	Salisbury City	H	Western Div 2	4-1	Radford 2, Scott 2
	23rd	Swanage	H	Dorset League	8-1	Scott 3, Radford 2, Davies 2, Parker
	29th	Weymouth Res	A	" "	2-2	Scott, Davies
April	1st	Poole Town Res	A	" "	2-5	Scott, Davies
	2nd	Weymouth Res	H	" "	5-1	Davies 2, Rowlands 2, Grimster
	6th	Poole Town Res	H	" "	7-3	Davies 2, Radford 2, Tulley, Lay 2
	11th	Bournemouth Trams	H	" "	3-0	Davies 2, Goulden
	13th	Bristol St George	H	Western Div 2	8-0	Davies 3, Radford 3, Rowlands, Lay
	18th	Portland United	H	" "	1-0	Davies
	20th	Radstock Town	H	" "	7-0	Davies 4 (1pen), Radford 2, Lay
	24th	Welton Rovers	H	" "	4-1	Davies 2, Pilkington, Wright
	27th	Portland United	A	Dorset League	1-3	Smith
May	4th	Trowbridge Town	A	Western Div 2	2-3	Davies, Scott

replays had meant that the club had played but one Southern League fixture since September 22nd, and, with the next on December 1st, they were already way behind the leaders. The Plymouth game attracted the biggest ever crowd to Huish, given as 6,299, bringing in gate receipts of £426, and although the match was lost, their perseverance had paid off, as well as going some way to retrieving the situation the Cup left them in last time round.

Crowds at that time had been good, with 3000 for the Taunton replay and 2500 for the tie with Wells City and all at the club fervently hoped that it would be the springboard for a good season, but sadly the reverse was true. Tommy Lowes' side lost every game in December, keeper Packer breaking a finger at Taunton in the first game of a 10-2

double defeat on Christmas and Boxing Days. The spell was broken in the new year but by February the defence was leaking goals, five and then eight in two games in a week in Devon and losing Jock Goulden to Middlesbrough at the beginning of March just made things worse.

It was sad for all concerned that with the reserve side doing so well, as the supporters had requested, the first team could not respond, but with Maurice White the only forward finding the net regularly, the league form petered away for yet another disappointing campaign.

There was chance of silverware in the newly formed Somerset Professional Cup, a tournament designed to be played for by those with pro players, unlike the Senior Cup which was amateur. The three team cup, against Taunton Town and Bath City was played on a league basis, but Yeovil lost both matches. White finished with a glut of goals, much as he began, and it was not long before he was snapped up after the season ended, Wolverhampton Wanderers having liked what they saw.

The reserves were again playing in Western League Division Two and the Dorset League and, although scoring plenty of goals, particularly in March and April, the honours evaded them although the finish was far preferable to that of the first team whose Western League campaign ended rock bottom.

Tommy Lowes' first season in charge, his third overall, was his last as with little ceremony he was gone.

The close season saw a complete change around in more ways than one. Unconvinced as to the worth of continuing with a reserve side, and with talk of League status gone for a while, the powers that be pulled the plug and resigned from the Dorset League after a number of happy years. They also resigned from Division Two of the Western League once the first team had been re-elected to the top division, disbanding the second team outright in June.

It seemed a strange move to leave Huish unused for half of the season, but it was not long before the committee's motive was revealed. Elsewhere in the town Westland Engine Works had been playing local football on the Aerodrome, but it was suggested that a senior amateur team would benefit from the Huish facilities should they wish to move in. An application for membership of the Somerset Senior League was made by the Westlands club and they were accepted, changing their name to Petters Westland Works FC and signing a number of ex-Yeovilians. With Southern League season ticket holders given free admission to Petters games, it was a reserve team in all but name, but the club went to great lengths to distance themselves from the new tenants, possibly to stave off any adverse comments should the football be of a poor quality.

White having gone to Wolves and Joe Campbell also gone, to Southend United, there was much criticism at the public meeting, as figures of £133 losses and gates down £400 were handed around. The average attendance was 1600, almost a thousand under what was needed and it required a charismatic new man to redress the balance. The committee chose David Pratt, a former Scottish International who had played top class football with Celtic and Liverpool before moving down a class to Bury. He immediately went to work in building his team with Tom McNeill, a 23 year old inside forward from Liverpool signing on. Winger John Barclay, ex of Accrington and Dundee, Cyril Oxley, another from Liverpool and Tom Cheetham, an experienced left back from Bradford City were the first to arrive. The ever dependable Bill Day was back for the trials along with Logan from Plymouth Argyle and McDade from Greenock, the Scots contingent growing by the day. The fixture list was strong with 42 league matches in the two competitions, plus FA and Professional Cup ties as well as the odd friendly or two, courtesy of the new coach's contacts up country. For once the pre-season optimism was justified as the trials began.

**Southern League Western  
Section – 1928-1929**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Plymouth Arg Res	26	15	6	5	69	27	36
Newport Co Res	26	15	2	9	64	58	32
Bristol Rovers Res	26	14	3	9	54	45	31
Bristol City Res	26	14	2	10	70	46	30
Torquay Utd Res	26	13	4	9	52	42	30
Bath City	26	13	4	9	61	59	30
Exeter City Res	26	11	6	9	69	53	28
Lovell's Athletic	26	11	6	9	54	48	28
Swindon Town Res	26	11	5	10	68	74	27
Yeovil & Petters U	26	11	2	13	49	57	24
Taunton Town	26	9	5	12	58	66	23
Ebbw Vale	26	9	5	12	56	66	23
Barry	26	6	3	17	38	66	15
Merthyr Town Res	26	3	1	22	37	92	7

**Western League  
Division 1 – 1928-1929**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol Rovers Res	14	10	0	4	39	21	20
Plymouth Arg Res	14	6	4	4	31	19	16
Bath City	14	6	4	4	33	30	16
Taunton Town	14	7	2	5	32	30	16
Bristol City Res	14	7	1	6	34	31	15
Exeter City Res	14	4	4	6	36	42	12
Torquay Utd Res	14	3	3	8	21	30	9
Yeovil & Petters U	14	3	4	8	19	42	8

**Western League Div 2 1928-1929**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bath City Res	16	12	0	4	44	28	24
Portland United	16	10	3	3	44	26	23
Trowbridge Town	16	8	3	5	31	33	19
Yeovil & Pett U Res	16	8	1	7	51	33	17
Welton Rovers	16	5	5	6	30	32	15
Weymouth	16	4	6	6	35	41	14
Salisbury City	16	5	3	8	28	36	13
Bristol St George	16	4	3	9	41	56	11
Radstock Town	16	3	2	11	27	46	8

**Dorset League Div 1 1928-1929**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portland United	22	17	2	3	70	19	36
Poole Town Res	22	17	2	3	79	32	36
Yeovil & Pett U Res	22	15	3	4	86	33	31*
Bournemouth Gas	22	13	1	8	60	44	27
Bournemouth Trams	22	12	1	9	69	64	25
Weymouth Res	22	11	2	9	60	49	24
Blandford United	22	9	3	10	53	60	21
Swanage	22	8	2	12	39	62	18
Dorchester Town	22	7	1	14	33	47	15
Royal Tank Corps	22	4	2	16	29	67	10
Westbourne Ath	22	5	0	17	28	98	10
Castle Hill	22	4	1	17	36	62	9

\*2 points deducted

**First team appearances 1928-1929**

M White 54, D Baynham, W Day 52, J Campbell 51, J Smith 49, Newman 47, F Williams, J Goulden 37, R Rogers 31, Powell 28, J Lloyd 27, S Packer, FW Parker 25, H Grist 24, Rowlands 21, T Lowes 14, R Radford 9, L Clarke, McIlroy 4, P Scott 3, Lewis, Davis, L Tulley 2, T Grimster, F Toogood, K Lay 1

**First team goalscorers 1928-1929**

M White 40, Powell 13, J Lloyd 12, J Goulden 10, T Lowes 8, J Campbell 5, H Grist, FW Parker, Newman 4, W Day, J Smith 3, P Scott, Rowlands, F Williams 2, R Radford, og 1

**Reserve appearances 1928-1929**

F Toogood 31, W Davies 30, L Clarke 29, W Grimster, L Tulley, M Wright 28, C Parker 24, K Lay, P Scott 23, H Grist 20, R Radford 16, R Rogers, J Lloyd, D Smith 13, Everson 12, Rowlands 11, W Ostler 10, F Williams 8, T Grimster 6, FW Parker 5, H Hellier, Powell 4, L Pilkington, S Packer 3, T Lowes, G Mothersole 2, Lewis, Rogers, C Davies, W Day, J Goulden, Thorne 1

**Reserve goalscorers 1928-1929**

H Davies 35, P Scott 33, R Radford 15, Everson 10, K Lay 9, C Parker 5, J Lloyd, Rowlands 4, W Grimster, H Grist, M Wright, Powell 3, Tulley 2, F Williams, J Goulden, L Pilkington, J Smith 1

David Pratt had worked wisely in his few short weeks before the season began. Due to the fact it was proving impossible to obtain work for the players because of the depression, the Club turned full-time professional and the weekly wage bill rose to £50. Virtually the whole of the previous squad under Tommy Lowes was gone, with just Rogers and Bill Day left, many of the local pros having moved on with the amateurs playing at Huish for Westland Works. It was to prove to be a remarkable season for several reasons, not least because it heralded massive changes in the structure of football in the south. The committee had seemingly got it spot on when disbanding the reserves, for the chaos of playing in four different competitions plus the attendant cup ties made fixture compiling a secretary's nightmare. Ernest Sercombe had held that post for twenty odd years with honour and he oversaw the new season which began at home to Taunton Town on 31st August 1929, some 3100 giving what was described as a 'full throated welcome' to the new Glovers, and to an old favourite in Jimmy Gardner in the third match against Lovells, he having gravitated there from Clapton Orient. His hat-trick could not stop Yeovil for whom Bert Bloxham also netted three. Former Aston Villa and Charlton Athletic keeper Johnson was signed early on, and a young winger by the name of Masters was signed from junior club Montacute, scoring twice on an impressive debut. The excellent run continued through September and included an FA Cup win against Kingswood, but the good fortune deserted David Pratt at Barry, when a series of injuries and illness were responsible for a 5-2 defeat. October 5th was an important day not only for Yeovil but for Dorchester Town, who were slowly coming out of the doldrums and were opening their new ground on Weymouth Road, just a stone's throw from the Recreation Ground and fully fenced off in time for the first match against 2nd Battery Dorset Regiment. At Huish Billy Whitehead was taking care of Ebbw Vale in front of over 3000 fans.

Most noteworthy was the consistency of Pratt's side, which was virtually unchanged for the first three months, with Rogers beginning in goal before Johnson arrived, Bill Day and Tom Cheetham at full back, the former playing every game and the latter missing just one all season. The rest of the defence and half back line, Jimmy Logan, David Pratt and Tom Parkin missed just four matches between them, Pratt's being due to club business, and the forward line shared the limelight with Bert Bloxham netting 23 times despite missing nine games through injury, Paddy McDade and Tom McNeil who played every game and John Barclay and Billy Whitehead who missed five matches each. Even Fred Western, a 23 year old centre-forward from Merthyr was a success when drafted in, his ten goals in ten games proving invaluable.

The Ebbw Vale win was followed by an easy victory over Weston-Super-Mare who gained permission to switch the FA Cup tie to Huish and were beaten 5-0, 3212 watching. The projected break even target of 2500 per game was being comfortably covered at that stage and over 4000 turned up to watch the forward line crush Swindon Town Reserves in fine style as a double of Western and Southern League titles began to be a possibility. Sadly November brought three defeats, including another at Barry in the Cup, after being 2-0 up at half time, but the crowds stayed with the team, who were entertaining with their flowing five man attack, a 6-2 win over Bristol City Reserves putting things back on track. Pratt added to his squad with William Porter, a 21 year old amateur from Combined Universities and a new winger in Jones, from Southport who covered for Bert Bloxham who was injured.

With the side doing well, crowds almost doubled and the ground looking spick and span, the immediate future looked rosy for Yeovil and Petters United, but December was to bring major discussions which the club would have to be seriously involved in and would radically alter the football on offer at Huish. There had been strong rumours that the London Combination were to form a second division, which was attracting the attention of many Southern League sides, especially in the east, and an air of uncertainty hung over a number of southern based clubs as Christmas approached. It soon transpired that many leading clubs had applied, lured no doubt by matches involving some of the top clubs in the south, which would have disastrous effects not only on that league but on the Professional Western League which might have folded.

Poole Town were already contemplating dropping out, but Yeovil were worried with regard to the proposed 6d gate for admission, something which would be impossible with their current wage bill.

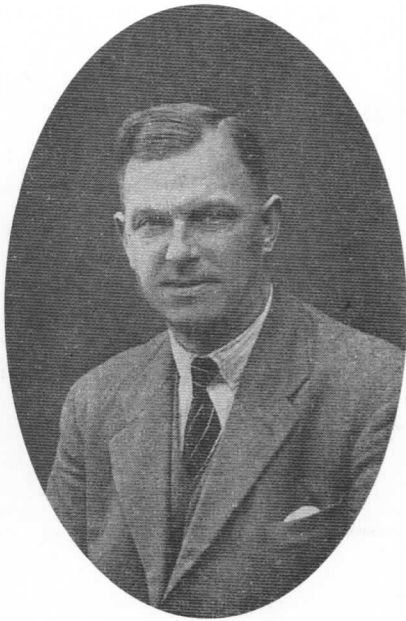
Elsewhere the East Devon and Victory Leagues announced that they were to merge and a new Western towns league was discussed at a meeting in Newton Abbot, to which Yeovil were invited but declined. The London Combination Division Two became reality in December 1929, fourteen clubs were accepted including Aldershot, Bournemouth and Boscombe, Dartford, Kettering Town, Thames Association, Guildford City and Folkestone Town and it brought a reaction from 'Spectator', who applauded the decision, saying that the playing of the same teams over and over saw interest wane, and the move was much safer and wiser than trying to get into the Third Division of the Football League. Most of those accepted were to withdraw from the Southern League, and it would mean no more football in Wales, where attendances invariably meant lost money. Taunton Town and Lovells were added to the list which was to change again before the season was over.

On the pitch the team did the double over Taunton at Christmas, the home match attracting some 4500 to Huish as

## Season 1929-1930

Aug	31st	Taunton Town	H	Southern Lge W	1-1	McNeil
Sept	5th	Exeter City Res	H	Western Div 1	3-1	Whitehead 2, Bloxham
	7th	Lovells Athletic	H	Southern Lge W	5-3	Bloxham 3, Whitehead, Cheetham pen
	12th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	Western Div 1	2-1	McDade, Whitehead
	14th	Llanelly	H	Southern Lge W	1-0	Bloxham
	19th	Taunton Town	A	" "	0-0	
	21st	Kingswood	A	FA Cup Prel Rd	3-2	Tulley 2, Whitehead
	25th	Exeter City Res	A	Western Div 1	2-1	Masters 2
	28th	Barry	A	Southern Lge W	2-5	Bloxham, McNeil
Oct	5th	Ebbw Vale	H	FA Cup 1st Q	2-1	Whitehead 2
	10th	Bath City	A	Western Div 1	3-3	McNeil, Pratt, McDade
	12th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	Southern Lge W	1-2	McNeil
	19th	Weston-S-Mare	H	FA Cup 2nd Q	5-0	Whitehead, McNeil, Logan, Jones, McDade
	24th	Bath City	H	Western Div 1	3-1	Logan, McDade, Cheetham
	26th	Swindon Town Res	H	Southern Lge W	4-0	McNeil, McDade, Barclay, Whitehead
Nov	2nd	Barry	A	FA Cup 3rd Q	3-4	Bloxham, McDade 2
	9th	Bristol City Res	A	Southern Lge W	1-2	McDade
	16th	Torquay Utd Res	A	Western Div 1	1-3	Bloxham
	23rd	Plymouth Arg Res	H	Southern Lge W	2-1	Whitehead 2
	30th	Bristol City Res	H	" "	6-2	Whitehead 2, Barclay, Logan, McNeil, McDade
Dec	7th	Merthyr Town Res	H	" "	2-0	McDade, Whitehead
	14th	Merthyr Town Res	A	" "	3-3	Pratt, McNeil 2
	21st	Llanelly	A	" "	1-3	McNeil
	25th	Taunton Town	A	Western Div 1	1-0	McNeil
	26th	Taunton Town	H	" "	5-0	McDade, Whitehead 3, Cheetham
	28th	Torquay Utd Res	H	Southern Lge W	3-3	McNeil 2, Bloxham
Jan	4th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	" "	3-3	Bloxham 2, Cheetham pen
	18th	Newport Co Res	H	" "	0-0	
	25th	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	3-2	McDade 2, Western
Feb	1st	Bristol City Res	H	Western Div 1	2-0	Western 2
	8th	Bristol City Res	A	" "	0-1	
	15th	Barry	H	Southern Lge W	3-0	Bloxham, Whitehead 2
	22nd	Plymouth Arg Res	H	Western Div 1	2-0	McDade, Bloxham
Mar	1st	Ebbw Vale	A	Southern Lge W	0-1	
	5th	Bristol Rovers Res	A	" "	2-4	Western, McDade
	8th	Ebbw Vale	H	" "	4-0	McNeil, McDade, Cheetham pen, Bloxham
	15th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	Western Div 1	2-0	McNeil 2
	22nd	Bath City	A	Southern Lge W	3-2	Western 2, Whitehead
	29th	Lovells Athletic	A	" "	1-2	Bloxham
	31st	Bath City	A	Som Profess Cup	3-2	McNeil, Western, Bloxham
April	5th	Bath City	H	Southern Lge W	1-1	Bloxham
	12th	Swindon Town Res	A	" "	2-3	McNeil, Cheetham pen
	14th	Taunton Town	H	Som Profess Cup	3-0	Whitehead 2, Bloxham
	18th	Exeter City Res	A	Southern Lge W	4-0	Bloxham 2, Western 2
	19th	Torquay Utd Res	H	Western Div 1	4-0	McNeil 3, Whitehead
	21st	Exeter City Res	H	Southern Lge W	5-1	McDade 2, Western, Parkin, Bloxham
	26th	Newport Co Res	A	" "	0-3	
	30th	Bristol Rovers Res	A	Western Div 1	2-2	Porter 2
May	3rd	Leicester City Res	H	Friendly	4-6	Whitehead, Bloxham 2, McNeil

the team went joint top with a game in hand. Three draws followed in the Southern League which mostly killed off the chance of honours there, but by February they were clear top in the Western League and were never headed again. Off the field the burgeoning support had been a boost, but the match



*Ernie Sercombe: One of the original Yeovil Casuals who went on to hold the post of secretary for 23 years.*

with Torquay United brought back unpleasant memories of the bad old days, when Bill Day was sent off for punching an opponent, which he strongly denied. The resulting penalty gave Torquay a 3-3 draw in injury time, and led to a large crowd angrily surging around the referee's dressing room. David Pratt and a number of directors fought to restore order whilst the men shouted "what about Day?", fearing for his footballing future. "Go away like gentlemen and let us deal with it" was the response from Pratt, which worked, as he was applauded. Bill Day was eventually acquitted of the charge, but the club was forced to put notices in the programme warning as to any future trouble. Huish tenants Westland Works won the Somerset Charity Cup, beating Minehead at Watchet in the final, a number of ex-Glovers gaining medals, and it was not long before the current squad had secured same, for when beating Plymouth Reserves in front of over 5000 at Home Park, the title was all but won – Yeovil being six points clear with a game in hand.

When Bristol Rovers beat Taunton Town on March 26th the title came to Huish and when Torquay returned in the Western League on April 19th the players were given their medals and the cup, Pratt thanking the supporters who sang 'For he's a jolly good fellow'.

To cap the season wins over Taunton and Bath City brought the Somerset Professional Cup to Huish, making a fine double in his first season, and his contacts in League football also secured a visit from Leicester City as a finale, 5000 watching a ten goal feast in celebration of a fine campaign, one which many believed would be the last in the Southern League as the London Combination beckoned. They were very wrong. The new league would bring 26 fixtures, meaning that those joining would have to stay with the Western League to boost the fixture list, and those that had resigned were forced to withdraw the resignation and carry on.

It would be a strange 1930-31 season, but one filled with new faces.

#### Appearances 1929-30

W Day, T McNeil, P McDade 49, T Cheetham, J Logan, T Parkin 48, D Pratt 47, J Barclay, W Whitehead 44, B Bloxham 40, W Johnson 33, R Rogers 16, F Western 10, Jones 5, W Porter 4, L Tulley 3, Masters 2

#### Goalscorers 1929-30

W Whitehead 24, B Bloxham 23, T McNeil 22, P McDade 18, F Western 10, T Cheetham 6, J Logan 3, D Pratt, J Barclay, L Tulley, Masters, W Porter 2, T Parkin, Jones 1

#### Southern League Western Section – 1929-1930

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bath City	28	16	6	6	85	52	38
Bristol Rovers Res	28	16	4	8	66	50	36
Taunton Town	28	14	7	7	50	40	35
Barry	28	15	3	10	65	55	35
Yeovil & Petters U	28	12	7	9	63	47	31
Plymouth Arg Res	28	14	3	11	68	52	31
Newport Co Res	28	13	4	11	68	76	30
Lovell's Athletic	28	13	2	13	59	57	28
Exeter City Res	28	11	6	11	49	54	28
Bristol City Res	28	11	5	12	59	63	27
Swindon Town Res	28	10	6	12	69	67	28
Torquay Utd Res	28	10	6	12	76	77	26
Llanely	28	10	4	14	55	52	24
Ebbw Vale	28	5	6	17	52	97	16
Merthyr Town Res	28	5	1	22	48	93	11

#### Western League Division One 1929-1930

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil & Petters U	14	10	2	2	32	13	22
Exeter City Res	14	5	5	4	26	17	15
Bristol City Res	14	5	5	4	28	27	15
Plymouth Arg Res	14	6	2	6	23	20	14
Taunton Town	14	6	2	6	17	30	14
Bath City	14	4	5	5	35	33	13
Torquay Utd Res	14	4	3	7	27	32	11
Bristol Rovers Res	14	3	2	9	18	34	8

David Pratt spent a significant part of the summer of 1930 'up north', searching for players using his Football League knowledge and impressive list of contacts. Yeovil were still forced to employ professionals on a full time basis, due to the economic crisis leading to few jobs in the area, a number of the players enticed down to Somerset in earlier years having been given jobs by Petters or one of many glovers in the town.

His signings in the main were to prove inspired, the first being an inside forward, Trevor Edmunds, formerly with Bradford City and Chesterfield, followed by winger Arthur Rankin from Bristol City and George Jordan, a rugged 24 year old defender from Bury. The team was changed considerably from three months previous, with Mick Connaboy, an inside right coming from Cowdenbeath, and full back Reg Dyer arriving after four years at Fulham.

As usual there was much enthusiasm as cricket gave way to football and the first two matches at Huish attracted 6,500 in all and after beating St Austell in the FA Cup a local tie with Taunton brought in over 4000, Yeovil eventually losing the replay in extra time. The early forward line of Bert Bloxham, Trevor Edmunds, Bill Whitehead, Jimmy McNeil and Arthur Rankin was soon amongst the goals and was only ever seriously threatened by injury and a glut of games, especially at Easter and Christmas when corporate greed often got the better of common sense. Despite this the team was shipping too many at the other end and went through September with six defeats, a record which nowadays would be a springboard to the dole office, but for Pratt it brought an offer, if only through the back door, of a place as secretary-manager at Bristol Rovers. Chairman Mr Farthing denied any approach had been made, as did Pratt, and the whole thing

Season 1930-1931							
Aug	30th	Peterboro & Fl Utd	H	London Comb 2	3-3	Bloxham, Whitehead, McNeil	
Sept	4th	Exeter City Res	H	WL Char match	2-4	Whitehead 2	
	6th	Thames Association	H	London Comb 2	2-4	Day pen, McNeil	
	11th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	Western Div 1	1-1	McNeil	
	13th	Peterboro & Fl Utd	A	London Comb 2	2-3	Day pen, Edmunds	
	20th	St Austell	A	FA Cup Prel Rd	5-1	Edmunds 3, Whitehead, Bloxham	
	27th	Northampton T Res	A	London Comb 2	3-1	Rankin 2, Whitehead	
Oct	4th	Taunton Town	H	FA Cup 1st Ql	1-1	McNeil	
	9th	Taunton Town	A	Replay AET	1-4	Cheetham pen	
	11th	Swindon Town Res	H	London Comb 2	4-3	Edmunds 2, Bloxham, Rankin	
	18th	Norwich City Res	A	" "	3-1	McNeil, Bloxham 2	
	25th	Plymouth Arg Res	H	Western Div 1	4-2	McNeil, Connaboy, Edmunds 2	
	29th	Bristol Rovers Res	A	Western Div 1	2-3	Edmunds 2	
Nov	1st	Bristol City Res	A	" "	2-8	Bloxham, Rankin	
	8th	Guildford City	H	London Comb 2	6-2	Edmunds 3, Bloxham 2, McNeil	
		15th	Swindon Town Res	A	" "	3-1	McNeil 2, Edmunds ABAN 83 mins, light
		22nd	Torquay Utd Res	A	Western Div 1	4-1	Edmunds 3, McNeil
		29th	London Comb Div 1	H	Friendly	2-3	Bloxham 2 (1 pen)
	Dec	6th	Aldershot	H	London Comb 2	2-2	Connaboy 2
13th		Clapton Orient	H	Friendly	2-2	Rankin, Edmunds	
25th		Bristol City Res	A	London Comb 2	2-3	McNeil, Rankin	
26th		Bristol City Res	H	" "	1-1	Bloxham pen	
27th		Taunton Town	H	Western Div 1	5-0	Edmunds 3, Rankin, McNeil	
Jan		3rd	Lovells Athletic	H	London Comb 2	2-1	Edmunds, Whitehead
		17th	Lovells Athletic	A	" "	3-2	McNeil, Edmunds, Bloxham
	21st	Plymouth Arg Res	A	Western Div 1	3-1	Edmunds 3	
	24th	Exeter City Res	H	" "	12-0	McNeil 3, Edmunds 3, Rankin 2, Bloxham 2, Jordan, Connaboy	
	31st	Exeter City Res	A	" "	0-6		
Feb	7th	Folkestone Town	A	London Comb 2	6-1	Bloxham 4 (2pens), Rankin, Edmunds	
	14th	Bath City	H	" "	5-0	Edmunds 3, Bloxham 2	
	21st	Bristol City Res	H	Western Div 1	3-1	Bloxham, McNeil 2	
	25th	Aldershot	A	London Comb 2	2-4	Edmunds, McDade	
	28th	Guildford City	A	" "	7-1	Parkin, Connaboy 3, Rankin, Whitehead, Bloxham	
March	7th	Dartford	H	" "	5-1	Bloxham 2, Edmunds 2, Jordan	
	11th	Swindon Town Res	A	" "	1-2	Bloxham	
	14th	Bath City	A	" "	0-2		
	21st	Taunton Town	A	Western Div 1	4-1	Edmunds 4	
	28th	Torquay Utd Res	H	" "	3-3	Edmunds 2, Bloxham	
	April	3rd	Bournemouth & B A	A	London Comb 2	2-1	Bloxham, McNeil
4th		Casuals	H	Friendly	6-4	Bloxham 3, Edmunds, Butcher, McNeil	
5th		Bournemouth & B A	H	London Comb 2	6-0	Edmunds 2, Connaboy, Bloxham 3	
6th		Taunton Town	H	Som Prem Cup	4-3	Bloxham 2, Edmunds 2	
11th		Folkestone Town	H	London Comb 2	2-1	McNeil 2	
15th		Norwich City Res	H	" "	2-1	Bloxham, Edmunds	
18th		Dartford	A	" "2	1-5	Edmunds	
25th		Thames Association	A	" "	2-1	Bloxham pen, Edmunds	
27th		Liverpool	H	Friendly	8-4	McNeil 3, Bloxham 2, Edmunds, Connaboy, og	
		30th	Newcastle United	H	Friendly	2-3	Edmunds, Bloxham
May	2nd	Northampton T Res	H	London Comb 2	6-0	Edmunds 2, McNeil, Bloxham 2, Rankin	



Cartoon from Evening Times and Echo 19.12.31

soon went away, as did the FA Cup run after the team missed two penalties at Taunton, for whom Fred Western played after joining them from Yeovil at the end of the last season.

Things improved greatly during October as the squad began to knit together and there were away wins at both Northampton and Norwich, the latter coming despite the

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ENGLISH CUP. Colours: Green Shirts & White Knicks. KICK-OFF 3.30 P.M.

**R YEovil & PETTERS. L**

*Poos you*  
*Revised Jan 11*  
*McDADE*  
*WILLINGTON*  
*McNEIL*  
*DAVIN*  
*Refered to...*  
**W. J. WEBB**

PYM 1  
PRATT 3  
JORDAN 5  
MOLLOY 9  
McNEIL 10  
RANKIN 11

LINESMEN:  
— FLECKNETT

FERRETT 12  
WARNE 13  
HUGH 14  
WOOD 15  
BURTOLUCCI 16  
OLIVER 17  
PARSONS 18  
MENHENITT 19  
COPPLESTONE 20  
CHURM 21  
MITCHELL 22

L **WADEBRIDGE.** R

Colours: *Provisional*

**YEovil FOOTBALL PLAYERS**  
Made a good start on Saturday by winning 4-0 against Northampton  
**NOW**  
Why not you make one, by signing on A. Stevens & Co., Woodland Grove, Yeovil, as your Printers, they make no unfair charges, and are always out to play the game. They are

**DOING OTHERS WORK**  
WHY NOT YOURS?

Centre page of the programme of the 11-1 thrashing of Wadebridge complete with pencilled in scorers.





David Pratt

players having to change in the train which had been delayed and reaching the City at 3.00pm, only fifteen minutes before kick-off.

The dubious Town defence was again shown up at Ashton Gate, as they suffered a humiliating 2-8 defeat, but a week later Guildford City took the fall out, the good run being halted at Swindon when the match was abandoned seven minutes from time with Town winning 3-1.

At the end of November the club and the team were given a major shock when David Pratt gave notice that he wished to resign as manager-secretary. A petition was drawn up by the players asking him to reconsider, but it was not necessary, as he continued having failed to land the job at Bournemouth and Boscombe which he suspected was about to be offered him.

Both campaigns were going well as Christmas arrived and crowds for important and attractive games were often around the 3000 mark, including the revenge 5-0 win over Taunton, the third match in three days. Trevor Edmunds was enjoying a renaissance after his League career and eleven goals in four games brought the attention of a number of scouts, who doubtless also saw the other talents on offer. The end of January was curious, for having crushed Exeter City Reserves 12-0, the same squad lost the return 6-0 a week later, only to score some 26 goals in the next five games through February. Aldershot were clear in the London Combination, but Yeovil had steadily climbed, and in the Western League they were head to head with Exeter City who had one game left, which sadly they duly won to relegate Yeovil to runners up once again.

All attention was centred on the Combination, for going into April the 'Shots' were seven points up, having played two more matches. The run in was won and lost with two defeats, at Bath City and Dartford but the support remained to acknowledge a season which ended with runners up spots in both Western League and London Combination. There had been no real Cup run to speak of but the fans had two final treats in store as Pratt had worked hard to bring both Liverpool and Newcastle United down to Huish for end of season friendlies. Liverpool were first and a mixed side were beaten 8-4 in front of 4500, three days later it was the turn of the Magpies, a side full of Internationals who enjoyed their trip with guided tours of factories and an evening at the theatre. The match ended with a 3-2 win for the League side and a healthy bank balance for Yeovil, as over 6000 saw the match.

It was not the end of the good news financially for the club, as the constant trips to Huish by many a club scout had led to Albert Bloxham's wing play being snapped up by Millwall for 'a substantial sum', the 23 year old former Birmingham, Raith Rovers and Torquay United man returning to the League, along with Trevor Edmunds who signed for Charlton Athletic on May 7th, five days after the last of his 54 goals were scored in a 6-0 win over Northampton Town, his 40th appearance.

The short tenancy with Petters Westland, as they were then known, was also coming to an end, as a decrease in interest and a loss of financial backing had led to them folding after their one and only season in the Western League Division Two. Some 42 years later, Westland Yeovil re-entered the Western League and had success in the Professional Cup before dropping into the Dorset Combination, where they are today.

### Appearances 1930-31

Johnson, A Rankin 49, Connaboy, A Bloxham 46, J McNeil 45, T Parkin 44, P McDade, D Pratt 42, W Day 41, T Edmunds 40, G Jordan 33, S Cheetham 22, W Whitehead 18, Clarke 6, R Dyer 2, Butcher 1

### Goalscorers 1930-31

T Edmunds 54, A Bloxham 42, J McNeil 26, A Rankin 12, M Connaboy 9, W Whitehead 7, W Day, G Jordan 2, S Cheetham, T Parkin, C Butcher, og 1

### London Combination Division Two 1930-1931

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aldershot	26	17	7	2	75	28	41
Yeovil & Petters U	26	16	3	7	79	46	35
Dartford	26	13	7	6	60	40	33
Northampton T Res	26	13	3	10	60	47	29
Bath City	26	12	4	10	32	37	28
Bristol City Res	26	9	10	7	51	47	28
Norwich City Res	26	10	6	10	53	45	26
Peterbro & F U Res	26	10	5	11	54	57	25
Swindon Town Res	26	10	5	11	56	61	25
Folkestone Town	26	10	2	14	49	71	22
Thames Association	26	6	8	12	34	46	20
Bourne & BA Res	26	7	5	14	41	61	19
Guildford City	26	7	4	15	54	78	18
Lovells Athletic	26	4	7	15	40	76	15

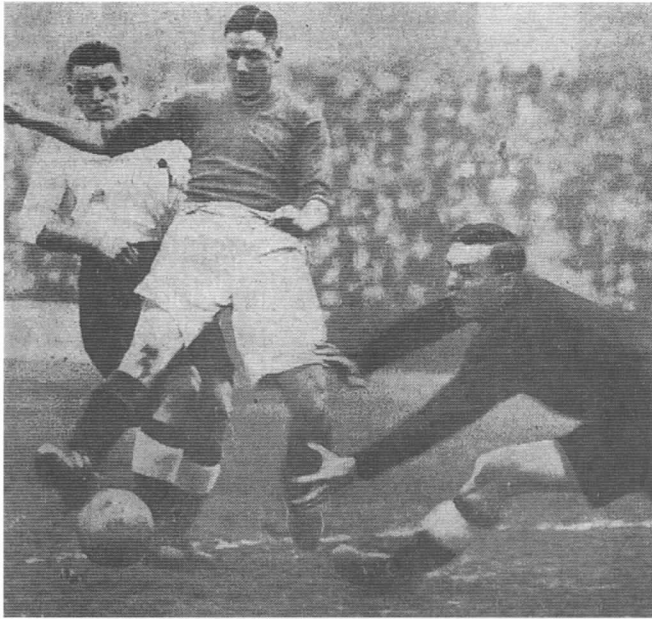
### Western League Division One 1930-1931

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Exeter City Res	12	9	1	2	34	24	19
Yeovil & Petters U	12	7	2	3	43	27	16
Bristol Rovers Res	12	6	3	3	28	19	15
Bristol City Res	12	4	2	6	34	28	10
Taunton Town	12	5	0	7	20	34	10
Plymouth Arg Res	12	3	1	8	23	33	7
Torquay Utd Res	12	1	5	6	18	35	7

The London Combination had looked to have been the way forward for a number of clubs, when it appeared to poach many of the more affluent Southern Leaguers. Unfortunately after just one season it had lost members and was down to twelve, giving just 22 fixtures. Yeovil were obliged to re-enter the Southern League after just one season and, fearing the loss of the tenancy money from the defunct Westlands, also entered the Western League again, meaning a total of 60 league games, 22 more than the previous year.

To some this seemed to be folly and greed, but they had not taken into consideration the talents of David Pratt in moulding a side which could cope with such a fixture list.

The goalkeeper was to be Dick Pym, a west country man who had signed for Bolton Wanderers from Exeter City and had won three FA Cup winners medals. He was joined by another ex-Bury man in Martin Davin, who was signed from Hull City and his inside forward partner was to be Willie Molloy, a Scot who had played with Dumbarton and Celtic. Pratt continued to mix experience with youth, signing 22 year old George McAndrew from Dunfermline and Tom Millington from Crewe Alexandra, but his prize catch, and one which would prove a winner, was the little known Cecil Pemberton, a 21 year old forward who had a couple of years at Burnley before coming west.



Yeovil and Petters, who drew at Fulham on 12th December 1931, making a raid on the home goal.

The new players had a hard act to follow, for Pratt's judicious signings of a year prior had gone for good money, with Micheal Connaboy going to Wolverhampton Wanderers and Trevor Edmunds to Charlton Athletic. The latter made his debut against Nottingham Forest, scoring twice, on the same day that Albert Bloxham made his for Millwall against Notts County. What was to prove to be an astonishing season was run from above by Stanley Vincent, who had taken over as chairman from Mr Farthing in July.

To cement relations between the Supporters' Club and the Football Club, members and players sat down to dinner at the Three Choughs before the first game against Northampton, resulting in a 4-0 win and a crowd of over 4,500. Two defeats followed but the FA Cup match against Wadebridge brought forth the talents of one Cecil Pemberton, who along with Martin Davin scored eight of the 11 netted that day. Yeovil football people had been fortunate to have enjoyed the talents of Johnny Hayward and Trevor Edmunds, the latter all too briefly, but great things were soon to be seen from Pemberton as the monstrously long season continued. He scored another four four days later in an unlikely 9-4 win at Swindon and two home matches in three days brought two 5-1 wins including yet another three from Pemberton, as the club attempted an outrageous treble. The



Cecil Pemberton

goals flowed, with the crowd at first anxious to attend every game, but then as the Cup run developed and the matches built up, they began to be a little selective, crowds ranging from a thousand to nearly 6000 for the Llanelly game. It was an impressive showing from a public which was struggling along with everyone else in the depths of the depression. United were going well in all three leagues and were also enjoying the Cup

### Season 1931-1932

Aug	29th	Northampton Town	H	London Comb 2	4-0	Molloy 2, Millington, McNeil
	31st	Llanelly	A	South Lge West	0-1	
Sept	3rd	Bath City	H	London Comb 2	0-2	
	5th	Wadebridge Town	H	FA Cup Prel Rd	11-1	Pemberton 5, Davin 3, Rankin, McNeil, Millington
	7th	Newport Co Res	A	South Lge West	1-1	Pemberton
	9th	Swindon Town Res	A	" "	9-4	Pemberton 4, McDale 2, Molloy, Davin, og
	10th	Bristol City Res	H	Western Div 1	5-1	Molloy 2, McNeil, Millington, Davin
	12th	Tunbridge Wells	H	London Comb 2	5-1	Pemberton 3 (1pen), Rankin, McNeil
	14th	Merthyr Tydfil	A	South Lge West	3-2	Pemberton 2, Davin
	17th	Bristol Rov Res	H	" "	1-0	Davin
	19th	Dartmouth United	H	FA Cup 1st Qual	4-2	Davin 2, Molloy, McNeil
	21st	Merthyr Tydfil	H	South Lge West	5-3	Pemberton 2, McNeil 2, Davin
	22nd	Wolverhampton W	H	Friendly	4-8	McNeil, Rankin 2 (1 pen), Molloy
	23rd	Exeter City Res	A	WL Benefit	4-3	Dash 3, Pemberton
	26th	Plymouth Arg Res	H	Western Div 1	3-1	Rankin, McNeil, og
Oct	1st	Bath City	A	London Comb 2	1-2	Pemberton
	3rd	Street	A	FA Cup 2nd Qual	4-1	Pemberton, Rankin pen, McNeil 2
	7th	Aldershot	A	London Comb 2	1-3	Rankin pen
	8th	Swindon Town Res	H	South Lge West	6-2	Molloy 4, Davin, Dash
	10th	Ebbw Vale	H	" "	5-0	Molloy 2, Pemberton 3
	15th	Taunton Town	A	Western Div 1	2-2	Rankin, Molloy
	17th	Lovells Athletic	A	FA Cup 3rd Qual	1-0	Davin
	22nd	Lovells Athletic	H	Western Div 1	1-1	Pemberton
	24th	Taunton Town	H	South Lge West	2-1	Rankin pen, Millington
	31st	Llanelly	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	1-0	McNeil
Nov	7th	Folkestone Town	H	London Comb 2	0-4	
	11th	Bristol City Res	A	Western Div 1	5-2	Pemberton 3, Molloy, Davin
	14th	Salisbury	H	FA Cup 5th Qual	4-2	Davin 2, Molloy, McNeil
	19th	Taunton Town	H	Western Div 1	5-1	Davin 2, Pemberton 2, og
	21st	Torquay United Res	H	South Lge West	5-1	Davin 2, Pemberton, Millington, Parkin
	28th	Hayes	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	3-1	Rankin, Davin, Molloy
Dec	5th	Bristol Rov Res	H	South Lge West	5-0	Molloy 4, Pemberton
	9th	Bristol Rov Res	A	Western Div 1	3-5	Pemberton 3
	12th	Fulham	H	FA Cup 2nd Rd	0-0	
	17th	Fulham	H	Replay	2-5	Davin, McNeil
	19th	Bath City Res	H	South Lge West	1-0	Davin
	25th	Exeter City Res	A	Western Div 1	2-1	McNeil 2
	26th	Exeter City Res	H	" "	4-2	Molloy, Millington, Davin 2 (1 pen)
	28th	Bristol Rov Res	A	South Lge West	2-2	Pemberton 2
Jan	1st	Northampton Town	H	London Comb 2	2-1	Molloy 2
	9th	Bristol City Res	H	" "	6-0	Davin 2, Molloy 3, Rankin
	16th	Torquay Utd Res	A	South Lge West	4-1	Pemberton 3, Molloy
	21st	Lovells Athletic	A	Western Div 1	1-7	Molloy
	23rd	Guildford City	H	London Comb 2	6-1	Davin, Molloy 2, McNeil 3
	27th	Folkestone Town	A	" "	1-5	Davin
	30th	Guildford City	A	" "	4-1	Pemberton 2, Millington, Rankin
Feb	3rd	Barry	A	South Lge West	3-1	McNeil, Davin 2 (1 pen)
	6th	Torquay Urd Res	H	Western Div 1	4-0	Pemberton, Davin 3
	13th	Dartford	A	London Comb 2	0-3	



**YEOVIL AND PETERS UNITED F.C. 1931-1932**

Back Row: J. Hellier (Director), W. Studley (Director), W. Culliford (Director), W. Andrews (Director), A. Lemon (Director)  
 Middle Row: A. Arnold (Director), F. Holland (Director), W. Tavener (Director), W. Day, M. Davin, R. Pym, W. Molloy, G. McAndrew, H. Devoto (Secretary) W. H. Farthing (Director), G. Lewis (Trainer)  
 Front Row: G. Fox (Vice Chairman), C. Pemberton, P. McDade, T. Millington, D. Pratt (Manager), T. Parkin, T. McNeil, A. Rankin, S. Vincent (Chairman)

17th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	Western Div 1	1-2	Rankin
20th	Peterboro & FI Utd	A	London Comb 2	3-2	Pemberton 2, McNeil
24th	Ebbw Vale	H	South Lge West	2-0	Pemberton 2
27th	Bristol City Res	A	London Comb 2	0-0	
Mar	1st	Bath City	A	Som Prof Cup	ABAN
	5th	Barry	H	South Lge West	5-0 McNeil 3, Pemberton 2, Davin
	9th	Norwich City Res	A	London Comb 2	3-2 Davin, Murley, Millington
	12th	Bath City	H	South Lge West	0-4
	19th	Llanelly	H	" "	3-0 Rankin 2, Murley
	25th	Bourne & BA Res	A	London Comb 2	1-3 Davin
	26th	Norwich City Res	H	" "	6-2 Molloy 5, McDade
	28th	Bourne & BA Res	H	" "	6-4 Pemberton 2, Molloy 3, Davin
	29th	Newport Co Res	H	South Lge West	3-0 Pemberton 2, Rankin
April	2nd	Taunton Town	A	" "	1-3 Davin
	9th	Aldershot	H	London Comb 2	2-0 Rankin, Pemberton
	12th	Torquay Utd Res	A	Western Div 1	1-1 Pemberton
	16th	Peterboro & FI Utd	A	London Comb 2	2-2 Pemberton, Molloy
	18th	Exeter City Res	H	South Lge West	1-1 Davin pen
	20th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	" "	0-2
	23rd	Dartford	H	London Comb 2	1-1 Pemberton
	25th	Taunton Town	H	Som Pro Cup	7-1 Pemberton 2, Rankin 2 (1 pen), Millington 2, McDade
	27th	Sherborne Town	A	Friendly	12-1 Pemberton 4, Murley 2, Rankin 2, Davin, Day, Millington, Jordan

30th	Tunbridge Wells	A	London Comb 2	2-5	Pemberton, og
May	4th	Exeter City Res	A	South Lge West	1-1 Murley
	5th	Plymouth Arg Res	H	" "	2-1 Rankin, Pemberton
	6th	Crewkerne	A	Friendly	4-1 Pemberton 2, Davin, Molloy
	7th	Sunderland	H	" "	2-7 Davin pen, og

again, and they cruised past Dartmouth United and then Street, who had five ex-Glovers in their side. Pemberton and Willie Molloy dismantled Ebbw Vale and Swindon Town during October and after beating Lovells Athletic the club were through to the fourth qualifying round, and were top of the Southern League with Merthyr Town second and Newport third. In the Western League, as in the Southern, Yeovil were having a battle royal with Plymouth Argyle Reserves, but it was the London Combination which the supporters came out in force for.

Salisbury City came to town for the fifth and last qualifying round, as did some 3500 fans, who watched a thrilling encounter with Tom Millington outstanding on the wing and Molloy playing a fine game through the middle. With Dick Pym, the evergreen Bill Day and David Pratt providing all the experience they could ever want at the back, the Glovers went through on an emotional day to face Hayes in the First Round proper. Before the Athenian Leaguers and Amateur Cup finalists arrived the rampaging forward line warmed up with another two 5-1 wins in three days, over Taunton Town and Torquay United. The preparations were fine, as 4100 watched Yeovil beat the amateurs 3-1.

Mid-week games were the norm rather than the exception during most of that season and having beaten Bristol Rovers Reserves with Molloy netting four, the return was pencilled in for the following Wednesday, just three days before the Second Round tie with Fulham. It was naive but all too commonplace to cause much fuss and the players got on with it, losing 5-3 despite Pemberton's sixth hat-trick in three months.

The match at Craven Cottage was a classic, watched by some 15,342, perhaps a thousand of whom were from Somerset and Dorset. The team amazed the soccer world by drawing 0-0 with the Division Three club. Over 700 fans travelled with the squad from the Town station, having been seen off by the Mayor, Alderman Tucker. People dashed to the lineside to watch the train pass through, bedecked in green and white.

The side which battled so bravely and brought Fulham back to Huish for a replay was Pym, Day, Pratt, McDade, Jordan, Parkin, Millington, Davin, Pemberton, McNeil and Molloy. Their day continued with dinner at the Regent Palace Hotel as plans were laid to see Fulham off in the replay.

Mercifully there were no matches in between and the team was at full strength and fit for the return. Excursion trains from all parts of the west were laid on, with hundreds of char-a-bancs carrying the excited throng to the ground. The days leading to the match saw an army of volunteers erecting crash barriers and improving the Queen Street terracing for the possibility of a record crowd. Most shops in the town were closed and the staff given the afternoon off for the match, which in the end was watched by an official attendance of 8,004. Amongst them were the players and officials of Watford FC, who awaited the winners, and England International Charlie Buchan, another interested observer. The team were boosted by messages of good luck from amongst others Tommy Lowes, the former manager who was then trainer at Barrow, and the very first player-manager Jack Gregory who had a business a few yards from Craven Cottage. Men hung from hoardings and watched from windows in Queen Street as every available vantage point was taken up. Martin Davin and Jimmy McNeil both scored for Yeovil, but Fulham's all round strength eventually told and they triumphed 5-2.

It had been a memorable trip which began with eleven goals against Wadebridge and finished in front of a total of over 23,000 against Fulham. The season was only just beginning for many, as with Christmas celebrated with a double over Exeter City, Yeovil were top of the Southern League with games in hand, two points clear at the top of the Western League and eighth in the London Combination, six points behind but with three games in hand. Prompted by the skill of Arthur Rankin on the wing, Pemberton and Molloy prospered until they encountered Lovells Athletic, led as always by ex-Huish man Jim Gardner. His four goals in a 7-1 thrashing stunned Yeovil and in the next away game, at Folkestone, the defence let in a further five. Hopes appeared to die when beaten at Dartford, but a stunning come back from 2-0 down with ten minutes to go at home to Peterborough and Fletton gave them heart again. March came with the chance of three titles still up for grabs, but they had a further 21 competitive games left, plus friendlies, and with trips to Norwich, Bournemouth, Peterborough, Plymouth and Exeter still to come, it was in truth a tall order.

The forward line hit top form with two six goal hauls in the space of three days, Willie Molloy finding the net eight times, and the Combination results were still bringing hope. Strangely enough the Southern League form had tailed off, although with others losing, the club were still top and favourites for the title. To safeguard the side for the final

plunge, manager Pratt signed amateur keeper Jack Portass from Plymouth Argyle. Mid April saw a slump with a run of five matches without a win in three competitions and by the time Tunbridge Wells won 5-2 at home, third place was all that was on offer for Yeovil, a disappointment for the fans who had followed that league more than the other two.

The Western League run ended with a draw at Torquay, and Argyle needed to win the last two games to take that title, which they duly did with the help of a couple of first teamers. That left just the Southern League and with two matches in two days, away at Exeter and home to Plymouth, a big finale was assured. Young winger Murley scored the goal which brought back a point from Exeter City, and the last match, the Southern League decider, saw Arthur Rankin and Cecil Pemberton clinch victory in front of over 4000 who had come to see if the finest season as a professional side could end with a championship. It did, and it was duly celebrated two days later when Pratt's contacts brought Sunderland down to Huish for a prestige friendly. 6000 plus saw the medals and Southern League trophy, as well as the Western League medals, handed over to the deserved recipients.

Even though the season was such a success, the Directors of the Club were very worried about the falling off in attendances. At the A.G.M. it was reported that they were to appeal to the townspeople of Yeovil, as it was felt that they were not supporting the Club to the same extent as the people from the outlying districts. It was also intimated that the Club had been able to acquire the freehold of the Huish field and to provide increased accommodation. The Company also secured additional land at the Brewery end of the playing pitch. It was not possible at the time to say how the purchase was to be financed, but the Chairman was able to say that a substantial amount had been loaned to the Club at a nominal interest rate for the period that football was carried on at Huish.

#### Appearances 1931-32

T Millington 69, R Pym 66, W Day 65, P McDade 63, G Jordan 62, A Rankin 61, C Pemberton 60, M Davin 59, T Parkin 57, W Molloy 51, G McAndrew 48, D Pratt 47, T McNeil 38, T Penn 32, C Murley 17, R Dash 3, A Moger, J Portass 2, B Horsey, E Wakeley, R Rogers, A White, Hutchison 1

#### Scorers 1931-32

C Pemberton 65, M Davin 42, W Molloy 41, T McNeil 24, A Rankin 22, T Millington 11, C Murley 5, P McDade, R Dash 4, T Parkin, W Day, G Jordan 1, 5 ogs

#### Southern League Western Section 1931-1932

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil & Petters U	24	16	4	4	65	31	36
Plymouth Arg Res	24	15	5	4	81	31	35
Bath City	24	12	7	5	50	33	31
Llanely	24	12	4	8	65	46	28
Taunton Town	24	13	2	9	53	58	28
Newport Co Res	24	10	6	8	70	51	26
Exeter City Res	24	9	7	8	59	43	25
Merthyr Town	24	9	4	11	66	73	22
Bristol Rovers Res	24	8	4	12	54	47	20
Swindon Town Res	24	8	4	12	54	95	20
Barry	24	7	3	14	58	76	17
Torquay Utd Res	24	5	6	13	43	66	16
Ebbw Vale	24	3	2	19	34	102	8



**London Combination  
Division 2 1931-1932**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bath City	22	14	3	5	40	25	31
Folkestone Town	22	13	2	7	49	33	28
Yeovil & Petters U	22	11	3	8	56	44	25
Northampton T Res	22	10	5	7	50	42	25
Dartford	22	9	7	6	46	32	25
Tunbridge Wells	22	10	4	8	45	39	24
Aldershot	22	10	3	9	48	38	23
Peterboro & FI Utd	22	8	6	8	42	46	22
Bristol City Res	22	7	7	8	39	53	21
Bourne & BA Res	22	7	2	13	36	52	16
Norwich City Res	22	5	4	13	41	54	14
Guildford City	22	3	4	15	34	61	10

**Western League  
Division one 1931-1932**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Plymouth Arg Res	14	10	1	3	41	15	21
Yeovil & Petters U	14	8	3	3	42	26	19
Lovells Athletic	14	7	3	4	33	25	17
Bristol Rovers Res	14	8	0	6	32	28	16
Torquay Utd Res	14	5	4	5	29	35	14
Bristol City Res	14	4	3	7	26	37	11
Exeter City Res	14	4	1	9	23	37	9
Taunton Town	14	2	1	11	18	41	5

## London Combination time is short lived ...

David Pratt had single-handedly set up Yeovil and Petters United for the next few seasons with his ability to spot a bargain and improve on it, as well as providing football good enough to attract people to Huish in their thousands. His side had won the Southern League Western Section, finished runners up in the Western League and were a close third in the London Combination Division Two. As well as the league success he had led them to the Second Round of the FA Cup and, not surprisingly, the League clubs were flooding to the ground to check up on the side. It was inevitably going to change, but with the club's application to Division One of the Combination being turned down, the type and size of squad would be determined by which leagues were entered. The Combination was down to eight teams bringing just fourteen matches. With twenty in the Southern League and sixteen in the Western League they were looking at another long season of fifty matches before any cups and friendlies – smaller than 30-31 but only just. The side was broken up almost after the final whistle in May 1932, with Cecil Pemberton being snapped up by Millwall and George Jordan going to Bradford City. Willie Molloy went across to Vetch Field, Swansea Town and in June George McAndrew signed for Bristol Rovers and Tom Millington joined Spurs. Pratt was forced to contemplate re-building his side which had been so successful, and a number thought that he either could not, or possibly would not, relish it again. However, he did, and in late June Ormond Jones, a 21-year-old 'keeper from Blackpool became the first recruit. The sales continued with Tommy Penn going to Gainsborough Trinity, but Gibson from Bury and Stevens from Manchester City were drafted in with George Anderson, a goal scoring inside right who had

**Season 1932-1933**

Aug	27th	Norwich City Res	H	London Comb 2	7-2	Anderson 2, Lewis 2, McNeil, Miles, og
	29th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	WL Char match	2-0	Lewis, Miles
	31st	Dartford	A	SL Chall 1931-32	1-2	Lewis pen
Sept	1st	Cardiff City Res	H	Western Div 1	8-0	Rankin, Lewis 3, Anderson 3, Murley
	5th	Bath City	A	S Pro Cup 31-32	1-4	Lewis
	10th	Exeter City Res	H	South Lge West	8-2	Parkin, Rankin 2, Miles, Anderson 2, McNeil 2
	12th	Norwich City Res	A	London Comb 2	2-3	Anderson 2
	14th	Cardiff City Res	A	Western Div 1	6-2	Murley 3, Anderson 2 Mile
	17th	Bristol Rov Res	A	" "	3-2	Gibson, Anderson, Miles
	22nd	Taunton Town	A	" "	4-1	Anderson 2, Murley, McNeil
	24th	Arsenal	H	Friendly	2-1	Anderson, Miles
	28th	Bristol Rov Res	A	South Lge Cup 1	2-2	Anderson, Miles
	29th	Bath City	H	Western Div 1	3-1	Lewis, McNeil, og
Oct	1st	Plymouth Arg Res	A	South Lge West	0-4	
	5th	Folkestone Town	A	London Comb 2	0-6	
	8th	Bath City	H	" "	3-1	Anderson, Lewis 2 (1pen)
	13th	Bristol Rov Res	H	SL Cup 1 Rep	4-3	Anderson, Lewis, McNeil, Miles
	15th	Newport Co Res	A	South Lge West	1-5	Lewis pen
	20th	Bourne & B A Res	H	South Lge Cup 2	4-1	Anderson 3, Rankin
	22nd	Bristol Rov Res	H	Western Div 1	2-4	Fereday, Farmer
	29th	Tunbridge Wells	A	London Comb 2	1-5	Anderson
Nov	3rd	Lovells Athletic	A	Western Div 1	6-2	Anderson 2, Lewis 2, Rankin 2
	5th	Plymouth Arg Res	H	South Lge West	3-2	Anderson, Lewis, McNeil
	12th	Bath City	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	4-2	Lewis 3, Rankin
	19th	Exeter City Res	A	South Lge West	3-3	Lewis, Anderson 2
	26th	Dartford	A	FA Cup 1st Rd	0-0	
Dec	1st	Dartford	H	Replay	4-2	Lewis 3, Parkin
	3rd	Llanelly	A	South Lge West	1-2	Lewis pen
	10th	Chester	A	FA Cup 2nd Rd	1-2	Lewis
	17th	Bath City	A	Western Div 1	0-2	
	24th	Llanelly	H	South Lge West	1-2	Lewis pen
	26th	Bourne & B A Res	H	London Comb 2	3-1	McNeil, Rankin, Lewis
	27th	Bourne & B A Res	A	" "	1-1	McNeil
	31st	Torquay Utd Res	A	Western Div 1	1-2	Anderson
Jan	7th	Bath City	H	South Lge West	4-4	Lewis 3 (1pen), Anderson
	14th	Merthyr Town	A	" "	3-1	Murley 2, Anderson
	19th	Bath City	H	South Lge Cup 3	1-3	McNeil
	21st	Barry	H	South Lge West	5-2	Lewis 3 (1pen), Cook, Rankin
	26th	Lovells Athletic	H	Western Div 1	4-0	Anderson, Rankin, Lewis, Murley
	28th	Taunton Town	A	South Lge West	1-0	Lewis
Feb	4th	Merthyr Town	H	" "	6-1	Pratt 2, Lewis 2, Rankin, Murley
	9th	Bristol City Res	H	Western Div 1	3-1	Anderson, Lewis 2
	11th	Bath City	A	London Comb 2	3-2	Anderson, Lewis 2
	16th	Taunton Town	H	Som Pro Cup	8-1	Anderson, Lewis 5, McNeil, Rankin
	18th	Guildford City	H	London Comb 2	1-1	Lewis
	22nd	Bristol City Res	A	Western Div 1	2-6	Lewis, McNeil
March	2nd	Bath City	A	Som Pro Cup	1-0	Anderson
	4th	Tunbridge Wells	H	London Comb 2	5-1	Anderson, Parkin, McNeil, Cook, og
	11th	Guildford City	A	London Comb 2	1-0	Pratt



Season 1932-1933 continued					
	16th	Newport Co Res	H	South Lge West	4-2 Anderson 2, Hodder 2
	18th	Taunton Town	H	" "	4-1 Anderson 2, Murley pen, Cook
	22nd	Barry	A	" "	3-1 Anderson 2, McNeil
	25th	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	2-5 Hodder, Pratt
April	1st	Torquay Utd Res	H	" "	5-1 Lewis 4, Hodder
	3rd	Taunton Town	H	Western Div 1	3-0 Lewis, Hodder, McNeil
	8th	Exeter City Res	A	" "	0-2
	14th	Bristol Rov Res	A	South Lge West	1-2 McNeil
	15th	Torquay Utd Res	H	Western Div 1	4-1 Lewis 3, McNeil
	17th	Bristol Rov Res	H	South Lge West	4-2 McNeil 2, Lewis, Anderson
	18th	Bath City	A	" "	0-2
	20th	Sport Club Nachod	H	Friendly	8-3 Murley 2, Anderson 2, Cook 2, Hodder, McNeil
	22nd	Dartford	A	London Comb 2	0-4
	24th	Exeter City Res	H	Western Div 1	2-5 Hodder, Lewis
	29th	Dartford	H	London Comb 2	2-0 Cook 2
May	1st	Bristol Rov	H	Friendly	5-3 Murley, Lewis 2, Anderson, Miles
	4th	Bristol City	H	" "	5-5 Anderson 2, Lewis 2 (1pen), McNeil
	6th	Folkestone Town	H	London Comb 2	6-1 McNeil 3, Lewis, Anderson, Murley pen

three years at Chelsea. The close season was unusually hectic in and around the club, the shareholders of which heard in July 1932 that the club had been successful in buying Huish from Bruttons at long last. They also heard that, despite having a full time professional team, the manager's bold moves had secured a profit of £120, including £325 transfer fees and £457 from the FA Cup run. It enabled them to speculate further with the squad, which increased with the arrival of Welsh International centre-forward Wilf Lewis, former of Swansea Town, Huddersfield and Derby, 21 year old Idris Miles from Cardiff City and Cyril Terry a young full back from Bristol City.

It was almost unanimously accepted that the past season's escapades were unlikely to be repeated, and with no less than seven men making their debuts at home to Norwich City on 27th August 1932, the public were unsure what to make of the summer's goings on.

They all had to get used to new favourites to add to those that were remaining such as Bill Day who was edging towards 500 appearances at full back. The Southern League's Championship match against Dartford was lost 2-1, but was deemed irrelevant by many, as both sides were radically altered, but with big wins over Norwich, Cardiff and then Exeter, the new forward line had gelled very quickly, with George Anderson, Wilf Lewis, Arthur Rankin, Jim McNeil and Idris Miles all contributing. Pratt's build up had gone well and three consecutive wins in the Western League catapulted them to top spot but the other two were not going so well, heavy defeats at Folkestone and Plymouth plus another at Newport proving costly. The strike force was dealt a blow in October when Idris Miles was snapped up by Leicester City after just eighteen games with Yeovil, the £1,000 fee being a record for the club. Miles made his debut against Everton within a week and Pratt began the task of replacing him, trying first David Fereday, a 22 year old from Derby and later Rollo Jack, the son of the Plymouth manager and brother of David Jack the famous Arsenal player.

The Southern League had introduced a new competition at the request of a number of clubs, called the League Cup, but it brought problems for Yeovil, when Eric Gibson was sent off in one of the ties, but refused at first to leave the

field, a commonplace occurrence in years gone by but mercifully one which was scarce at the top level. Despite that wins over Bristol Rovers and Bournemouth and Boscombe sustained interest until January, conveniently a few weeks after the FA Cup run ended. The past success had seen Yeovil exempt until the final qualifying round and it saw them paired, not for the first time that season, with rivals Bath City. 5,000 crammed into the ground, including 2,000 from Yeovil, to watch Wilf Lewis net a hat-trick in a 4-2 win. The draw had not been kind, for the First Round saw the team off to Dartford, seen off again from the Town station with a sprig of white heather for good luck and a series of detonators on the track to herald their going. Another 5,000 crowd witnessed a 0-0 draw, meaning a Thursday afternoon replay at Huish. Wilf Lewis added to his Bath City hat-trick with another in the replay which put Yeovil into the Second Round once again.

By then League results had gone sufficiently poorly to virtually ensure that a championship would be unlikely, despite having three to choose from. The draw sent the club to Chester. What would now take a coach around four hours, begin on Friday morning with a train journey north, via London. They then took the boat train to Liverpool, staying overnight and going as a party to the Variety Theatre before travelling to Chester the following day. The supporters took the easy option, leaving at 6-35 am, fortified by soup being served to all on board. It arrived at 1-45, just half an hour before kick-off and the contingent made up a crowd of 8,540 which saw the Glovers edged out 2-1. The adventure was over for another year, but the FA Cup fervour had masked what had become an ordinary season, and the game came in the middle of a run of only two wins from eleven games, and a crowd of less than fifteen hundred for the Llanelly game gave clear indications that the public were not entirely enamoured with having to content with three different leagues and several cups. Although the fixtures sent Yeovil to all parts, many of the same clubs were appearing time and again, and the case with Bath City emphasised the point that Spectator made in his letter to the press some while previously. Yeovil met Bath City in the Professional Cup, held over from 1931-32, twice in the Western League, twice in the London Combination, once in the FA Cup, twice in the Southern League, once in the League Cup and once in the current Professional Cup, a ludicrous ten meetings which prompted some to suggest that the county competition should be held on neutral grounds so that others may get the chance to watch the three teams which competed.

January and February brought an upturn in fortunes with Jack Murley having solved the problem of the outside right position after a number of signings by Pratt had come and gone from the side. Wins in the Somerset Professional Cup over Bath and a crushing 8-1 defeat of Taunton Town meant that the cup went back to Huish, although in truth few cared as only a handful braved a disgusting Thursday night in February to watch Wilf Lewis score five. The results had picked up to such an extent that wins such as those over Tunbridge Wells and Guildford City put Yeovil top of the Western and Southern Leagues, plus third in the Combination, although, in all three, clubs under them had games in hand. Pratt was never averse to signing on amateurs, whose services were offered for nothing more than expenses, and Thomas Hodder, a Cardiff City man made his debut against Newport, scoring the first of his two goals within a minute. His seven goals in twelve games were a bonus after Yeovil lost the services of Arthur Rankin, whose season, and sadly his career, came to an end at Taunton, with a badly dislocated knee. Rankin never played again and indeed was forced to walk with a stiff leg from then on, a tragedy for him and for the club. His footballing journey had included spells with Rutherglen Thistle, Clyde, Scottish Third Division side Dykehead, Bristol City and Charlton Athletic. With the



**Above:** Stanley Johnson – one of the club's and the town's chief benefactors for many years.

**Below:** An incident in front of the Dartford goal during the replayed Cup-tie with Yeovil and Petters at Yeovil from *The Evening World* 2.12.32.





A section of the crowd following the play during the Cup-tie replay between Yeovil and Petters and Dartford. Yeovil won by 4 goals to 2.

The reserve team had been disbanded a while previously when Westlands moved into Huish, but the latter's departure had left a gap, and the committee decided to reform them, as amateurs playing once again in the Dorset League, supplementing their fixtures with friendlies, a throw back to the pre-War days. All seemed set for the new, somewhat surreal season when the club and the public were hit by a shock announcement on July 4th 1933. The press report stated "We are officially informed that Mr David Pratt, manager of Yeovil and Petters United Football Club for the past four seasons has been appointed manager of Clapton Orient FC". Chairman Mr Vincent went onto express his regret and congratulated Pratt on his appointment to a League side. Despite making a stunning profit of over £1,200, the gates for league matches were down at Huish, making his achievement all the more remarkable, and one which his successor would find hard to follow.

The supporters did not have to wait long to find out who the new man was, for within a week former England International Louis Page had been appointed. The 32 year old was a Liverpoolian, who went on from Liverpool boys to Port Vale, before playing for Northampton Town and Burnley, where he scored over 100 goals from the left wing. His versatility as a sportsman showed up when he was also capped as a baseball international in the early days. Page fought off a challenge from Spurs centre-half Alf Messer, the other man chosen from some 100 applications, and was soon at work building his own side in time for the big kick-off against Llanelly.

#### Appearances 1932-33

C Terry 64, O Jones, T Parkin, E Gibson 63, G Anderson 62, T McNeil 56, W Day 54, Farmer 51, D Pratt, W Lewis 50, A Rankin 48, C Murley 44, W Miles 20, T Hodder 12, H Cook 10, Stevens, T McKay 8, W Murley 4, R McWilliams 3, D Fereday 2, Weakley, Shire 1



#### Southern League Western Section 1932-1933

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bath City	20	13	4	3	62	34	30
Exeter City Res	20	12	3	5	62	46	27
Torquay Utd Res	20	12	1	7	56	37	25
Plymouth Arg Res	20	11	2	7	68	38	24
Yeovil & Pett Utd	20	11	2	7	59	44	24
Llanelly	20	10	2	8	53	33	22
Bristol Rovers Res	20	7	3	10	53	65	17
Newport Co Res	20	6	4	10	42	55	16
Merthyr Town	20	7	1	12	39	58	15
Barry	20	3	4	13	30	72	10
Taunton Town	20	4	2	14	21	63	10

#### London Combination Division 2 1932-1933

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dartford	14	8	2	4	34	23	18
Yeovil & Petters U	14	8	2	4	35	28	18
Norwich City Res	14	8	1	5	23	22	17
Tunbridge Wells	14	6	3	5	33	25	15
Folkestone Town	14	6	2	6	28	31	14
Bath City	14	5	2	7	25	26	12
Guildford City	14	5	1	8	18	23	11
Bourne & BA Res	14	3	3	8	18	34	9

#### Western League Division One 1932-1933

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Exeter City Res	16	11	2	3	59	29	24
Torquay Utd Res	16	11	1	4	55	29	23
Yeovil & Pett Utd	16	10	0	6	51	31	20
Bath City	16	8	1	7	39	39	17
Bristol City Res	16	6	4	6	54	42	16
Bristol Rov Res	16	7	2	7	34	34	16
Lovells Athletic	16	6	3	7	36	35	15
Cardiff City Res	16	3	1	12	31	66	7
Taunton Town	16	2	2	12	13	67	6

#### Goalscorers 1932-33

W Lewis 63, G Anderson 48, T McNeil 24, C Murley 14, A Rankin 12, W Miles 9, H Cook, T Hodder 7, D Pratt 4, T Parkin, og 3, E Gibson, Farmer, Fereday 1

Yeovil and Petters and Bristol City line up before a benefit game for Arthur Rankin, who retired after a bad knee injury.



## Huish Welcomes Louis Page.....

Louis Page was a well respected former International who was still fit enough at just 32 to play an important role on as well as off the field. He quickly began to assemble his squad which would be playing in four different leagues, signing Pickett, the ex-Queens Park Rangers keeper, from Bristol City, T Robson from Sheffield Wednesday and Donaldson from York City, following that with Lowrie from Liverpool, inside right Kettle from Grimsby Town and full back Clement from New Brighton. A whole host of amateurs came on board, including the Rev R Lovejoy, assistant priest at the local Holy Trinity Church, perhaps to secure the possibility of some divine intervention should the season go haywire.

Before the first game the team enjoyed an evening at the Palace Theatre and were introduced to the audience which gave them a warm reception. None other than the Mayor himself was there, along with the Palace manager to wish the side the best of luck for the new campaign. They were going to need it. President and benefactor Stanley Johnson commented that the standard of play for the size of the town was equal to anything in the country, a broad statement, but one which was designed to boost interest which had flagged during the last couple of bleak economic years. During the summer the supporters had been hard at work creating the new terraced banking at the Brewery end, but it was not to be tested for some time as crowds were again down. With the free scoring forward lines of recent times now dispersed to all parts, it was not surprising that goals were not too plentiful, only Wilf Lewis and occasionally the manager showing up. The Southern League's Western Section was the largest of the two and with two 2-0 wins it got off to a good start, but the defeats soon began to mount up, two heavy losses at Plymouth inside a fortnight making Page take stock very early. The previous good runs in the FA Cup had in some ways worked against Yeovil, for although it eliminated the journeys to the likes of St Austell and Green Waves, it was really only the big time matches that the supporters could get their teeth into, as the league games were seen as hum drum affairs, a case in point being the run of games with Bath City, which would reach eighteen in two seasons by the end of term. Wilf Lewis continued to find the net, and managed four against Tunbridge Wells in October, but a fortnight later, in front of over 4000, who had seemingly come out of the woodwork, Yeovil lost, almost inevitably, to Bath City in the 4th qualifying round of the Cup. It was a stunning blow which was to have repercussions later. There was more bad news when Bill Day retired after knee trouble had kept him out since before his benefit game, and a young 18 year old amateur Ralph Evans, who had just broken into the first team, was off to Bury for a trial, which proved so successful that after an extended period he turned professional.

In late December, after another match with Bath City which attracted well under 1000 at Huish, Wilf Lewis was allowed to go to Twerton Park, a move which shocked and angered a number of the loyal fans who had worked so hard to maintain a good standard at Huish. Page signed Harold Turner, an amateur International full back from Woking, who at 15 stone and over 6'3", was not out of place in what was a huge team, but all was far from well behind the scenes, and at Christmas the truth finally came out. A special meeting was called of shareholders and season ticket holders at the dressing rooms at Huish on December 20th 1933 where they were informed that the club was in serious danger of folding. They were not alone, as Taunton Town were slowly coming to a close 26 miles away, but the diagnosis was not good. A severe drop in gate revenue and a falling off of season ticket

holders had seen the club suffer a deficit of £1,100. Certain speakers suggested that with the fare on offer so poor, then it was hardly surprising, stating "put the football on display and people will watch it", to which Secretary Harold Devoto replied, "but we cannot improve the team without money", a classic situation which has foxed many a bigger club than Yeovil over the years. There were a number of proposals put forward, one of which was to remove the name "Petters" and revert to Yeovil Town FC, as that club still existed under the larger banner. Petter's main people had no objection to that, but pointed out that although the depression had not allowed them to pay players wages at that time, they had handed over some £1764 during the past five years.

Season ticket holders were asked to pay at the gate for one month to help save the club and a shilling fund was started to assist also. Devoto finished by saying that he believed that supporters would forgive anything but inaction and reminded the gathering that to continue the club must take £100 every fortnight, which they had manifestly failed to do so far. It was a worrying time and without Lewis, few could see where anything resembling a forward line was coming from.

In January a new Chairman took over, Mr G Fox, with Bill Farthing as vice chairman and the pep talk paid off with seven goal wins over Taunton and Newport, Louis Page scoring five in the second game. Despite the less than inspired results, Yeovil were fourth in the Western Section, three points behind Bristol Rovers with Plymouth strong in both sections. Page signed Samuel, a centre-half from Porth but results were still sporadic and a run of three defeats by Bristol Rovers on the trot in twelve days virtually ended the season for Yeovil. Page introduced a number of new faces towards the end, including Bowditch who scored eighteen goals in fifteen games for both sides but many were relieved to see the end of the season, and the match with an International XI which brought in a more than useful 5000 paying customers. Indeed Bowditch epitomised the amateur ethic on April 21st, when having scored twice against Norwich City in a Southern League game, he remained changed and played for the reserves an hour later against



Louis Page



Yeovil and Petters United 1934

## Season 1933-1934

Aug	26th	Llanelly	H	South Lge West	2-0	McNeil, Lewis
	31st	Exeter City Res	H	" "	2-0	Lewis 2
Sept	2nd	Llanelly	A	Friendly	0-1	
	4th	Bury	H	" "	3-3	Page 2, McNeil
	6th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	Southern Central	1-6	Lewis
	9th	Torquay Utd Res	H	South Lge West	4-3	Lewis 3 (1pen), Kettle
	14th	Bristol Rov	H	Friendly	2-2	Lewis 2
	16th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	South Lge West	1-5	Lewis pen
	18th	Leicester City	H	Friendly	0-1	
	21st	Lovells Athletic	A	Western Div 1	1-1	Lewis
	23rd	Plymouth Arg Res	H	Southern Central	0-1	
	27th	Merthyr Town	A	South Lge West	1-2	Slade
	30th	Norwich City Res	A	Southern Central	2-5	Coward, McNeil
Oct	5th	Clapton Orient	H	" "	2-0	McNeil, Slade
	7th	Tunbridge Wells	H	" "	5-2	Lewis 4 (1pen), McNeil
	11th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	South Lge Cup	1-5	Lewis
	14th	Newport Co Res	A	South Lge West	1-1	Lewis
	21st	Guildford City	H	Southern Central	5-1	Lewis 2, Page 2, Savage
	28th	Tunbridge Wells	A	" "I	0-2	
Nov	4th	Bath City	H	South Lge West	1-2	Lewis pen
	11th	Bath City	H	FA Cup 4th Qual	0-2	
	18th	Taunton Town	H	South Lge West	2-1	Slade, Coward pen
Dec	2nd	Folkestone Town	H	Southern Central	2-5	Lewis, McNeil
	9th	Guildford City	A	" "	0-4	
	16th	Bath City	H	Western Div 1	2-0	Lewis, Savage
	25th	Taunton Town	A	South Lge West	2-1	og, Coward pen
	26th	Taunton Town	H	Western Div 1	7-0	Page 4, McNeil, Coward pen, Moore
	30th	Bath City	A	" "	0-4	
Jan	6th	Newport Co Res	H	South Lge West	7-1	Page 5, Moore, Robson
	11th	Bath City	H	Southern Central	2-2	Coward, McNeil
	13th	Torquay Utd Res	A	South Lge West	2-1	Moore, Page
	18th	Clapton Orient	A	Southern Central	1-1	Slade
	20th	Merthyr Town	H	South Lge West	3-2	Page, McNeil, Coward
	25th	Bath City	A	Southern Central	2-2	Savage, Moore
	27th	Barry	A	South Lge West	0-4	
Feb	1st	Bath City	A	Som Pro Cup	0-5	
	3rd	Bristol Rov Res	H	South Lge West	1-2	Moore
	8th	Llanelly	H	" "	2-0	Coward, Moore
	10th	Exeter City Res	A	" "	1-4	Coward
	17th	Barry	H	" "	2-1	Page, Kettle
	24th	Torquay Utd Res	A	Western Div 1	0-2	
March	1st	Taunton Town	H	Som Pro Cup	2-3	Cook, Bowditch
	3rd	Exeter City Res	H	Western Div 1	2-1	Slade, Coward
	10th	Taunton Town	A	" "	4-2	Slade 2, Page, og
	12th	Bristol Rovers Res	A	" "	3-8	Slade, Page 2
	17th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	" "	0-0	
	24th	Bristol Rovers Res	A	South Lge West	1-3	Bowditch
	27th	Folkestone Town	A	Southern Central	3-1	Kettle, Page 2
	30th	Bath City	A	South Lge West	1-5	McNeil
	31st	Plymouth Arg Res	H	" "	0-1	
April	2nd	Torquay Utd Res	H	Western Div 1	1-2	og
	7th	Exeter City Res	A	" "	0-0	
	14th	Lovells Athletic	H	" "	2-1	og, Kettle
	16th	Llanelly	A	South Lge West	1-0	Page
	21st	Norwich City Res	H	Southern Central	4-3	Coward, Bowditch 2, McNeil
	28th	Dartford	A	" "	2-1	McNeil, Bowditch
	30th	International X1	H	Friendly	3-4	McNeil, Bowditch 2
May	3rd	Bristol Rovers	A	Warminster Cup	2-1	Page, McNeil
	5th	Dartford	H	Southern Central	1-1	Bowditch

Bridport, scoring another three in a 5-0 win. His season ended well, but for reserve full back Jack Trivett there was sadness, as a broken leg at Weymouth put the lad from Barwick and Stoford out of action.

The International squad came from all corners, and featured Louis Page himself playing against Yeovil, with the likes of Joe Hulme of Arsenal, Chandler of Leicester City, Rigby and Mills of Clapton Orient and Barrett of West Ham United. It was a joyous occasion, out of character with the grim proceedings of the season itself but it served a purpose and gave new hope for Page and the army of devoted followers.



The old directors box, shown here being demolished. It was originally built for the game against Exeter City on 8th December 1934.



Above: Chesters, the Exeter City goalkeeper, falls in a vain effort to save Yeovil's second goal in the FA Cup Tie which Yeovil won 4-1.

Left: Chesters dives at the feet of Crewe, the Yeovil centre-forward, and turns the ball around the post.

## First team appearances 1933-34

T Robson 56, T Pickett, T McNeil 53, T Parkin, Clement 50, E Gibson 49, Lowery 46, Coward 45, Kettle 43, L Page 39, Moore 29, H Slade 26, W Lewis 23, H Swain 19, A Savage 16, J Donaldson, Bowditch 9, W Murley, H Cook, C Murley 5, Samuel 4, R Dash 3, M Wright 2, Rolls, R Evans 1

## First team goalscorers 1933-34

L Page 23, W Lewis 22, T McNeil 14, Coward 10, H Slade, Bowditch 8, Moore 6, Kettle, og 4, T Savage 3, T Robson, H Cook 1



**Reserves – Season 1933-1934**

Sept	2nd	Yeovil and Dist X1	H	Friendly	5-1	Cook 2, R Evans, Savage, Wright
	9th	Blandford United	A	Dorset Senior	4-2	R Evans, Slade 2, og
	13th	Weymouth Res	A	" "	5-3	Savage, Dash 2, Slade 2
	16th	Dorchester Town	H	" "	1-4	Cook
	23rd	Portland United	A	" "	1-5	Gosney
	30th	Hamworthy	H	" "	8-2	R Evans 3, Savage 2, Cook 3
Oct	7th	Bournemouth Gas	A	" "	4-2	R Evans 2, Cook, og
	14th	Swanage	H	" "	0-2	
	28th	Shaftesbury	H	" "	6-0	Miles, L Evans, R Evans 4
Nov	18th	Dorchester Town	A	" "	1-4	L Evans
Dec	9th	Poole Town	H	" "	1-4	Wright pen
	23rd	Bridport	A	" "	1-2	Kettle
Jan	6th	Swanage	A	" "	1-4	Fox
	13th	Portland United	H	" "	5-4	Rolls 2, Cook 3
Feb	3rd	Hamworthy	A	" "	1-5	Bowditch
	10th	Yeovil Baptists	H	Friendly	9-0	Cook 4, Murley 2, Miles, Rolls, Stanton
	24th	Blandford United	H	Dorset Senior	4-1	Bowditch 2, Cook, L Evans
Mar	3rd	Shaftesbury	A	" "	4-0	Bowditch 4
	24th	Bournemouth Gas	H	" "	2-2	Savage, Rodford
April	21st	Bridport	H	" "	5-0	Bowditch 3, Gay, og
	25th	Poole Town	A	" "	1-3	og
	28th	Weymouth	H	" "	0-3	

**Reserve appearances 1933-34**

R Rodford 18, A Stanton, T Miles 17, W Murley, M Wright 16, A Gay, H Cook 15, L Evans 11, H Swain 10, A Savidge 9, Rev R Lovejoy, Gosney, R Evans 8, Bowditch 6, D Purchase, H Slade, Chainey, J Trivett 5, Wakeley, Gill 4, R Dash, Kettle 3, Edmunds, Lowery, Rolls 2, L Avery, Clarke, F Abbott, K Fox, T McNeil 1

**Reserve scorers 1933-34**

H Cook 15, R Evans 11, Bowditch 10, A Savidge 5, H Slade, og 4, L Evans, Rolls 3, W Murley, T Miles, R Dash, M Wright 2, R Rodford, A Stanton, A Gay, Gosney, Kettle, K Fox 1

**Southern League  
Western Section 1933-1934**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Plymouth Arg Res	20	13	6	1	62	22	32
Bristol Rovers Res	20	14	3	3	56	27	31
Bath City	20	11	3	6	43	25	25
Torquay United Res	20	9	4	7	54	36	22
Yeovil & Petters Utd	20	10	1	9	35	39	21
Exeter City Res	20	8	3	9	54	47	19
Merthyr Town Res	20	8	2	10	39	50	18
Llanelly	20	8	1	11	25	39	17
Barry	20	4	5	11	37	64	13
Newport Co Res	20	4	3	13	36	54	11
Taunton Town	20	5	1	14	27	65	11

**Southern League  
Central Section 1933-1934**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Plymouth Arg Res	18	16	1	1	47	14	33
Clapton Orient Res	18	9	3	6	35	25	21
Norwich City Res	18	8	4	6	41	27	20
Yeovil & Petters Utd	18	7	4	7	34	38	18
Bath City	18	7	3	8	31	36	17
Dartford	18	6	4	8	28	26	16
Tunbridge Wells R	18	7	1	10	26	37	15
Llanelly	18	6	2	10	28	39	14
Folkestone Town	18	6	1	11	30	41	13
Guildford City	18	6	1	11	28	45	13

**YEOVIL WONDER TEAM READY FOR THE FRAY**

*FISHING VILLAGE TRAINING FOR ALL-IMPORTANT CUP-TIE*



Above left: Lynch, the goalkeeper (nearer camera) and Parle with a big catch, but not their own! Above right: A quiet interlude for members of the now famous Yeovil team which beat Crystal Palace and Exeter City and meet Liverpool in the Cup third round. They trained at the fishing village of Beer, South Devon, and evidently liked the fisherman's yarns.

# YEOVIL OUT TO MAKE CUP HISTORY TO-DAY



I HAVE seen Cup giant-killers come and go. I went to Walsall on the eve of their famous Cup victory over mighty Arsenal—just as "Mel" and I went to this quaint old Somerset town during the week to see what manner of men were these gallant yemen of Yeovil my old friend Louis Page says will make Cup history on the Huish slopes this afternoon.

At Walsall the players talked to me in tones of awe about Alex James, and Joe Hulme and David Jack, and hoped they would not be beaten by double figures.

At Yeovil I found the spirit of that grand old Corinthian, G. C. Vassall, who once wore the green and white uniform of the club, still breathes. From Louis Page to the youngest player there is a simple faith in victory which comes from an unshakable belief in themselves. The "green and whites" will fight right up to the final whistle.

I watched Exeter City knock Charlton out of the Cup recently, and I came to the conclusion that they cannot be "rushed." Yeovil's fate will probably turn on the ability of their inside forwards to work the ball cleverly and coolly.

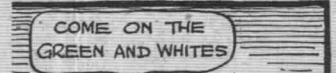
I remember the day when Louis Page

staggered us all with his six goals at St. Andrews. I have always thought of him as one of the fastest wingers of my time—and he is still scoring goals. But Louis Page will be given few chances to-day unless the players he has schooled so ably can keep their heads.

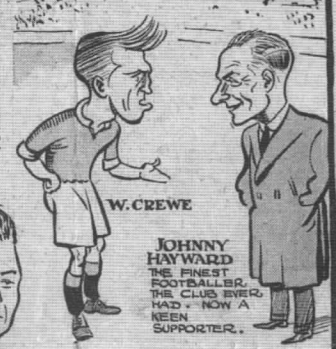
There are fine traditions behind the club whose roots go down deeply into the history of the game in Somerset. I hope the match, whatever the result, will leave no regrets.

It astonishes me that a town with a population of 19,000—not more than double the number who will be at the match to-day—can so successfully run an all-professional team.

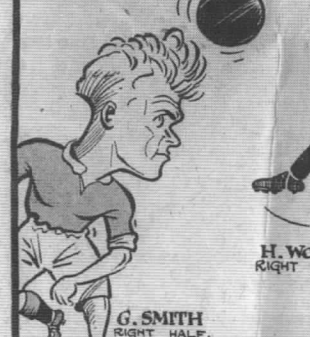
That they have been able to do so is a wonderful tribute not only to the town's affection for the grand old game, but to the enthusiasm of the club officers and the supporters' club. "Mel" has included in his player studies F. Hayward, the greatest footballer the club ever produced, whom I remember playing against in a county match for Gloucestershire once upon a time. He is seen talking to Crewe, who takes the place of the injured Taylor to-day.



MR STANLEY JOHNSON, THE PRESIDENT.



W. CREWE  
JOHNNY HAYWARD THE FINEST FOOTBALLER THE CLUB EVER HAD. NOW A KEEN SUPPORTER.



G. SMITH RIGHT HALF.

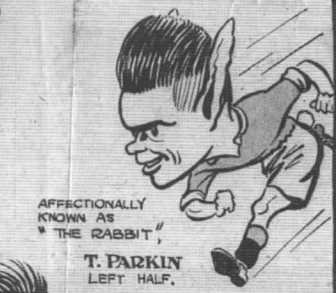


H. WOOD RIGHT BACK.

T. LYNCH GOALIE.

HAYDEN PRICE CENTRE HALF.

L. BIRKS LEFT BACK.



AFFECTIONALLY KNOWN AS 'THE RABBIT', T. PARKIN LEFT HALF.



F. HOLBEACH THE DIMINUTIVE OUTSIDE RIGHT.



J. PARLE INSIDE RIGHT.

J. TAYLOR

TOMMY.

T. MCNEIL INSIDE LEFT.



LOUIS PAGE OUTSIDE LEFT THE OLD ENGLISH INTERNATIONAL PLAYER—MANAGER & CAPTAIN OF THE TEAM.

MEL 34

Full page cartoon taken from the Daily Sketch Saturday December 8, 1934

## Western League Division One 1933-1934

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bath City	12	8	2	2	33	14	18
Torquay United Res	12	6	3	3	31	17	15
Bristol Rovers Res	12	7	1	4	40	22	15
Yeovil & Petters Utd	12	5	3	4	22	21	13
Lovells Athletic	12	5	2	5	21	20	12
Exeter City Res	12	5	1	6	25	31	11
Taunton Town	12	0	0	12	10	57	0



A section of the crowd which witnessed Yeovil's cup-tie victory, beating Crystal Palace 3-0 on 24th November 1934.

**Dorset Senior League  
Division one 1933-1934**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poole Town	20	14	2	4	63	31	30
Portland United	20	12	1	7	58	32	25
Dorchester Town	20	12	1	7	51	39	25
Bridport	20	11	1	8	60	48	23
Bournemouth Gas	20	8	6	6	39	34	22
Yeovil & Pett U Res	20	9	1	10	55	52	19
Weymouth Res	20	7	4	9	40	43	18
Blandford United	20	6	6	8	47	52	18
Shaftesbury	20	6	3	11	29	62	15
Swanage	20	5	3	12	34	52	13
Hamworthy	20	5	2	13	34	65	12



Yeovil and Petters United scored a great victory over Crystal Palace in the cup at Yeovil. Above: The first goal scored by Page, who is seen falling as the ball runs into the net. Left: Incidents in front of the Palace goal which resulted in Yeovil opening the score. Below: The Palace defenders pack their goal as a centre drops down into the goalmouth.



**National fame again**

When the dust settled on the 1933-34 season, a number believed that Page would not be the man to take the club on, and with Taunton's long battle with apathy almost over, the ultimate sadness was never far from the minds of those who loved the club. It had come a long way since leaving Pen Mill and going professional, but the days of Johnny Hayward were long gone and there was much work to do. There was as always optimism as the ground was spruced up in readiness, but few, if any, could have predicted what was in store for the public. Two championships, a Somerset Professional Cup win, a League Cup final place and a match in the FA Cup which would smash the ground record to

**Season 1934-1935**

Aug	25th	Margate	H	Southern Central	3-2	McNeil, Taylor 2
	30th	Aldershot	H	" "	5-6	og, Holbeach 2, McNeil, Taylor
Sept	1st	Exeter City Res	A	Western Div 1	3-1	og, Savage, McNeil
	5th	Taunton Town	A	South Lge West	5-0	og, Taylor, Holbeach 2, Parle
	12th	Torquay Utd Res	A	Western Div 1	4-2	Page 3, McNeil
	13th	Clapton Orient	H	Friendly	6-5	Taylor 5, McNeil
	15th	Taunton Town	H	South Lge Cup 1	6-2	Page 3, Taylor 2, McNeil
	22nd	Cardiff City Res	H	Western Div 1	4-0	Page 2, Parle, Taylor
	24th	Folkestone Town	H	Southern Central	7-1	McNeil 3, Taylor 2 (1pen), Page, Parle
	29th	Tiverton Town	A	FA Cup 1st Qual	5-1	Parle, Page, Taylor, Swain, Holbeach
Oct	1st	Bristol City	H	Friendly	2-3	McNeil, Smith pen
	6th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	Western Div 1	5-5	Taylor 3 (2pens), Page 2
	11th	Torquay Utd Res	H	Southern Central	1-1	Taylor
	13th	Wells City	H	FA Cup 2nd Qual	8-2	Page 2, Holbeach 2, Smith, Taylor, McNeil 2
	17th	Cardiff City Res	A	Western Div 1	1-0	Page
	20th	Tunbridge Wells R	H	Southern Central	3-0	Taylor pen, Page, McNeil
	27th	Glastonbury	A	FA Cup 3rd Qual	2-1	Holbeach, McNeil
Nov	3rd	Torquay Utd Res	A	South Lge West	2-1	McNeil, Holbeach
	10th	Weymouth	H	FA Cup 4th Qual	6-2	Parle 4, Taylor, Page
	15th	Lovells Athletic	A	Western Div 1	3-2	McNeil 2, Savage
	17th	Exeter City Res	H	" "	5-3	McNeil 2, Savage 2, Parle
	24th	Crystal Palace	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	3-0	McNeil, Page, Parle
Dec	2nd	Newport Co Res	H	South Lge West	2-2	Taylor 2
	8th	Exeter City	H	FA Cup 2nd Rd	4-1	Smith pen, Page, Crewe 2
	15th	Plymouth Arg Res	H	Southern Central	3-1	McNeil 2, Parle
	22nd	Bath City	A	" "	1-4	Parle
	25th	Bristol Rovers Res	A	South Lge West	1-2	McNeil
	26th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	" "	6-0	Taylor 5, McNeil
	29th	Guildford City	A	Southern Central	2-3	Taylor, McNeil
	31st	Margate	A	" "	1-4	Taylor
Jan	5th	Taunton Town	H	South Lge West	3-0	Taylor 2, Crewe
	12th	Liverpool	H	FA Cup 3rd Rd	2-6	McNeil 2
	17th	Lovells Athletic	H	Western Div 1	7-1	Taylor 4, McNeil, Parle 2
	19th	Bath City	H	South Lge West	1-1	Smith pen
	26th	Taunton Town	H	Som Pro Cup 1	7-1	Smith pen, Parle, Taylor 2, McNeil, Swain, Parle
Feb	2nd	Exeter City Res	H	South Lge West	5-1	Taylor 3, og, Smith
	9th	Dartford	A	Southern Central	1-2	Taylor
	14th	Torquay Utd Res	H	Southern LC QF	4-0	Parle, McNeil 2, Taylor pen
	16th	Bath City	H	Southern Central	2-1	Taylor 2
	20th	Bristol Rovers Res	A	" "	1-2	McNeil
	23rd	Newport Co Res	A	South Lge West	2-1	McNeil, Parle
	28th	Barry	A	" "	0-3	
March	3rd	Torquay Utd Res	H	Western Div 1	3-0	Smith, Parkin, Crewe
	7th	Bath City	H	" "	2-1	Taylor, McNeil
	9th	Bristol Rovers Res	A	" "	0-2	
	14th	Bath City	A	South Lge West	1-5	Taylor
	16th	Barry	H	Western Div 1	8-1	Taylor 5, Parle 2, McNeil
	20th	Exeter City Res	A	" "	2-0	Parkin 2
	23rd	Plymouth Arg Res	H	Southern LC S-F	3-0	Smith, Taylor, Parkin
	26th	Torquay Utd Res	A	Southern Central	1-3	Smith pen
	30th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	" "	6-0	Taylor 3, Parle 2, Page
April	1st	Plymouth Arg Res	A	" "	1-4	Parle
	4th	Bath City	A	Western Div 1	1-4	McNeil



# Yeovil Give Liverpool an Early Fright

By **ACHILLES**

Yeovil and Petters ..... 2 Liverpool ..... 6

**O**NLY four minutes have elapsed, and Yeovil are one up! For what more could we ask to increase the already tense excitement of this David v. Goliath Cup encounter.

Is the Somerset side on the verge of making yet further history in this already meritorious season of theirs? Alas! Liverpool prove to be made of sterner stuff than to be harassed by the early reverse, and steadily plod on to claim an equaliser before the interval, and in the 13 minutes that follow the resumption virtually seals the fate of the gallant West Country team by driving home four splendid goals.

Maybe it was the sight of Liverpool's scarlet coloured jerseys that roused Yeovil's desire for immediate blood, for the home forwards set off at a cracking pace and truly caught Liverpool by surprise when a feeble corner kick, taken by Holbeach, was saved from going out of play by Taylor, who lobbed the ball to McNeil, an ex-Liverpool player, to kick past Riley and send the record crowd for the ground into a state of frenzy.

The Northerners' equaliser came in an unexpected manner. Price had the misfortune to deflect a short cross-pass by Nieuwenhuys into his own net in the twenty-fifth minute.

But the resumption saw Liverpool in devastating mood. Within a minute Wright had broken through to score. Hodgson

followed the example seven minutes later, and sixty seconds had not gone by ere Roberts opened his account. In the thirteenth minute came another from Hodgson.

Yeovil showed that the spirit for the big occasion had not been knocked out of them by spasmodically breaking away, and with 20 minutes to go McNeil claimed yet another goal against his old club with a fine header from Holbeach's centre. In the closing minutes Roberts brought the visitor's tally to six, a number which might easily have been doubled had the necessity arisen, so easily were the Northerners playing within themselves.

Liverpool commanded the open spaces and much of Yeovil's energy had been sapped at the interval in an endeavour to combat this menace. Hence Liverpool's marked superiority in the second half.

There was one player Liverpool could not "crack, however, and that was Price, whose only blemish on a magnificent display gave Liverpool their first goal. He received useful support from Smith and Parkin his flank men but he could not place the same reliance in Wood and Birks.

Of the home forwards the palm must go to Holbeach, who was an exceedingly tricky customer for McDougall and Tennant. Page on the opposite wing, was handicapped by a recurrence of his neck injury and also that he was up against Cooper.

Yeovil: Lynch; Wood Birks; Smith, Price, Parkin; Holbeach, Parle, Taylor, McNeil, Page.  
Liverpool: Riley; Cooper, Tennant; Savage, Bradshaw, McDougall; Nieuwenhuys, Hodgson, Wright, Roberts (S), Hanson.

## Season 1934-1935 continued

April	6th	Aldershot	A	Southern Central	3-0	Parle, Page, Smith
	11th	Street	A	Som Cup S-F	4-0	Taylor 3, og
	14th	Guildford City	H	Southern Central	3-2	Parle, Page, McNeil
	19th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	South Lge West	2-1	Parle, McNeil
	20th	Plymouth Arg Res	H	" "	4-0	Taylor 3, McNeil
	22nd	Torquay Utd Res	H	" "	5-0	Taylor 2, Parle, Crewe, og
	24th	Folkestone Town	A	Southern League Cup	1-4	Parle
				Final 1st Leg		
	27th	Folkestone Town	A	Southern Central	0-4	
	30th	Bath City	A	Som Professional		
				Cup Final	2-1	Taylor 2
May	1st	Tunbridge Wells R	A	Southern Central	0-5	
	2nd	Folkestone Town	H	Southern League	3-1	Smith 2, Taylor,
				Cup Final 2nd Leg		
	4th	Dartford	H	Southern Central	1-5	Taylor

smithereens filling Huish to bursting point were just some of the joys about to unfold, and it was down to Page whose team building began at once.

By June of 1934 Page had signed up a number of experienced professionals, from all parts of the country, including centre-half Hayden Price from Bradford and Horace Wood, a right back.

Tommy Lynch was to be goalkeeper, signed in place of Pickett who had gone to Clapton Orient to meet up again with David Pratt, Martin Davin, Paddy McDade and Idris Miles, all ex-Glovers.

Len Birks, the former Bristol City captain and left back and George Smith from Darlington came on board, but without question the most important capture was Joe Taylor, formerly of Oldham Athletic, a centre-forward who signalled his

intentions in the trial game in mid-August with seven goals

Sadly the league formation was fragmented to the point of chaos with sixteen matches in the Western Section, twenty in the Central and another twelve in the Western League, which along with League Cup, Professional Cup and FA Cup matches, amounted to a confusing time for all concerned.

The incredible journey began in front of over 3000 at Huish who roared the new side on to a victory over Margate and then a few days later gasped at a goal glut when Aldershot won 6-5. From then on the impressive forward line of Holbeach, Parle, Taylor, McNeil and Page clicked into gear as Yeovil went for a unique treble. The FA Cup began at Tiverton where over 2800, a ground record for the Elms, packed in to watch Yeovil ease into the next round. The sheer volume of goals had begun to attract larger than normal crowds and a 5-5 draw with Bristol Rovers did no harm a week before the next Cup tie, a straight forward home win over Wells City. Another local tie followed, at Glastonbury before the first real test, against Weymouth, a side beginning to re-emerge after a poor spell when they were in financial trouble. 4,300 saw Jimmy Parle hit four in a 6-2 win

which put Yeovil and Petters United into the hat for the First Round again. Two Western League wins put everyone in a good mood, and Cup fever hit the town with a vengeance. The fortnight between the ties seemed like an eternity, once the draw had pitted Glovers with Crystal Palace. The time was put to good use, as gangs of men cut out terracing from the Brewery End and added seating in front of the stands. A second exit was fashioned and when the big day came so did the crowds. The Yeovil Imperial Silver Band played on the pitch and a green and white figure with a black and white cat paraded around whilst rattles, fireworks and community signing filled the air. At ten past two Louis Page led the team out, minus Joe Taylor, to a deafening roar. Tommy McNeil scored first for Yeovil, to be followed by goals from Parle and Page and with Tommy Lynch stopping everything at the other end there was little doubt as to where the plaudits were going to lie.

Lynch, Wood, Birks, Smith, Price, Parkin, Holbeach, Parle, Savage, McNeil and Page put the club on the map, but



Yeovil and Petters United 1935



Past v Present Benefit Match – For Tommy Parkin and Tommy McNeil

#### Reserves Season 1934-1935

Aug	25th	Hamworthy	A	Dorset League	1-1	Bowditch
Sept	1st	Blandford United	H	" "	5-2	Farthing 2, Rowlands, Evans, Grimes
	6th	Dorchester Town	A	" "	3-1	Grimes, Savage, Farthing
	8th	Weymouth Res	H	" "	2-0	Cook, Bowditch
	15th	Shaftesbury	A	" "	0-2	
	29th	Bridport	A	" "	3-6	Evans, Savage
Oct	13th	Bournemouth Gas	A	" "	0-8	
	20th	Blandford United	A	" "	1-2	Savage
Nov	3rd	Swanage	H	" "	8-2	Bowditch, Savage 4, Grimes 3
	10th	Stoke-U-Ham	A	Som Char Cup 1	2-6	Bowditch 2
Dec	1st	Swanage	A	Dorset League	0-2	
	22nd	Bridport	H	" "	0-1	
Jan	5th	Weymouth Res	A	" "	1-2	Grimes
	19th	Clevedon	A	Som Sen Cup 1	0-1	
Feb	9th	Green Howards	A	Dorset League	2-1	Slade, Grimes
	23rd	Bournemouth Gas	H	" "	0-2	
March	9th	Dorchester Town	H	" "	1-1	Savage
	30th	Portland United	A	" "	3-6	Grimes, Slade 2
April	4th	Green Howards	H	" "	3-0	Slade 3
	6th	Shaftesbury	H	" "	7-0	Savage 2, Slade 2, Wyatt 2, Grimes
	11th	Portland United	H	" "	4-2	Horse 2, Slade 2
	20th	Hamworthy	H	" "	5-0	Slade 2, Savage, Farthing, og
	27th	Poole Town	H	" "	5-2	Farthing 3, Slade, Savage
	29th	Poole Town	A	" "	1-6	Slade

unbeknown to the happy throngs, that was just the beginning. The draw was kind and gave another home draw, which would be destined to break the gate record yet again. Exeter City brought with them some 3,500 supporters for the Second Round tie on December 8th, with excursions coming in from all over the West. The Fairfield in Salthouse Lane was press ganged into use as a car-park and the same gangs returned to create more terracing around Huish, along with a new directors balcony made of steel and wood, and

finished with only hours to spare after working through the Friday night. 10,000 plus were expected for the game, which in the end attracted 9000, most with green and white cardboard megaphones and many hanging from hoardings and on roofs. Exeter had no answer to this bedlam, and within fifteen minutes they were 2-0 down, never to recover. Two more in the last ten minutes prompted a mass invasion at the whistle as the green part of the west country celebrated in style.

It was a wonderful time, and it should have ensured the financial stability of the club for some time, whose wage bill for the full time players came to £50 a week, with the top players on £4 and the rest on £2.

Both Southern League sections had Yeovil in mid-table at that time, but with many games to go and the magic 100 goals coming before Christmas, with all eyes on January 5th, 1935 and the Third Round, which brought Liverpool to Huish. Page rested a number of players during the holiday time and it showed with four defeats, but it mattered little. Chairman Mr Fox was quick to scotch rumours that the match would be played at Anfield, although it would cost everyone double to watch at Huish. Whilst the players prepared, the ground was given an overhaul for the third time in six weeks, with flat areas raised and terraced and gaps filled in which weren't already covered, the whole impressive ground capable of shoe-horning in 14,000 should it be needed with 1,200 seated. After a few days training and resting at Weston-Super-Mare the big day arrived, as did 11,830 fans, paying some £1,360 in receipts. A thousand came down from Liverpool but they were lost in a sea of green and white, and within five minutes the whole ground erupted, with hats flung in the air as Tommy McNeil put Yeovil 1-0 up. It was the best it got, for Liverpool asserted their class and eventually silenced the crowd with a clinical display which won many admirers. Player manager Louis Page played the entire game with a broken collar bone, an injury sustained in pre-match training at Ilfracombe. News of the injury was kept a secret. Yeovil too had won the admiration of the footballing world, and were well within their rights to enjoy it, but they had reached their peak, and from there on in it was a sharp and painful return to normality, despite the success which came in May. It was the middle of January and



the club were in line for a possible, but unlikely five trophies, the three leagues which they were well placed in, the Southern League Cup and the Somerset Professional Cup.

Joe Taylor continued his quest for a scoring record through February, but gates had dropped alarmingly as the public showed they were unimpressed with the same clubs in mundane competition every week. The alarm bells sounded, but in spite of wrapping up the Western League with games to spare, there was a real air of anti-climax. Some of the crowd returned for the League Cup semi-final with Plymouth Argyle, but for the umpteenth meeting with Bath City in March, for a Western League game, just 11/6d was taken on the gate. On April 22nd Yeovil beat Torquay United Reserves 5-0 to clinch their second trophy, the Western Section, but the League Cup Final was lost after two legs had produced nine goals. Bath City were yet again hosted for the Professional Cup and Joe Taylor's double ensured it remained at Huish.

To crown the season Tom McNeil and Tom Parkin were given a benefit game against a Veterans XI, where Johnny Hayward, Fred Day, Stan Abbott, Jim Gallon, Sam Cheetham and Bert Grist turned out on a day of celebration. What was needed more than anything to stimulate interest over and above the FA Cup was a sensible fixture list based around a strong sixteen or eighteen club Southern League, with something similar for the reserves, whose season in the Dorset Senior League was a staccato affair with too few matches.

Sadly that would not happen for the 1935-36 campaign, although it wasn't far away, but Yeovil and Petters United would have to pay a massive price for their success with a heartrending season to follow.

#### First team appearances 1934-35

T Lynch 67, T McNeil 64, J Parle 63, H Price 62, H Woods, J Taylor 60, G Smith 58, F Holbeach 57, T Parkin 50, J Birks 49, L Page 48, H Swain 32, Crewe 30, T Savage 12, E Slade 6, H Cook 3, W Grimes, H Gay 2, W Wyatt, W Day 1

#### First team goalscorers 1934-35

J Taylor 66, T McNeil 38, J Parle 27, L Page 22, G Smith 12, F Holbeach 9, og 6, Crewe 5, T Parkin 4, H Swain 2

#### Reserve appearances 1934-35

H Gay 22, Gale 20, T Savidge, W Rowlands 19, D Grimes, E Slade 18, W Bowditch 15, H Cook 14, Middleditch, G Chainey, B Horsey 11, Parker, W Wyatt 10, G Smith, A Lovatt 8, C Farthing, L Evans, Mogg 5, W Day, G Burrett 4, Rayner, C Murley 2, H Swain, R Rodford 1.

#### Reserve goalscorers 1934-35

E Slade 14, T Savage 12, D Grimes 9, C Farthing 7, W Bowditch 5, W Wyatt, L Evans, B Horsey 2, W Rowlands, H Cook, og 1

#### Southern League Western Section 1934-1935

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil & Petters Utd	16	11	2	3	49	18	24
Newport Co Res	16	8	5	3	45	29	21
Plymouth Arg Res	16	7	5	4	40	24	19
Exeter City Res	16	7	2	7	38	32	16
Bath City	16	6	4	6	35	32	16
Bristol Rovers Res	16	5	5	6	33	37	15
Barry	16	6	3	7	30	40	15
Torquay United Res	16	5	3	8	24	29	13
Taunton Town	16	1	3	12	13	66	5

#### Southern League Central Section 1934-1935

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Folkestone Town	20	11	4	5	43	31	26
Guildford City	20	11	4	5	43	39	26
Plymouth Arg Res	20	6	9	5	40	28	21
Torquay United Res	20	7	6	7	34	35	20
Bristol Rovers Res	20	8	4	8	38	46	20
Margate	20	8	3	9	40	34	19
Dartford	20	8	3	9	43	38	19
Aldershot Res	20	8	3	9	33	44	19
Tunbridge Wells	20	8	2	10	33	37	18
Yeovil & Petters Utd	20	8	1	11	45	51	17
Bath City	20	6	3	11	34	43	15

#### Western League Division One 1934-1935

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil & Petters Utd	12	9	1	2	38	21	19
Bath City	12	7	2	3	32	16	16
Bristol Rovers Res	12	6	3	3	34	21	15
Torquay United Res	12	4	2	6	25	25	10
Cardiff City Res	12	3	3	6	19	30	9
Exeter City Res	12	2	4	6	18	26	8
Lovells Athletic	12	3	1	8	15	42	7

#### Dorset League 1934-1935

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bournemouth Gas	22	16	2	4	79	24	34
Weymouth Res	22	15	1	6	66	40	31
Bridport	22	14	3	5	71	48	31
Portland United	22	10	4	8	61	47	24
Yeovil & P Utd Res	22	10	2	10	55	49	21
Dorchester Town	22	8	5	9	47	55	21
Poole Town Res	22	9	2	11	46	39	20
Green Howards	22	9	2	11	47	49	18
Hamworthy Utd	22	6	6	10	34	62	18
Blandford Utd	22	7	3	12	41	52	17
Swanage	22	5	4	13	45	90	14
Shaftesbury	22	4	4	14	27	64	12

## From ecstasy to agony in one year - Page goes to Newport County

The close season was as gloomy as it should have been upbeat. The euphoric scenes which visited Huish for the matches against Crystal Palace, Exeter City and Liverpool were quickly submerged beneath a sea of banality as the general public came down from their perches and disappeared back to await the next big occasion. Elsewhere David Pratt had become manager of Notts County around the same time that Yeovil applied once again for entry into the London Combination.

In June there was enough bad news to go around, as Louis Page, who masterminded arguably the finest and most exciting team at Huish, was gone across the border to Newport County, the words of the club almost echoed from the departure of Pratt - "We very much regret losing him but wish him well for the future". Jimmy Parle soon followed him to Newport, with Tommy Lynch, ever present last

season, off to First Division Brentford. He was replaced by George Somerville, six years at Burnley FC who had latterly played for Burton Town. Sadly there were more goodbyes, as Taunton Town FC finally called it a day after several years of struggle and, sadder still, the death was announced of former Schoolboy International Harold 'Peter' Scott, who had four seasons at Huish after a short career at Torquay United. Having left football he was a draughtsman at Petters and taught science at Yeovil Tech. His death at the age of 27 after a short illness stunned the club.

A new man was needed to replace Page and Arsenal manager George Allison agreed to help the directors find a suitable player-manager, acting as an adviser. The AGM heard tribute paid to Louis Page, who had made the club financially sound, turning a £700 loss into a £100 profit. Sadly the reverse was true months later, but the club welcomed David Halliday, former centre-forward at Clapton Orient, Manchester City, Arsenal and Sunderland as new boss, taking over on July 5th 1935.

The club applied and got into the Somerset Senior League for the Reserves, with the idea that there would be three distinct teams, the third being amateur, but with five different leagues to play in and sixty odd names to juggle with, the Somerset and Dorset sides soon became one, and later they too were all but taken over by first teamers as the season threatened to collapse around them.

Halliday soon began to build his squad, signing Robert Connor, who was a 22 year old from Queens Park Rangers formerly an amateur with Newcastle United. Charles Park, a young striker from Portsmouth soon joined also and the starting line list of professionals was Somerville, Woods, Whelan, Smith, Price, Parkin, Davis, Park, Halliday, McNeil and Connor, plus a whole array of amateurs. Once again all hopes were pinned on the FA Cup, the competition which had changed from being a necessary evil not so long ago after ruinous trips to Plymouth and Warminster, to being the crux of the whole season. The public would have to wait some time for the action, as the club was exempt, but with the long wait over Guildford City were the first guests in a 3-3 draw. It was the best it got for some time as Halliday's new charges took their time gelling and when they went to Aldershot Reserves and were beaten 9-1, already it began to look gloomy for the Glovers. Few goals were being scored at the right end and with all too familiar visitors such as Bristol Rovers, Torquay United and omnipresent Bath City, crowds slumped alarmingly once again. The London Combination application had of course again been denied them, and so the long grind of no less than 88 league fixtures, plus assorted cups and friendlies looked to be a frightening prospect. There were other big defeats, but the odd unusual visitor, such as Dartford or Tunbridge Wells would attract something around the 1500 mark to tick over, but with Halliday himself out with ligament damage for weeks, the attack looked somewhat toothless. George Berry came to the club early in the season, a strong centre-half who had been with both Bristol clubs, and was joined by R Lee-Campbell, L Wilkins, formerly with Sunderland and Stockport County, and Len Clarke a full-back from Kingstonian as Halliday looked in vain for the right formula.

Over 3,000 came for the cup match with Barry, which Yeovil edged 2-1 and nearly 3,500 came to the First Round tie with Newport Isle of Wight, a Hampshire League side, expecting an easy passage and a huge draw in Round 2. The rattles and hats were soon put away as the Islanders took the prize, even though Yeovil forced no fewer than 27 corners, a result which turned the tables on the giant killers and stunned the directors to such an extent that, with gates falling, and the Folkestone match postponed due to fog and

## Season 1935-1936

Aug	31st	Guildford City	H	Southern Central	3-3	McNeil 2, Holbeach
Sept	5th	Bristol Rovers Res.	H	" "	1-5	McNeil
	7th	Guildford City	A	" "	2-3	Halliday 2
	9th	Norwich City Res	H	SL Champs match	2-2	Connor, McNeil
	11th	Aldershot Res	A	Southern Central	1-9	Savidge
	12th	Torquay Utd Res	H	South Lge West	1-0	Connor
	14th	Cheltenham Town	H	Western League	3-1	Parkin, McNeil 2
	16th	Bath City	H	W L Benefit	1-1	McNeil
	19th	Aldershot Res	H	Southern Central	0-1	
	23rd	Norwich City Res	A	SL Champs Rep	2-7	Holbeach 2
	26th	Bath City	A	Western League	2-5	Berry 2
Oct	5th	Dartford	A	Southern Central	0-2	
	10th	Bath City	H	" "	3-1	Berry, McNeil, Slade
	12th	Dartford	H	" "	3-3	Connor, Slade, Cook
	16th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	South Lge Cup 1	0-3	
	19th	Bath City	A	South Lge West	2-3	Grimes, Connor
	26th	Tunbridge Wells	H	Southern Central	3-2	McNeil, Connor pen, Berry
Nov	2nd	Torquay Utd Res	A	Western League	4-4	Berry 2, Wilkins, Holbeach
	7th	Newport Co Res	A	South Lge West	0-2	
	9th	Torquay Utd Res	H	Western League	2-2	Park 2
	16th	Barry	H	FA Cup 4th Qual	2-1	Park, Wilkins
	23rd	Newport Co Res	H	South Lge West	2-3	Berry, Wilkins
	30th	Newport IOW	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	0-1	
Dec	14th	Plymouth Arg Res	H	South Lge West	2-3	Parkin og
	25th	Exeter City Res	A	" "	3-5	Connor 5, Halliday
	26th	Exeter City Res	H	" "	3-2	Halliday 2, Park
	28th	Cardiff City Res	H	Western League	6-2	Halliday 3, Park, Parkin, Connor
Jan	4th	Barry	A	South Lge West	0-1	
	11th	Folkestone Town	A	Southern Central	2-2	Halliday pen, McNeil
	18th	Cheltenham Town	A	" "	5-5	Berry 3, McNeil, Holbeach
	25th	Cheltenham Town	H	" "	5-1	Park, Holbeach 2, Berry 2
Feb	1st	Plymouth Argyle Res	A	" "	2-5	Halliday 2
	6th	Margate	A	" "	1-6	Halliday
	8th	Plymouth Argyle Res	H	" "	3-5	McNeil 2, Halliday pen
	13th	Lovells Athletic	A	Western League	2-3	Halliday 2
	15th	Cardiff City Res	A	" "	2-3	Halliday 2
	22nd	Bristol Rovers Res	A	Southern Central	3-6	Park, Connor, Halliday
	29th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	Western League	3-7	Cook 2, Halliday
March	5th	Margate	H	Southern Central	1-2	Park
	7th	Lovells Athletic	H	Western League	0-1	
	11th	Bristol Rovers Res	A	" "	3-4	Berry, Connor, Holbeach
	14th	Barry	H	South Lge West	5-2	Park, Holbeach, Berry 2, Connor
	19th	Bath City	A	Southern Central	1-1	Berry
	21st	Cheltenham Town	A	South Lge West	1-4	Park
	23rd	Bath City	H	Som Pro Cup SF	2-2	McNeil, Slade
	26th	Folkestone Town	A	Southern Central	0-9	
April	2nd	Bath City	H	South Lge West	3-3	Holbeach, McNeil, Park
	4th	Plymouth Argyle Res	A	" "	0-2	
	10th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	" "	2-2	Halliday 2
	13th	Bristol Rovers Res	A	" "	0-2	
	15th	Bath City	A	Som PC SF Rep	2-4	McNeil 2
	18th	Tunbridge Wells	A	Southern Central	2-2	Connor, McNeil
	20th	Wells City		Friendly (at Wincanton)	4-1	Connor 2, Park 2, Wyatt
	23rd	Bath City	H	Western League	0-2	
	25th	Torquay Utd Res	A	South Lge West	3-2	Halliday 3

finances back to pre-Liverpool status. The whole professional staff was put on the transfer list, Hayden Price and Horace Woods being the first to go, jointly to Clapham Orient.

## Reserves Season 1935-1936

Aug	31st	Dorchester Town	A	Dorset League	0-2
also		Frome Town Res	A	Som Senior Lge	1-0 Bowditch
Sept	5th	Bournemouth Gas	A	Dorset League	2-5 Bowditch 2
	7th	Clevedon	H	Som Sen League	5-0 Bowditch, Horsey 3, Grimes
	7th	Sherborne	A	Dorset League	2-0 Bowditch 2
	14th	Hamworthy	A	" "	1-2 Farthing
	17th	Crewkerne Town	A	Friendly	5-2 Lovett, Cook, Farthing, Murley, Savidge
	21st	Portland United	H	Dorset League	6-1 Farthing 3, Cook, Savidge 2
	26th	Bournemouth Gas	H	" "	1-5 Grimes
Oct	5th	Green Howards	H	" "	11-2 Bowditch 5, Parker 2, Lovett, Cook, Grimes 2
	19th	Shepton Mallet	H	Som Sen Lge	7-0 Bowditch 3, Chainey pen, Savidge 2, Fishwick
	26th	Portland United	A	Dorset League	5-1 Cook, Grimes 2, Slade, Gay
Nov	2nd	Frome Town Res	H	Som Sen League	9-1 Grimes 4, Slade 3, Park, Horsey
	9th	Green Howards	A	Dorset League	2-2 Grimes, Slade
	16th	Blandford United	A	" "	1-1 Savidge
	23rd	Minehead	A	Som Sen League	4-2 Slade 2, Parker, Grimes
Dec	7th	Glastonbury Res	A	" "	6-3 Halliday 2, Grimes 2, Connor 2
	21st	Poole Town	H	Dorset League	0-0 Abandoned fog
	26th	Clevedon	A	Som Sen League	1-7 Slade
	28th	Bridport	A	Dorset League	5-3 Brown, Slade, Berry 2, og
Jan	18th	Weymouth Res	H	" "	8-4 Gay, Grimes 2, Gray 3, Connor 2
	25th	Street	A	Som Sen League	1-1 Gay
Feb	1st	Bridport	H	Dorset League	6-0 Chainey pen, Gray, Savidge 2, Lovett, Just
	8th	Weston Super Mare	A	Som Sen League	1-2 Grist
	15th	Poole Town	A	Dorset League	1-2 Richards
	22nd	Blandford United	H	" "	2-3 Murley, Lovett
	29th	Weymouth Res	A	" "	2-5 Horsey, Just
March	7th	Shepton Mallet	A	Som Sen League	2-4 Grist, Murley
	21st	Weston Super Mare	H	" "	0-0
	26th	Dorchester Town	H	Dorset League	2-1 Grist, Blanchard
	28th	Minehead	H	Som Sen League	0-2
April	1st	Wells City	A	" "	7-2 Berry 3, Connor 2, Douris 2
	4th	Hamworthy	H	Dorset League	4-2 Lee-Campbell, Douris, Grist 2
	6th	Trowbridge Town	A	Som Sen League	2-3 Holbeach pen, Connor
	9th	Wells City	H	" "	5-0 Gray 2, Grist, Holbeach 2
	10th	Clandown	A	" "	0-0
	11th	Street	H	" "	8-1 Holbeach, Grist 3, Horsey 2, Gray 2
	15th	Trowbridge Town	H	" "	3-1 Holbeach, Connor 2
	18th	Swanage	H	Dorset League	5-5 Brotherton, Grist 3, Mitchell
	20th	Glastonbury Res	H	Som Sen League	6-0 Swain 3, Cook, Brown, Blanchard
	25th	Poole Town	H	Dorset League	5-1 Slade 2, Murley 3
May	2nd	Clandown	H	Som Sen League	4-3 Swain 2, Grist, holbeach pen

February and March were a disaster with the defence shipping fives, sixes and sevens, and with the public showing what they thought, in particular the Plymouth game attracting just 700, an appeal went out, not for the first time, for help to save the ailing club. Some 700 notices were

Southern League  
Western Section 1935-1936

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Plymouth Arg Res	16	12	3	1	51	18	27
Bristol Rovers Res	16	8	3	5	35	30	19
Newport Co Res	16	8	3	5	29	30	19
Torquay Utd Res	16	7	1	8	25	28	15
Bath City	16	5	5	6	18	26	15
Cheltenham Town	16	6	2	8	32	28	14
Yeovil & Petters U	16	5	3	8	31	35	13
Barry	16	5	2	9	29	41	12
Exeter City Res	16	4	2	10	24	38	10

Southern League  
Central Section 1935-1936

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Margate	20	14	3	3	57	18	31
Bristol Rovers Res	20	13	1	6	51	37	27
Plymouth Arg Res	20	12	2	6	53	32	26
Aldershot Res	20	9	4	7	37	37	22
Folkestone	20	9	3	8	51	36	21
Tunbridge Wells R	20	7	4	9	40	41	18
Dartford	20	7	3	10	34	42	17
Guildford City	20	7	3	10	33	47	17
Cheltenham Town	20	5	5	10	32	45	15
Bath City	20	5	5	10	34	52	15
Yeovil & Petter Utd	20	3	5	12	40	75	11

Western League  
Divison One 1935-1936

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol Rov Res	10	5	4	1	29	22	14
Lovells Athletic	10	4	4	2	17	18	12
Torquay Utd Res	10	4	3	3	28	20	11
Bath City	10	3	3	4	14	16	9
Cardiff City Res	10	3	3	4	13	18	9
Yeovil & Petters Utd	10	1	3	6	22	30	5

## Somerset Senior League 1935-36

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Clandown	20	14	2	4	74	38	30
Clevedon	20	14	0	6	82	40	28
Yeovil & Pet U Res	20	12	3	5	70	32	27
Street	20	12	2	6	63	44	26
Trowbridge Town	20	12	1	7	68	45	25
Minehead	20	11	2	7	56	30	24
Weston-S-Mare	20	9	2	9	49	42	20
Shepton Mallet	20	5	5	10	34	66	15
Glastonbury Res	20	4	3	13	45	80	11
Frome Town Res	20	3	3	14	28	86	9
Wells City	20	0	5	15	27	100	5

## Dorset Senior League 1935-36

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bournemouth Gas	22	18	2	2	69	24	38
Weymouth Res	22	17	3	2	86	33	37
Yeovil & Pet U Res	22	10	5	7	79	55	23
Blandford United	22	10	3	9	48	56	23
Bridport	22	9	4	9	61	64	22
Poole Town	22	9	4	9	48	51	22
Portland United	22	10	1	11	54	57	21
Sherborne Town	22	8	3	11	51	51	17
Green Howards	22	6	4	12	37	58	16
Hamworthy	22	7	2	13	39	70	16
Swanage	22	6	3	13	50	75	15
Dorchester Town	22	4	2	16	46	74	10

sent to businesses around the town, asking for help, and using the maxim that leisure and sport are important for men, so that they may work harder and therefore benefit the employers. It did not work at first, and it seemed that maybe it was too little too late, as just 500 turned up for the match with Barry and no more than a handful bothered with the game with Bath City at the end of the campaign.

It was not only the professionals who were suffering, as the reserves, despite healthy finishes in both leagues, were struggling to field a side towards the end. From nearly 50 amateurs signed on, only nine could be mustered for the game at Weston Super Mare, and at Shepton Mallet the unruly element amongst those who did play did not endear themselves to the good people of that town, as they were chased off the ground at the end of the game. The climax came when just 30 people saw the last Dorset League game, ironically the last for some time, and a few pessimists were thinking that it could be the last in any league. Apathy had killed off Taunton Town FC, and the county town was not to have another senior side for thirteen years, and unless there was some serious thinking, not only at club level but at the various leagues, then that would not be the last club to go under.

#### First Team Appearances 1935-36

T Parkin, T Whelan, Holbeach 49, J McNeil 44, C Park 43, R Connor 40, G Somerville, G Smith 37, D Halliday 31, H Swain 25, H Woods 24, G Berry 23, H Price 22, H Slade 21, T Savidge 13, W Wyatt 12, Hardy 10, L Wilkins 8, H Cook 6, C Murley, D Blanchard 4, A Lovatt 2, Venn, D Grimes, Thomas 1

#### First Team Goalscorers 1935-36

D Halliday 22, J McNeil 18, G. Berry 16, R Connor 14, C Park 13, Holbeach 10, T Parkin, H Slade, H Cook, L Wilkins 3, D Grimes 2, W Wyatt, T Savidge, og 1.

#### Reserve Appearances 1935-36

*(Records are not complete but the following appeared for the reserves during the season)*

Hill, White, Hawker, D Grimes, Dennett, W Bowditch, L Evans, C Murley, G Chainey, H Gay, B Horsey, Gill, A Lovatt, R Fishwick, Farthing, H Cook, W Rowlands, T Savidge, N Parker, H Price, C Parker, R Lee-Campbell, H Slade, C Park, D Halliday, R Connor, G Berry, Brown, Just, Richards, Hardy, Whittaker, Edmunds, Malcock, Dourise, H Swain, Brotherton, Gray, H Grist, Blanchard, H Swain, Mitchell, Holbeach, Douris.

#### Reserve Team Goalscorers 1935-36

D Grimes 16, W. Bowditch 14, H Grist 13, H Slade 11, R connor 9, T Savidge, Gray 8, B Horsey 7, C Murley, Holbeach 6, G Berry, H Swain, Farthing 5, A Lovatt, H Cook 4, H Gay, C Parker, Douris 3, G Chainey, D Halliday, Brown, Just, Blanchard 2, R Fishwick, R Lee-Campbell, C Park, Richards, Brotherton, Mitchell 1

## 1936-37

The Southern League had, due to the constant ebb and flow of clubs and the influence of the Combination, become farcical. A much more sensible single division with sixteen clubs, part proposed by Bill Farthing, was taken up and a mid-week section brought in for those who thought they needed it. It was very much dominated by the eastern clubs who had the pull of the London based players as a base, in particular Ipswich Town, who had entered after just one year in the Eastern Counties League, and who began to attract enormous support.

### Season 1936-1937

Aug	29th	Guildford City	H	Southern League	4-0	Smith, Halliday, Payne 2 (1pen)
Sept	3rd	Exeter City Res	H	Southern LC 1	4-1	Burgess, Halliday, Smith 2
	5th	Guildford City	A	Southern League	4-3	Doncaster, Smith 2, Attley
	10th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	Western Div 1	2-3	Attley, Smith
	17th	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	7-1	Halliday 4, Attley, Doncaster, Payne
	21st	Tunbridge Wells R	A	Southern League	0-3	
	24th	Newport Co Res	A	" "	3-1	Attley, Doncaster, Halliday
	26th	Margate	H	" "	4-2	Halliday, Attley, Smith, Doncaster
Oct	1st	Bristol City Res	H	Western Div 1	4-2	Halliday 3, Attley
	3rd	Bath City	H	Southern League	0-3	
	10th	Barry	A	" "	0-1	
	17th	Dartford	H	" "	2-1	Halliday, Payne, Mann
	24th	Newport Co Res	H	" "	3-2	Attley, Halliday
	31st	Aldershot Res	A	" "	3-2	Halliday 2, Attley
Nov	7th	Tunbridge Wells R	H	" "	4-1	Halliday 4 (1pen)
	14th	Cheltenham Town	H	FA Cup 4th Qual	3-2	Halliday, Mann, Attley
	21st	Lovells Athletic	H	Western Div 1	4-0	Mann, Attley 2, Pritchard
	28th	Worthing	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	4-3	Halliday, Doncaster, Payne, Attley
Dec	5th	Folkestone	H	Southern League	3-0	Doncaster 2, Pritchard
	12th	Walsall	A	FA Cup 2nd Rd	1-1	Doncaster
	17th	Walsall	H	Replay	0-1	
	19th	Cheltenham Town	H	Southern League	4-1	Pritchard 4
	25th	Bristol Rovers Res	A	Western Div 1	0-2	
	26th	Plymouth Arg Res	H	Southern League	6-2	Whelan, Mann, Halliday 2, Attley 2
Jan	2nd	Norwich City Res	H	" "	2-0	2 ogs
	9th	Norwich City Res	A	" "	1-2	Doncaster
	16th	Ipswich Town	H	" "	4-4	Halliday 3, Slade
	23rd	Torquay Utd Res	H	" "	2-1	Halliday 2
Feb	6th	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	1-4	Halliday
	11th	Torquay Utd Res	H	Southern LC 2	1-1	Halliday
	13th	Folkestone	A	Southern League	3-4	Halliday 2, Attley
	17th	Bristol City Res	A	Western Div 1	1-1	Burgess
	20th	Aldershot Res	H	Southern League	4-1	Halliday 3, Attley
	24th	Torquay Utd Res	A	South LC 2 Rep	1-6	Halliday pen
	27th	Lovells Athletic	A	Western Div 1	3-2	Halliday 2, Heward
March	6th	Cheltenham Town	A	" "	0-3	
	20th	Chelsea Res	H	Friendly	4-1	Halliday 2 (1pen), McNeil, Attley
	26th	Exeter City Res	A	Southern League	3-4	Halliday 3
	27th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	Southern LC 1	2-3	Cook, Wilkins
	29th	Exeter City Res	H	" "	3-3	Halliday pen, McNeil, Attley
	30th	Barry	H	" "	8-1	McNeil, Cook 2, Wilkins 4, Mann
April	3rd	Dartford	A	" "	2-7	Halliday pen, Cook
	7th	Torquay Utd Res	A	Western Div 1	2-1	Gomm 2
	10th	Bath City	A	Southern League	2-1	Halliday, Attley
	15th	Bath City	H	Som Pro Cup 1	5-4	McNeil 2 (1 pen), Savidge, Wilkins, Attley
	17th	Ipswich Town	A	Southern League	0-3	
	19th	Fulham	H	Friendly	1-0	Halliday
	24th	Charlton Athletic	H	" "	3-5	Wilkins 2, Doncaster
	28th	Glastonbury	A	Som Professional Cup Final	1-4	Pritchard
	29th	Margate	A	Southern League	0-6	
	30th	Arsenal Res	H	Friendly	2-7	Pritchard, Cook

## Reserves – Season 1936-1937

Sept	2nd	Wells City	A	Western Div 2	3-2	Gomm 2, Grimes
	5th	Bristol Rovers 'A'	H	" "	4-3	Gomm, McNeil, Blanchard, Davies
	12th	Radstock Town	H	" "	3-3	McNeil, Cook, Holman
	19th	Wells City	"	" "	2-2	Gomm 2
	24th	Portland United	H	" "	2-1	McNeil, Holman
	26th	Trowbridge Town	A	" "	3-1	Wilkins 2, og
Oct	3rd	Paulton Rovers	A	" "	1-1	og
	17th	Street	A	" "	1-2	Wilkins
	24th	Frome Town	A	" "	3-6	Cook, Wilkins, Bretherton
	31st	Bristol City 'A'	H	" "	3-6	McNeil, Wilkins, Savidge
Nov	7th	Bristol City 'A'	A	" "	0-4	
	14th	Radstock Town	A	" "	2-4	Wilkins 2
Dec	12th	Poole Town	H	" "	1-3	Middleditch
	25th	Weymouth	A	" "	0-6	
	26th	Glastonbury	A	" "	5-4	Gomm 2, Savidge, McNeil 2 (1pen)
Jan	2nd	Bristol Rovers 'A'	A	" "	6-5	Gomm 4, McNeil, Wilkins
	9th	Frome Town	H	" "	2-2	Wilkins 2
	16th	Swindon Town Res	A	" "	1-8	Blanchard
	30th	Salisbury City	H	" "	2-5	Slade, Wilkins
Feb	20th	Welton Rovers	A	" "	2-4	Cook 2
	27th	Paulton Rovers	H	" "	7-1	McNeil 3 (1pen), Cook 2, Aplin, Marks
March	6th	Swindon Town Res	H	" "	2-5	Cook, Marks
	13th	Warminster Town	H	" "	5-1	Slade, Cook 2, Pritchard, Savidge
	20th	Poole Town	A	" "	1-10	Middleditch
	26th	Portland United	A	" "	0-2	
	27th	Street	H	" "	3-2	Aplin, Pritchard 2
	30th	Chippenham Town	A	" "	5-7	Middleditch, Pritchard 2, Payne, og
April	3rd	Weymouth	H	" "	3-5	Middleditch 3
	10th	Welton Rovers	H	" "	5-7	Payne 2, Pritchard 2, Middleditch
	17th	Glastonbury	H	" "	0-6	
	19th	Warminster Town	A	" "	0-4	
	21st	Chippenham Town	H	" "	1-4	Cook
	27th	Trowbridge Town	H	" "	1-4	Cook
	28th	Salisbury City	A	" "	1-1	Payne pen



A superbly atmospheric shot of Huish as it looked just before the war.

The now standard pre-season re-building took place and Joe Langford, a 'keeper from Torquay United, was first to sign up, followed by 25 year old Caleb Burgess, a 25 year old inside-forward who had been with Sunderland and Gateshead, and 24 year old Ernie Smith, an inside-right from Rotherham. Smith lasted for a handful of games before his contract was cancelled, but his partner on the right, Len Attley, fared better.

The other newcomers included Len Wilkins from Stockport County, and R Doncaster, a winger from Gillingham, with later in the summer Tommy Hogg, a full back from Dundee, Brian Gomm a teenage centre-forward from local football and Tommy Manns, a half back from Carlisle.

One man not figuring was Tommy Parkin, who had moved down the road to Weymouth after over six years service at Huish.

Halliday had worked well to fashion his new side, and everyone was aware of the importance of the campaign, as another disastrous one could spell real trouble. The training was taken by Stan Abbott, an old stalwart player who took over from George Lewis who retired after over 30 years with the club, having joined back in 1906 at Pen Mill.

The forward line took no time at all to gel together and David Halliday himself enjoyed a purple patch alongside Smith, Doncaster and Attley until Smith's contract was cancelled after problems arose. He was not replaced until November when Pritchard was signed from Newport County, by which time the FA Cup journey was under way. Despite a crowd of over 4000 in Huish, the atmosphere was non-existent as the Glovers went 3-0 up in the first fifteen minutes against Cheltenham Town. Cheltenham fought back but to no avail as Yeovil moved into the First Round where they were drawn against Worthing FC. A week before the public had stayed away from the League game with Lovells, showing a marked lack of interest in Western League football, but 4,523 watched the forward line bale out the defence, as Worthing fought hard but in vain, and Yeovil won 4-3.

The draw was not kind, pitting the Somerset side with Walsall, and the 300 supporters who journeyed up were greeted by heavy snow and a frozen pitch. The previous Cup games had balanced out the otherwise poor support financially, but Yeovil needed a result at Fellows Park, and they got it with interest, bringing Walsall back for a replay on the Thursday, with a 2.00pm start. A slightly disappointing crowd of 5,308 saw the match which was settled cruelly by a last minute winner.

The cup run was over once more and with the first team challenging for Southern League honours, they could have expected more than the 1100 which arrived for the following game, again with Cheltenham. Yeovil directors and the press launched into the public, and they responded with a healthy showing on Boxing Day. Halliday gave himself a Christmas present with three new amateur signings and when Norwich beat themselves on January 2nd with two own goals Yeovil went top of the league, but a defeat at Norwich and a draw at home to Ipswich dented their hopes. The latter match finished 4-4, with once again crowds on the pitch, this time demonstrating about the foul tactics of the Suffolk side, which left Yeovil with nine men. Earth was thrown and the visitors escorted off as police were called to calm the situation. Much of the blame was heaped on the referee, who, it later transpired, was officiating his first Southern League game, although the fault lay with the administrators who appointed him to a top of the table game in the first place.



Despite Halliday netting regularly, the season was tailing off badly through February with crowds sometimes below the 1000 mark, and with an inconsistent side results were never predictable, an 8-1 win followed by a 7-2 defeat being a case in point. By virtue of beating Bath City, Yeovil entered the final of the Professional Cup, but showed little professionalism in losing 4-1 a week after Ipswich had clinched the title by beating Yeovil, over 10,000 turning up at Portman Road.

Halliday had promised to bring top name clubs to Huish for a series of friendlies, and at the end Fulham, Charlton Athletic and Arsenal Reserves all played in late April, but the public were not impressed, with around 1200 turning up to each match. Yeovil finished the season in sixth place, having won half their games, and in a five team Western League, they were runners up, with the Reserves, in Division Two having resigned from the Somerset and Dorset Senior Leagues, struggling fourth from bottom. Seven straight losses had put them in peril of re-election but they survived.

Towards the tail end, Somerset Schools played a game at Huish and featured a young centre-forward called Hayward who, emulating his father Johnny, netted a hat-trick to bring back memories of twenty odd years of supreme striking. Sadly in May another stalwart passed on, Arthur Arnold, a former Yeovil Casual and county player, died aged 63, having given many years service as a director.

#### First team appearances 1936-1937

C Burgess, T Mann, T Whelan 51, J Langford, R Doncaster 48, L Attley 47, D Halliday 45, W Wyatt 44, H Heward 38, J Payne 32, H Slade 23, L Wilkins 22, T McNeil 15, Pritchard 14, H Cook 11, E Smith 10, T Savidge 7, Hardy, A Lovatt, C Murley, C Parker, B Gomm 1

#### First team Goalscorers 1936 – 1937

D Halliday 47, L Attley 20, R Doncaster 10, L Wilkins, Pritchard 8, E Smith 7, T McNeil 6, T Mann, J Payne, H Cook 5, C Burgess, B Gomm, og's 2, T Whelan, H Slade, H Heward, T Savidge 1

#### Reserve appearances 1936 – 1937

A Lovatt 30, T Savidge, R Lee-Campbell, C Murley 25, H Cook 20, T McNeil 19, Rich 18, R Aplin 15, Hardy 14, Middleditch 12, L Wilkins, C Farthing 11, Marks, Blanchard 10, Lester 9, Bugler, Pritchard, J Payne 8, H Slade 7, B Gomm, R Davis 6, Holman, Bretherton 5, Hogg, Gosney 4, D Grimes, W Murley 3, J Tyson, Case, J Vallance, Scriven, T Whelan, Shillabeer, H Swain 2, Mitchell, Watts, R Parker, C Parker, D Purchase 1

#### Reserve goalscorers 1936 – 1937

H Cook, B Gomm, L Wilkins 11, T McNeil, 10, Middleditch, Pritchard 7, J Payne 4, T Savidge, og's 3, H Slade, Blanchard, Holman, R Aplin, Marks 2, Grimes, Davis, Bretherton 1

#### Southern League 1936-37

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ipswich Town	30	19	8	3	68	35	46
Norwich City Res	30	18	5	7	70	35	41
Folkestone	30	17	4	9	71	62	38
Margate	30	15	4	11	64	49	34
Guildford City	30	15	4	11	54	60	34
Yeovil & Petters U	30	15	3	12	77	69	33
Plymouth Arg Res	30	11	8	11	64	58	30
Barry	30	12	4	14	58	72	28
Cheltenham Town	30	10	4	16	61	70	24
Dartford	30	9	5	16	41	55	23
Exeter City Res	30	8	7	15	57	78	23
Tunbridge Wells R	30	8	6	16	62	64	22
Torquay Utd Res	30	8	5	17	46	76	21
Aldershot Res	30	7	6	17	47	74	20

#### Western League Division 1 1936-1937

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol Rov Res	8	6	0	2	26	15	12
Yeovil & Petters U	8	5	1	2	23	12	11
Bristol City Res	8	4	2	2	18	15	10
Torquay Utd Res	8	2	0	6	13	24	4
Lovells Athletic	8	1	1	6	11	25	3

#### Western League Division 2 1936-1937

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Weymouth	34	27	4	3	144	38	58
Swindon Town Res	34	27	4	3	139	49	58
Salisbury City	34	20	9	5	97	45	49
Trowbridge Town	34	22	3	9	89	62	47
Portland United	34	21	3	10	115	60	45
Street	34	18	4	12	90	73	40
Wells City	34	14	9	11	65	60	37
Radstock Town	34	15	7	12	91	92	37
Warminster Town	34	14	7	13	64	69	35
Glastonbury	34	14	3	17	92	98	31
Frome Town	34	9	7	18	68	94	25
Chippenham Town	34	11	3	20	71	98	25
Bristol City 'A'	34	11	2	21	62	90	24
Bristol Rovers 'A'	34	8	7	19	84	112	23
Yeovil & Pett U Res	34	9	5	20	80	131	23
Welton Rovers	34	11	0	23	60	116	22
Poole Town	34	8	3	23	51	95	19
Paulton Rovers	34	5	4	25	46	126	14

The summer of 1937 was much the same as most of the previous ones since the club began employing managers. Another season had been rescued by an FA Cup run, but the increasing reliance upon that money and the apathy by which most of the rest of the fixtures were treated were worrying factors for the board of directors. Precisely what would happen should the club go out early in the middle of a poor run in the league did not bear thinking about and certainly the club and the press were not shy in showing their annoyance at the lack of support for the bread and butter games.

The upcoming season had a few new faces on offer. The likes of Bath City and Torquay again had long since ceased to excite the public, and cup runs were the only alternative when it came to watching new clubs. Margate's flirt with Arsenal had come to an end a while before and they had dropped out of the Southern League, with Swindon and Bristol Rovers back in. Yeovil in fact resigned from the Western League Division One but for some reason re-applied again and were accepted after the AGM, again quaintly held in the dressing rooms at Huish. They heard that despite the lack of support gates were actually slightly up and with £3,544 coming in through the turnstiles and £3,505 paid out in wages, there was a profit, albeit a slight one. Charlie Smith was the first to climb on board, a 21 year old winger from Exeter City who came at the same time as Jim Bewick, a centre-half from Walsall who had also been at Newcastle United and Port Vale. R Tucker, a keeper from Tranmere Rovers, Reg Kingham, Luton Town's right back, and Charlie Whyte another winger from Raith Rovers were all bought in as the side began to take shape.

Elsewhere in the area Ilminster Town had settled at their new Recreation Ground and had re-sited the fencing from the old site. Within a year they would have applied for and

built a new 120 seater stand on the west side of the ground. Another new ground opened in Yeovil, when Yeovil St Johns, the old St Johns Gym side, opened their new field in Sandhurst Road.

Yeovil and Petters on the other hand began with a match against Colchester United, that club's first ever as a professional side. Dave Halliday marked the occasion with a hat-trick and with three wins and three draws to start with, it was encouraging. Over 5000 watched the return game at Colchester, but less than 2000 saw both Yeovil's next two home games, despite the good start. It improved for the visit of Guildford City, the return of Tommy Lynch in the Surrey side bringing loud applause for the FA Cup hero of a few years previous. During October Ipswich Town shortlisted Dave Halliday for a manager's job and for a while it looked as though he was going, but having been turned down he announced that although he was disappointed, he would now knuckle down to the job in hand, and knuckle down he did as the side tuned up for the FA Cup 4th qualifying round tie with Radstock Town with four straight wins.

Off the field the directors had their own contingency plan for the event of an FA Cup disaster, as they invited both Cardiff City and Aston Villa to contest the Yeovil Challenge Cup at Huish on November 4th. Incredibly both agreed and shops and factories throughout the town either closed down or granted time off to give workers the chance to see the match. 4,500 paid to see Ralph Reader, star of screen and stage and a Crewkerne man, kick off. Cardiff City duly won the cup which was presented by the Mayor before a dinner was given at the Manor Hotel. A pleasant diversion on a Thursday and one which provided a tidy sum for club funds. Radstock were beaten 3-0 and the draw was kind, bringing Ipswich Town to Huish, a side challenging along with Yeovil and Guildford City for honours. Dave Halliday was presented with a horseshoe by an admirer before what was described as "an epic tussle and quite possibly the most thrilling game seen at Huish "...a massive statement but one which most of the 6,500 crowd would agree with.

Again Cup fever was taking over the town and the 2nd Round draw was kind, giving Yeovil another home match, this time against Midland League side Gainsborough Trinity. The weather stayed fair and, although not a classic draw, the public responded as usual, totalling over 7,000, to see the manager lead by example with two goals which knocked out the Lincolnshire side. The wait for the draw was agonising, but when it came it was hard to believe. The side which not so long ago were supplementing their fixtures in the Dorset Senior League were to play away at Manchester United's Old Trafford, an imposing edifice even 60 years ago. The Huish machine clicked into gear, with a special train being chartered for over 300 supporters at 15/3d return, leaving at 6.20 in the morning. Halliday's squad played another five matches before the trip to Manchester, scoring twenty two goals, eight of them in the Professional Cup against Glastonbury, the side which beat them in the final the year before.

With a guarantee of over £1,000 and the team challenging for honours, the future at last looked good for Yeovil, and despite the gathering War clouds which hung over Europe, many thought that a good result would swing the balance for another bid for League status. What no-one expected was that the club would lose David Halliday, lured away by Aberdeen to become manager in his native Scotland. Happily he agreed to stay until the Cup run was over and before the tie he led the squad for a full weeks training with brine baths at Weston-Super-Mare and walks and runs at Bridport and Weymouth.

With preparations over, the team went north and some

## Season 1937-1938

Aug	28th	Colchester United	H	Southern League	3-0	Halliday 3
	30th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	" "	1-1	Halliday
Sept	4th	Cheltenham Town	A	" "	0-0	
	9th	Cheltenham Town	H	" "	3-1	Halliday, Attley, Mann
	11th	Colchester United	A	" "	0-0	
	16th	Newport Co Res	H	South LC 1st Rd	6-2	Smith 2, Kirk, Wilkins 2, Heward
	18th	Ipswich Town	A	Southern League	2-3	Kirk, Whyte
	25th	Torquay Utd Res	H	" "	2-2	Smith 2
	29th	Bristol Rovers	A	West Lge Benefit	0-1	
Oct	2nd	Guildford City	H	Southern League	0-1	
	16th	Swindon Town Res	H	" "	2-1	Kirk, og
	23rd	Newport Co Res	A	" "	1-0	Attley
	30th	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	5-0	Whyte, Halliday 2, Attley, Heward
Nov	6th	Barry	H	" "	5-0	Halliday 2, Smith 2, Kirk
	13th	Radstock Town	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	3-0	Mann, Kirk
	15th	Bath City	A	South LC 2nd Rd	1-1	Kirk
	20th	Dartford	H	Southern League	1-0	Kirk
	27th	Ipswich Town	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	2-1	Kirk, Attley
Dec	4th	Folkestone	H	Southern League	2-2	Attley, Mann
	11th	Gainsborough Trin	H	FA Cup 2nd Rd	2-1	Halliday 2
	18th	Torquay Utd Res	H	Western Div 1	3-1	Halliday 2, Wilkins
	25th	Bath City	A	Southern League	3-3	Kirk 2, Heward pen
	27th	Bath City	H	" "	6-2	Halliday 3, Kirk 2, Smith
	28th	Glastonbury	H	Som Pro Cup	8-0	Smith 3, Halliday 2, Wilkins, Whyte, Heward pen
Jan	1st	Tunbridge Wells R	A	Southern League	2-5	Attley, Smith
	8th	Manchester United	A	FA Cup 3rd Rd	0-3	
	13th	Bath City	H	South LC 2 Rep	5-1	Kirk 4, Mann
	15th	Aldershot Res	A	Southern League	2-2	Kirk, Attley
	20th	Lovells Athletic	A	Western Div 1	2-1	Kirk, Whyte
	22nd	Plymouth Arg Res	H	Southern League	4-1	Whyte, Slade, Attley, Wilkins
	29th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	" "	1-4	Mann
Feb	3rd	Bristol Rovers Res	H	Western Div 1	4-2	Appleby, Wilkins 2, Kirk
	9th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	Southern Lge Cup Semi-final 1st Leg	4-2	Wilkins 3, Appleby
	12th	Lovells Athletic	H	Western Div 1	7-3	Attley 3, Appleby 2, Kirk, Wilkins
	19th	Folkestone	A	Southern League	3-1	Appleby, Kirk, Whyte
	26th	Barry	A	" "	1-1	Appleby
March	1st	Bristol City Res	A	Western Div 1	1-5	Appleby
	5th	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	1-1	Appleby
	10th	Plymouth Arg Res	H	Southern Lge Cup Semi-final 2nd Leg	3-1	Appleby 2 (1pen), Attley
	12th	Ipswich Town	H	Southern League	1-1	Attley
	19th	Bristol Rov Res	A	" "	1-1	Appleby
	23rd	Dartford	A	" "	1-1	Appleby
	26th	Swindon Town Res	A	" "	1-3	Wilkins
April	2nd	Newport Co Res	H	" "	3-1	Kirk 2, Wilkins
	9th	Guildford City	A	" "	1-2	Appleby
	11th	Bath City ( at Street FC )		Somerset Professional Cup Final	2-1	Attley, Kirk
	15th	Exeter City Res	A	Southern League	1-1	Wilkins
	16th	Bristol Rovers Res	A	Western Div 1	0-2	
	18th	Exeter City Res	H	Southern League	3-2	Wilkins 2, Appleby
	19th	Colchester United	H	Southern Lge Cup Final 1st Leg	2-1	Attley, Mann
	23rd	Norwich City Res	A	Southern League	0-0	
	27th	Colchester United	A	Southern League Cup Final 2nd Leg	1-3	Appleby
	28th	Aldershot Res	H	Southern League	4-0	Appleby 4
	30th	Tunbridge Wells R	H	" "	5-0	Appleby, Kirk, Attley 2, Mann
May	5th	Norwich City Res	H	" "	2-2	Slade, Burgess pen
	7th	Bristol City Res	H	Western Div 1	2-1	Cook, Slade

## Reserves – Season 1937-1938

Sept	1st	Bristol City Colts	A	Western Div 2	1-2	Wyatt pen
	8th	Sidmouth	A	Friendly	6-1	Marks 4, Wilkins, og
	11th	Glastonbury	A	" "	1-4	Marks
	15th	Wells City	A	" "	4-2	Marks, Northover 3
	18th	Bath City Res	H	" "	6-1	Purchase, Northover 2, Slade 3
	25th	Bath City Res	A	" "	2-0	Lovatt, Purchase
Oct	2nd	Paulton Rovers	A	" "	1-1	Marks
	9th	Welton Rovers	H	" "	7-0	Marks 3, Northover, Cook, Aplin 2
	16th	Welton Rovers	A	" "	3-3	Purchase, Slade, Aplin
	23rd	Frome Town	H	" "	6-3	Marks 4, Northover 2
	30th	Portland United	H	" "	6-3	Marks 3, Aplin, Wyatt pen, Northover
Nov	6th	Weymouth	A	" "	1-3	Marks
	13th	Warminster Town	A	" "	2-2	Purchase 2
Dec	11th	Dorchester Town	A	Friendly	3-2	Purchase, Marks, Cook
	18th	Portland United	A	Western Div 2	2-2	Cook 2
	25th	Trowbridge Town	A	" "	2-6	Purchase, Masters
	26th	Street	A	" "	0-3	
Jan	1st	Warminster Town	H	" "	0-0	
	8th	Poole Town	A	" "	2-2	Marks 2
	15th	Wells City	H	" "	4-4	Northover 2, Davis, Marks
	22nd	Bristol Rovers 'A'	A	" "	3-2	Purchase 2, Northover
	29th	Bristol City Colts	H	" "	5-6	Slade, Marks 3, Purchase
Feb	5th	Radstock Town	A	" "	1-2	Purchase
	12th	Salisbury City	A	" "	1-0	Miles
	19th	Glastonbury	H	" "	3-1	Marks, Aplin, Purchase
	26th	Salisbury City	H	" "	5-0	Marks 2, Purchase 2, Aplin
March	5th	Poole Town	H	" "	0-0	
	19th	Chippenham Town	H	" "	3-2	Cook, Purchase, Marks
	26th	Bristol Rovers 'A'	H	" "	6-0	Marks 4, Northover 2
April	9th	Taunton Amateurs	A	Friendly	7-2	Marks, Aplin 2, Cook, Purchase, Northover og
	16th	Radstock Town	H	Western Div 2	4-1	Marks 2, Wyatt pen, Purchase
	18th	Frome Town	A	" "	0-2	
	20th	Trowbridge Town	H	" "	7-2	Purchase 2, Northover 2, Cook, Lovatt, Venables
	23rd	Paulton Rovers	H	" "	10-0	Marks 3, Purchase 2, Northover 2, Cook, Venables, Wyatt
	27th	Street	H	" "	1-0	Northover (aban 75mins, Street walk off)
May	2nd	Chippenham Town	A	" "	0-1	
	4th	Weymouth	H	" "	0-0	

49,000 greeted them as they took the field. The gallant side defended well and held the Reds for an hour before finally going under 3-0. Praise was heaped upon them, the Daily Mail saying "Yeovil, a team of eleven fearless triers played good combined football."

It was all over bar the banking of the cheque for £1,283 8/9d which came within a week of the tie.

Immediately after the game young Charlie Smith joined Halliday at Aberdeen, for £250 plus a sell on fee, and in one fell swoop the club had lost its influential manager, top scorer and main goal provider. The money was a buffer but the reverberations could be felt, the club wasting no time in appointing Billy Kingdon as Halliday's replacement.

The new man would find the previous act a hard one to follow. Halliday's career took him from Dumfries where he was born to Queen of the South, St Mirren, Dundee,

## Southern League 1937-1938

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guildford City	34	22	5	7	94	60	49
Plymouth Arg Res	34	18	9	7	98	58	45
Ipswich Town	34	19	6	9	89	54	44
Yeovil & Petters U	34	14	14	6	72	45	42
Norwich City Res	34	15	11	8	77	55	41
Colchester United	34	15	8	11	90	58	38
Bristol Rovers Res	34	14	8	12	63	62	36
Swindon Town Res	34	14	7	13	70	76	35
Tunbridge Wells R	34	14	6	14	68	74	34
Aldershot Res	34	10	12	12	42	55	32
Cheltenham Town	34	13	5	16	72	68	31
Exeter City Res	34	13	5	16	71	75	31
Dartford	34	9	11	14	51	70	29
Bath City	34	9	9	16	45	65	27
Folkestone	34	10	6	18	58	82	26
Newport Co Res	34	10	6	18	56	86	26
Barry	34	8	7	19	50	88	23
Torquay Utd Res	34	8	7	19	46	81	23

Western League  
Division 1 – 1937-1938

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol City Res	8	6	1	1	21	7	13
Yeovil & Petters U	8	5	1	2	20	16	11
Bristol Rovers Res	8	4	0	4	15	14	8
Torquay Utd Res	8	3	1	4	12	15	7
Lovells Athletic	8	0	1	7	9	25	1

Western League  
Division 2 – 1937-1938

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Weymouth	34	27	4	3	121	34	58
Street	34	21	4	9	113	53	46
Portland United	34	17	6	11	109	57	40
Yeovil & Pet U Res	34	15	10	9	99	61	40
Salisbury City	34	18	4	12	94	76	40
Chippenham Town	34	18	4	12	91	90	40
Radstock Town	34	18	4	12	79	80	40
Trowbridge Town	34	16	7	11	102	76	39
Glastonbury	34	18	2	14	85	67	38
Poole Town	34	14	7	13	79	67	35
Wells City	34	13	8	13	75	87	34
Bristol City A	34	15	1	18	86	100	31
Warminster Town	34	10	9	15	66	92	29
Frome Town	34	9	7	18	66	94	25
Bristol Rovers A	34	9	6	19	63	89	24
Paulton Rovers	34	9	6	19	61	124	24
Welton Rovers	34	5	7	22	52	142	17
Bath City Res	34	3	6	25	51	103	12

Sunderland, where he broke the Division One scoring record, Arsenal, Manchester City, Clapton Orient and Yeovil. He had seventeen seasons as a pro and was one of the most successful managers Yeovil had employed.

Kingdon's career took in a spell as an amateur with Kidderminster Harriers, close to his Worcester birthplace, before joining Aston Villa and Southampton, where he made over 100 appearances.

His first action was to sign Tom Appleby, a centre-forward from Glenavon, by way of Newport.

As many dreaded, the goals dried up with only Appleby and Attley finding the net through most of March.

The title chances disappeared and Yeovil could only sit and admire as Ipswich Town and Colchester United attracted a crowd for their local derby of nearly 24,000, a startling attendance and one which was bigger than most outside of the First Division.

Back home the Professional Cup was won at Street, where Bath City were beaten by goals from Kirk and Attley, and the Southern League Cup Final was lost to Colchester United after a brave two-leg fight. Crowds vanished once again, less than 600 bothered with the game with Tunbridge Wells, but the reserves kept the interest going, firstly with a pitch invasion against Radstock and then eleven days later with an abandoned game, Street refusing to continue after a disputed goal was given. Much ill-feeling had crept into the game and the crowd reacted once again, the third time inside two months that the field had been invaded by angry spectators. There was bound to be an investigation, but Street meantime were fined five guineas and two players suspended to end a peculiar season in which thoughts increasingly were turning elsewhere as War loomed large.

#### First team appearances 1937-1938

C Burgess, H Heward, J Kirk, C Whyte 56, L Attley 51, T Mann 50, J Langford, R Kingham 49, J Bewick 47, L Wilkins 30, C Smith 26, D Halliday 25, T Appleby 24, W Kingdon 21, R Tucker 7, H Slade 6, W Wyatt, H Cook 4

#### First team scorers 1937-1938

J Kirk 25, T Appleby 20, L Attley, D Halliday 18, L Wilkins 16, C Smith 10, T Mann 7, C Whyte 6, H Heward 4, H Slade 3, C Burgess, H Cook, og 1

#### Reserve appearances 1937-1938

H Cook 37, R Aplin, A Lovatt, Marks 35, D Purchase 34, C Farthing, Tucker 33, R Northover 32, H Slade, W Wyatt 30, Venables 20, Rowsell 11, L Wilkins 8, Abbott 5, Rich, Fry, J Miles 4, Beer 3, Davis, Masters 2, C Parker, Montacute, R Kingham, Hitchcock 1

#### Reserve scorers 1937-1938

Marks 39, D Purchase 21, R Northover 20, R Aplin, H Cook 8, H Slade 5, W Wyatt 4, A Lovatt, Venables, og 2, L Wilkins, J Miles, Masters, Davis 1

## *An improvement but war begins to loom large ...*

The end of the season saw Burgess, Tucker and Kirk all reject terms and move on, as did John Bewick who signed for rising South Shields. The new season ticket plan organised by Harold Devoto using 6d stamps was brought in, and he attempted to boost sales in the press by announcing that a "fascinating season is in prospect, with Worcester City, Gillingham, Chelmsford City and Arsenal visiting Huish". With crisis looming over much of the civilised world it was difficult for the general public to commit to anything as permanent as a season ticket which meant that sales were not good, but the AGM saw figures of nearly £1,000 profit despite gates falling away, chiefly due to the Manchester United game.

Billy Kingdon, as was the norm, was forced to rebuild his side from scratch again, and signed a number of league players. 24 year old Arthur Graham, a centre-forward from

### Season 1938-1939

Aug	27th	Guildford City	A	Southern League	2-3	Carter, Graham
	29th	Cardiff City Res	A	" "	0-3	
Sept	3rd	Chelmsford City	H	" "	1-0	Graham
	8th	Gillingham	H	" "	4-1	Graham, Carter, Attley, Smith
	10th	Colchester United	A	" "	1-8	Graham
	15th	Cardiff City Res	H	" "	1-0	Carter
	17th	Cheltenham Town	A	" "	1-4	Laing
	22nd	Tunbridge Wells R	H	" "	2-0	Laing, Carter
	24th	Dartford	A	" "	0-0	
	26th	Bristol City Res	H	West Lge Charity	2-0	Graham, Middleditch
Oct	1st	Bristol Rovers Res	A	Southern League	0-3	
	6th	Bath City	H	Western Div 1	6-1	Graham 3, Carter 2, Heward
	8th	Swindon Town Res	H	Southern League	1-1	Graham
	12th	Tunbridge Wells R	A	" "	2-1	Graham, Wilkins
	15th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	" "	1-0	Carter pen
	22nd	Ipswich Town	A	" "	0-0	
	27th	Bristol City Res	H	Western Div 1	3-1	Attley 2, Carter
	29th	Torquay Utd Res	A	Southern League	1-1	Wilkins
Nov	5th	Cheltenham Town	H	" "	2-0	Graham, Green
	12th	Barry Town	H	FA Cup 4th Qual	5-2	Wilkins 2, Carter pen, Graham 2
	19th	Colchester United	H	Southern League	2-1	Graham, Green
	26th	Brighton & H A	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	2-1	Graham, Laing
Dec	3rd	Folkestone Town	H	Southern League	9-1	Graham 6, Green, Laing, Attley
	10th	Folkestone Town	A	FA Cup 2nd Rd	1-1	Graham
	15th	Folkestone Town	H	Replay	1-0	Green
	17th	Guildford City	H	Southern League	2-2	Graham 2
	26th	Ipswich Town	H	" "	2-1	Green, Mann
	27th	Plymouth Arg Res	H	" "	3-5	Gomm 2, Graham
	31st	Bath City	A	" "	2-0	Slade, Wilkins
Jan	7th	Sheffield Wed	A	FA Cup 3rd Rd	1-1	Carter
	12th	Sheffield Wed	H	Replay	1-2	Green pen
	14th	Worcester City	H	Southern League	4-1	Graham 2, Carter 2
	18th	Bristol City Res	A	Western Div 1	4-6	Heward 2 (1 pen), Carter, Northover
	21st	Lovells Athletic	H	Southern League	5-3	Carter 2, Attley 2, Wilkins
	28th	Barry Town	A	" "	2-2	Carter, Wyatt
Feb	2nd	Swindon Town Res	A	South LC 1st Rd	1-4	Carter
	4th	Torquay United Res	H	Southern League	2-0	Heward, Green
	9th	Bath City	A	Western Div 1	5-2	Northover 4, Graham
	11th	Swindon Town Res	A	Southern League	1-1	Carter
	15th	Torquay United Res	A	Western Div 1	1-1	Wilkins
	18th	Dartford	H	Southern League	3-1	Wilkins, Heward, Green pen
	23rd	Lovells Athletic	A	Western Div 1	1-3	Graham
	25th	Aldershot Res	A	Southern League	1-1	Graham
March	1st	Bristol Rovers Res	A	Western Div 1	4-2	Green 2 (1 pen), Wilkins, Attley
	4th	Aldershot Res	H	Southern League	8-0	Attley 3, Graham 2, Green, Wilkins, og
	9th	Torquay United Res	H	Western Div 1	1-1	Graham
	11th	Folkestone Town	A	Southern League	2-1	Green pen, Wilkins
	16th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	Western Div 1	2-0	Graham, Heward
	18th	Exeter City Res	A	Southern League	1-0	Green
also	18th	Glastonbury	H	Som Pro Cup S-F	4-3	Cook, Carter 2, Northover
	23rd	Norwich City Res	A	Southern League	2-4	Attley, Graham
	25th	Bath City	H	" "	2-1	Attley, Wilkins
	29th	Newport Co Res	A	" "	1-5	Graham
April	1st	Newport Co Res	H	" "	3-0	Graham 2, Attley
	7th	Chelmsford City	A	" "	0-3	
	8th	Barry Town	H	" "	3-4	Graham, Gomm 2
	10th	Norwich City Res	H	" "	2-1	Wilkins, Green

Season 1938 – 1939 continued

15th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	Southern League	2-5	Graham 2
22nd	Arsenal Res	A	" "	2-0	Carter, og
27th	Exeter City Res	H	" "	0-0	
29th	Arsenal Res	A	" "	2-0	Carter, Cook
May 1st	Worcester City	A	" "	3-3	Heward, Laing 2
3rd	Bath City	A	Som Professional		
	(at Wells City FC)		Cup Final	2-0	Green, Graham
6th	Gillingham	A	Southern League	0-2	

Clapton Orient was first, and as it proved, the best, followed by Fred Smith, a winger from Gillingham, Jack Carter, an inside forward from Ipswich, Dave Laing, £300 worth from Watford and Jack Gilmour, a former Scots International from Dundee.

Yeovil were not the only busy club, for down the road Ilminster Town were erecting their new stand on the Rec, a

45' long structure with 120 seats, a scale model of which was on show in town. Despite the possibility of War, there was major upheaval in Yeovil during the summer, as Petters Ltd. merged with Brush Electrical Company of Loughborough and announced that they were closing down and moving north, taking many of their staff with them. The future of Yeovil and Petters United immediately became uncertain, as some of the directors of the Petters United FC half of the company were moving on and there was talk of an urgent name change back to Yeovil Town FC, something that the public seemed to want anyway.

The football began with four wins and four defeats, one of which was an 8-1 humiliation at Colchester and it was October before the side was playing with consistency. An innocuous 2-0 win over Tunbridge Wells Rangers on Sept 22nd 1938 heralded the start of a superb seventeen match unbeaten streak which took them right through to Boxing Day, by which time their FA Cup fate was known.

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# SHEFFIELD FC WEDNESDAY

ESTABLISHED 1866

## v. YEOVIL & PETERS UNITED

**SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY**  
Colours: Blue & White Striped Jerseys, Blue Knickers.

Right Wing      Left Wing

1 SMITH

2 ASHLEY      3 LESTER

4 RUSSELL      5 HANFORD      6 BURROWS

7 MASSARELLA      8 ROBINSON      9 MILLERSHIP      10 NAPIER      11 LEWIS

The LAUREL PENNY Blade

GUARANTEED FINEST QUALITY

MADE IN SHEFFIELD, ENG.

FITS ALL THREE PEG RAZORS

Referee: G. S. BLACKHALL, Wednesbury.

Linesmen: W. L. ROBINSON, Clacton; J. D. MONK, Leicester.

12 LAING      13 GREEN      14 GRAHAM      15 CARTER      16 WILKINS

17 HEWARD      18 WYATT      19 KINGDON

20 TODD      21 KINGHAM

22 LANGFORD

Left Wing      Right Wing

## GREENS YEOVIL AND PETERS UNITED

Extracts from the programme for the 3rd round FA Cup Replay at Hilsborough which Yeovil lost 2-1.



At a snow bound Huish the Yeovil Team pose before the Sheffield Wednesday replay.

Reserves – Season 1938-1939

Aug	27th	Taunton Amateurs	H	Friendly	3-1	Montacute, Northover 2
	29th	Bath City Res	A	Western Div 2	0-0	
Sept	3rd	Bristol Rovers 'A'	A	" "	4-2	Middleditch 3, Wilkins
	10th	Chippenham Town	H	" "	3-2	Bettisworth, Marks 2
	17th	Glastonbury	H	" "	3-2	Cook, Middleditch, og
Oct	1st	Bath City Res	H	" "	5-0	Marks 4, Wyatt pen
	15th	Warminster Town	A	" "	2-3	Northover, Marks
	22nd	Portland United	H	" "	3-2	Marks 2, Aplin
	29th	Bristol Rovers 'A'	H	" "	2-3	Slade, Green
Nov	5th	Wells City	A	" "	2-0	Seward, Northover
	26th	Poole Town	A	" "	4-1	Smith 2, Aplin, Middleditch
Dec	10th	Welton Rovers	H	" "	6-1	Attley 2, Northover, Aplin, Middleditch 2
	17th	Paulton Rovers	A	" "	4-2	Middleditch, Smith 2, og
	27th	Weymouth	A	" "	7-1	Slade pen, Attley 2, Smith, Middleditch, Aplin, Northover
	31st	Poole Town	H	" "	7-1	Attley 4, Middleditch, Smith, Northover
Jan	7th	Frome Town	H	" "	7-1	Attley 4, Northover, Smith, Aplin
	14th	Street	A	" "	1-3	Northover
	28th	Salisbury City	H	" "	4-2	Attley 3, Northover
Feb	4th	Radstock Town	A	" "	0-3	
	11th	Bristol City Colts	H	" "	4-2	Attley 3, Powell
	18th	Welton Rovers	A	" "	1-3	Aplin
	25th	Trowbridge Town	A	" "	3-7	Middleditch 2, Attley
March	4th	Salisbury City	A	" "	2-0	Smith, Powell
	11th	Street	H	" "	6-2	Middleditch 2, Smith, Northover, Cook pen, Carter
April	1st	Chippenham Town	A	" "	2-2	Carter, og
	8th	Portland United	A	" "	1-8	Attley
	10th	Frome Town	A	" "	4-3	Northover, Smith, Carter, Aplin
	15th	Trowbridge Town	H	" "	1-1	Seward pen
	20th	Weymouth	H	" "	2-1	Attley, Middleditch
	22nd	Warminster Town	H	" "	4-3	Attley 2, Middleditch 2
	24th	Radstock Town	H	" "	4-0	Attley 2, Middleditch, Cook pen
	29th	Bristol City Colts	A	" "	2-2	Attley 2
May	3rd	Glastonbury	A	" "	1-2	Smith
	4th	Wells City	H	" "	4-0	Smith, Bettisworth, Attley 2
	6th	Paulton Rovers	H	" "	7-1	Attley 4, Smith, Purchase, Northover



The good deeds had seen the FA exempt Yeovil to the 4th Qualifying round, and 3500 saw Barry Town beaten, Len Wilkins and Arthur Graham doing the damage. The luck held, for the draw gave them a home tie with Brighton and Hove Albion at Huish, then lying sixth in Division Three. What was described as "one of the finest performances by the club since it was founded fifty years ago" saw Graham and Dave Laing score the goals which sent the 8117 crowd into ecstasy. The scene was joyous, but a few die hards wondered aloud where this passionate support was for all the other matches in the season, a thought borne out by the attendance a week later for the Folkestone match, of 1500. The opposition was very poor, hardly surprising with seven reserves in, saving themselves for the week after when the two clubs would meet in the Cup. Arthur Graham helped himself to six goals, plus another a week later in the tie at Cheriton Road, where 6,000 saw a possible upset, until a lacklustre Yeovil escaped with a draw.

The replay, the third match between the two in twelve days, was a gruelling affair in the mud, the sea of lucky horseshoes and goodwill telegrams, plus a 65th minute winner seeing them through. The crowd of 6548 for a work day in poor weather was acceptable, but two days later it was down to just over a thousand, prompting an official of the club to label it "a disgrace". Seven home matches, including three FA Cup ties, in a month, would have stretched the pockets of many men, and the less than charitable thoughts, coming with economy low and the real prospect of a War, were not favourable.

All was forgotten when the draw sent Yeovil and Petters United FC to Sheffield Wednesday in the Third Round. There was Christmas and four matches to negotiate before the big match, but when it came all the players in employment in the town had been released to train all week, and they set off for Sheffield on the Friday morning. It was the third time in the Third Round, and some 300 supporters travelled north on a special train with lucky rabbits feet tied to each door, although the rabbits were apparently somewhat less fortunate. The players were introduced at a leading theatre and after guided factory tours and copious souvenirs they journeyed to a frozen Hillsborough, which was covered in a heavy snow fall.

Groundstaff worked to remove the snow and ice and marked out the lines in blue, adding fifteen tons of sand to fashion something resembling a playing surface. The referee finally gave the go ahead, to the relief of all, and a below par crowd of 24,466 watched Yeovil, rather than the other local ties at Mansfield and Barnsley.

Visibility was poor with fog around and the side lined up – Langford, Kingham, Todd, Kingdon, Wyatt, Heward, Wilkins, Carter, Graham, Green, Laing. Yeovil held Wednesday until close to half-time, when a shot cannoned off Langford's leg and stuck in the mud on the goal line, from where it was forced home. Wisely, with light poor, the referee ordered a short half time and nine minutes later the west country supporters went wild as Graham, Wilkins and Carter combined to equalise. With everyone planning for the replay and the probability of a record attendance, Arthur Graham broke through on his own and, with the keeper to beat, passed to the unmarked Dave Laing, but tragically the ball stuck in the mud and the chance was gone, the whistle going soon after. It was a memorable and brave performance, in almost impossible conditions and after the post match dinner the party journeyed home, arriving in Yeovil at 7am, where there were precisely three people to greet them, a far cry from the baying hoards which escorted the team through the Borough with bands and charabancs after a meaningless Charity Cup win at Weymouth.

### Southern League 1938-1939

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colchester United	44	31	5	8	110	37	67
Guildford City	44	30	6	8	126	52	66
Gillingham	44	29	6	9	104	57	64
Plymouth Arg Res	44	26	5	13	128	63	57
Yeovil & Petters U	44	22	10	12	85	70	54
Arsenal Res	44	21	9	14	92	57	51
Cardiff City Res	44	24	3	17	105	72	51
Tunbridge Wells R	44	22	6	16	93	76	50
Norwich City Res	44	23	4	17	86	76	50
Chelmsford City	44	18	8	18	74	73	44
Bath City	44	16	12	16	58	74	44
Barry	44	18	7	19	76	90	43
Cheltenham Town	44	16	9	19	76	105	41
Ipswich Town Res	44	14	12	18	64	76	40
Worcester City	44	13	14	17	72	90	40
Folkestone Town	44	16	6	22	74	85	38
Newport Co Res	44	13	10	21	74	108	36
Exeter City Res	44	12	9	23	51	107	33
Torquay United Res	44	12	8	24	53	89	32
Swindon Town Res	44	11	9	24	66	101	31
Aldershot Res	44	12	6	26	69	92	30
Bristol Rovers Res	44	9	11	24	66	85	29
Dartford	44	8	5	31	53	119	21

### Western League Division 1 – 1938-1939

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lovells Athletic	10	7	2	1	27	14	16
Yeovil & Petters U	10	6	2	2	32	20	14
Bristol City	10	4	1	5	24	24	9
Bath City Res	10	2	5	3	16	22	9
Torquay Utd Res	10	2	4	4	14	17	8
Bristol Rovers Res	10	1	2	7	9	25	4

### Western League Division 2 – 1938-1939

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Trowbridge Town	34	27	3	4	166	49	57
Yeovil & Pett U Res	34	22	4	8	112	66	48
Street	34	21	5	8	93	57	47
Poole Town	34	21	4	9	106	67	46
Weymouth	34	19	5	10	105	51	43
Radstock Town	34	19	5	10	97	64	43
Portland United	34	18	4	12	107	64	40
Bristol City A	34	17	6	11	87	58	40
Welton Rovers	34	14	4	16	64	118	32
Glastonbury	34	13	5	16	76	89	31
Frome Town	34	11	9	14	76	104	31
Bath City Res	34	8	8	18	64	100	24
Wells City	34	10	3	21	63	104	23
Warminster Town	34	8	7	19	49	105	23
Bristol Rovers A	34	9	4	21	58	92	22
Paulton Rovers	34	8	6	20	57	117	22
Salisbury City	34	7	7	20	50	93	20
Chippenham Town	34	8	3	23	56	87	19

The replay was staged on the following Thursday, by which time the entire town was awash with green and white. Factories and shops closed up for the day, and, with the admission being sensibly pegged at 1s for the ground and 2s for the enclosure, a huge crowd was anticipated.

Nearly two hours before kick off there were already 4,000 in the ground, many having brought lunch with them, and the gates were finally locked with 14,359 crammed in, hanging and balancing from roofs, walls and trees. Many hundreds did not get in, and with dozens on the Queen Street roof there was almost a major incident as the cover itself began to sag under the weight of so many men. They were removed in time, but the damage was done as the entire roof was split from end to end.

Wednesday settled despite the feverish atmosphere and inside the first five minutes had taken the lead, only to be shocked by a penalty close to half time which sent the crowd into raptures. Sadly a winner arrived with 25 minutes to go and despite much pressure, it was Sheffield Wednesday who met Chester in the next round.

There was little indication, but as the crowds drifted away, back into cold storage until the next big occasion, it would be a long time and many millions of lives would be lost, before Huish saw the likes of them again.

As had been the case so often in the past, the crowds just did not come back once the cup run was over. Despite the team losing only five times since October, being in contention for both Southern and Western Leagues and having their second team challenging for the Division Two title, the public at large did not want to know. The months after the Wednesday game saw Yeovil losing around £35 a week and it led to much debate in the press as to whether the town wanted professional football and in particular Southern League football. The 8-0 thrashing of Aldershot came 5 days before the Western League clash with Torquay which yielded just £12 and with other games similarly ignored and many hundreds of men having moved out of the town, there was a real threat that the club would withdraw from Southern League football unless there was a rise in interest. With War imminent, a slump in the gloving trade and Westlands

working flat out including Saturdays, there were many mitigating circumstances, but it could be argued that the events in Europe during the summer months in a perverse way saved Yeovil and Petters United Football Club.

The season ended with a sparse crowd watching the Glovers win the Professional Cup once again, and they would hold it for a long time to come.

#### **First team appearances 1938-39**

H Heward, D Laing 63, A Graham 60, A Todd 57, R Kingham 54, W Kingdon 51, J Carter, J Langford, W Wyatt 46, L Wilkins, G Green 42, T Mann 34, L Attley 24, F Smith 16, W Lawrence, S Harris 13, H Cook, J Gilmour, F Middleditch 5, B Gomm 4, H Slade, R Northover 3, W Seward, C Farthing 2

#### **First team Goalscorers 1938-39**

A Graham 43, J Carter 20, G Green 15, L Wilkins, L Attley 13, H Heward 7, D Laing 6, R Northover 5, B Gomm 4, og 2, H Cook, T Mann, F Smith, W Wyatt, F Middleditch, H Slade 1

#### **Reserve appearances 1938-39**

R Northover 29, R Aplin 26, F Middleditch, A Seward, F Smith 24, W Lawrence, H Cook 23, L Attley 19, H Slade 16, C Farthing, Titcombe 14, Driver 12, Bettisworth, T Mann 11, W Wyatt 8, Marks 7, L Wilkins, Chainey 6, J Carter 5, J Langford, S Powell, D Purchase 4, Evans 3, Venables, MontacuteRobus, A Todd, C Parker, Denman 2, Thorne, J Gilmour, Hawker, S Harris, G Green, Dennett, Lester, Lambert 1

#### **Reserve scorers 1938-39**

L Attley 33, F Middleditch 20, R Northover, F Smith 13, Marks 8, R Aplin 7, J Carter 5, H Cook 4, og 3, H Slade, A Seward, S Powell, Bettisworth 2, L Wilkins, W Wyatt, Montacute, D Purchase, G Green 1



## CHAPTER SIX

# The War Years ...

With due reverence to the crisis, Yeovil went about their pre-season build up, ironically, for once with much the same squad as did service before. Billy Kingdon signed Reg Smith, an inside right from Tranmere Rovers for £350 and transferred Reg Kingham to Worcester City. The only other new face was Stan Booth, a full back from Southport, as the pros were all retained, as were a myriad amateurs. The stands and dressing rooms were spruced up during the break with a benefactor offering £200 to concrete the bank at the Brewery end with a retaining wall and rail. A bank of additional turnstiles was added, to make seven in all and the ground entrance was concreted as improvements to Huish were all completed in August. By this time all were awaiting the inevitable, and mock bombing raids were staged over Yeovil to prepare the inhabitants for the outcome. Another Tranmere winger, John Roy, joined the squad in time for the club's football week, a festival of concerts, shows, and firm get togethers, aimed at fostering good spirit within the club. Seven matches were played in all before, on September 3rd 1939, War was announced. Huish was immediately closed and all contracts were cancelled after an emergency meeting of the board, and within hours light and water were cut off. It was a touch premature, for having scrapped the season another meeting was held on October 2nd to decide on Western League football. It was decided against, mainly on financial grounds, as was the playing of friendlies, although that soon changed. Eventually a smaller Eastern Section was begun, with fourteen fixtures, and Huish re-opened on November 4th, with all the pro's back in the fold. The players and manager agreed to give their services under a profit sharing scheme, with the rest devoted to War charities, and the revised season got under way with 1500 watching the first home match. From then crowds dwindled and when it all ended there were around 200 for the last game, the short season ending with Yeovil making a loss of over £300. Unanimously the board agreed to close down the club in the summer of 1940. Around that time the death was announced, on his 75th birthday, of William Bond, one of the original Yeovil footballers who was instrumental in setting up the Casuals and was indeed secretary for eight years. William was one of the catalysts which started 60 years of football in the town, and his passing at the time when the club has closed down its hatches, is strangely symbolic and somehow underlines the permanency of what was about to unfold....

It was obvious that the club in its present form could not go on and the decision to close was a right one, although contrary to the popular believe that has been passed down over the years, Huish did not close down as a football

ground. Throughout the conflict it was used for a whole host of fixtures, involving service teams, fire brigades, schools, sports days and six a sides. Because of the restrictions on newsprint and what could and could not be reported upon, even more may well have gone on, but certainly despite Yeovil and Petters United closing down for the 1940-41 season, there were matches played in December, against an Army XI, where Powell 2, Belben and Laing secured a 4-2 victory, and then in later months, it appears that Huish was more or less occupied throughout the War years, as in July 1941 a grand boxing tournament took place between the Fleet Air Arm and the Brigade of Guards and through into October of that year the club was playing matches such as the one on October 11th 1941, when they played another Army XI "somewhere in Wiltshire", the exact location being kept secret, when none other than Everton and England striker Dixie Dean was in opposition. Other games played by Fire Brigade X1s or scratch sides including various professionals stationed in the area were staged, mainly for the men, with no publicity and few spectators.

With many of the other grounds in the area given up for the War effort or just left to lie untended, Huish was much sought after whenever sporting fixtures were organised and after more boxing tournaments in June 1942, the ground staged a match between Yeovil and Petters United and a Czech National side, on July 18th, in front of a large crowd, Yeovil winning 7-1.

During what was to become the annual Yeovil Holiday at Home week, the ground was given up for a whole week to children's sports and pastimes including six a side football, which would seem to indicate that it had not as yet been given over as an ammunition store, as is often reported.

A week later the club lost one of its players, ironically not on active service, when full back Alex Todd was killed in a motor cycle crash at the age of 29. As 1943 came in there was still no organised football, but during the summer the Dorset FA convened to discuss the possibility of returning to competitive leagues and youth football, although little appeared to happen for a while after that initial outburst. At Huish the Holiday at Home was again in full swing and that year included a baseball match between two teams of American visitors, and it may well have been then that the famous offer to flatten out the Huish slope was made. Certainly the ground was still in a reasonable working order for football, for a team called Huish Amateurs played matches against the Army in 1944 and by August of that year a Football Development Committee had been formed to begin raising funds for the commencement of football as

## 1939 – The WarYears

Aug	27th	Taunton Amateurs	H	Friendly	3-1	Montacute, Northover 2
	29th	Bath City Res	A	Western Div 2	0-0	
	26th	Barry Town	H	Southern League	2-1	Laing, Graham
	31st	Cardiff City Res	H	" "	2-1	Graham 2
Sept	2nd	Tunbridge Wells R	A	" "	1-0	Roy

*and those which were never played..*

Sept	6th	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "		
	9th	Barry Town	A	" "		
	14th	Chelmsford City	H	" "		
	16th	Cheltenham Town	H	" "		
	21st	Plymouth Arg Res	H	" "		
	23rd	Cheltenham Town	A	" "		
	28th	Dartford	H	" "		
	30th	Kidderminster Harr	H	" "		
Oct	7th	Worcester City	H	" "		
	14th	Hereford United	H	" "		
	21st	Worcester City	A	" "		
	25th	Bristol Rovers 'A'	A	Western Div 1		
	28th	Kidderminster Harr	A	Southern League		
Nov	4th	Cardiff City Res	A	" "		
	11th	Bath City	H	Western Div 1		
	18th	Bristol Rovers 'A'	H	Southern League		
Dec	2nd	Colchester United	H	" "		
	16th	Bath City	H	" "		
	23rd	Newport Co Res	A	" "		
	25th	Swindon Town Res	A	" "		
	26th	Swindon Town Res	H	" "		
	30th	Newport Co Res	H	" "		
Jan	6th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	" "		
	13th	Tunbridge Wells R	H	" "		
	18th	Lovells Athletic	A	Western Div 1		
	20th	Arsenal Res	H	Southern League		
	27th	Torquay United Res	H	" "		
Feb	3rd	Bristol Rovers 'A'	A	" "		
	8th	Lovells Athletic	H	Western Div 1		
	10th	Hereford United	A	Southern League		
	17th	Norwich City Res	A	" "		
	24th	Aldershot Res	H	" "		
March	2nd	Colchester United	A	" "		
	9th	Exeter City Res	H	" "		
	13th	Bath City	A	Western Div 1		
	16th	Aldershot Res	A	Southern League		
	22nd	Chelmsford City	A	" "		
	23rd	Ipswich Town	A	" "		
	25th	Ipswich Town	H	" "		
	26th	Exeter City Res	A	" "		
	30th	Guildford City	H	" "		
April	3rd	Dartford	A	" "		
	4th	Bristol Rovers 'A'	H	Western Div 1		
	6th	Bath City	A	Southern League		
	13th	Gillingham	H	" "		
	18th	Bath City	A	Western Div 1		
	20th	Arsenal Res	A	Southern League		
	27th	Guildford City	A	" "		
May	1st	Gillingham	A	" "		
	2nd	Bath City	H	Western Div 1		
	4th	Norwich City Res	H	Southern League		

*The season was scrapped and two months later the league was divided into East and West sections.....*

Nov	4th	Barry Town	A	Southern Lge W	4-1	Graham 2, Green, Smith
	11th	Bath City	H	" "	3-1	Graham 2, Green
	18th	Bath City	A	" "	0-1	
	25th	Cheltenham Town	H	" "	3-2	Graham, Green pen, Laing

Dec	2nd	Barry Town	H	Southern Lge W	2-0	Graham, Roy
	9th	Worcester City	A	" "	2-3	Graham, Green
	16th	Worcester City	H	" "	2-2	Graham 2
	30th	Cheltenham Town	A	" "	2-2	
Jan	6th	Gloucester City	H	" "	2-3	Graham, Green
	20th	Gloucester City	A	" "	1-0	
	27th	Lovells Athletic	H	" "	3-1	Laing, Green 2
Feb	3rd	Hereford United	A	" "	2-3	Roy, Green
Mar	9th	Army X1	H	Friendly	3-0	Roy, Laing, Graham
	16th	Somerset Constab	H	Southern Lge W	7-2	Graham 3, Smith 3, Roy
	22nd	Divisional Army X1	H	" "	7-1	Smith 3, Graham 2, Laing 2
	25th	Army X1	H	" "	4-1	Graham, Roy 3
April	6th	Hereford United	H	" "	2-1	Green, Laing
	also	Lovells Athletic	A	" "	1-3	

## Reserves 1939 – The WarYears

Aug	24th	Yeovil Militia	H	Friendly	1-3	Bragg
	26th	Glastonbury	A	Western Div 2	5-8	Woodhall 2, Purchase 2, Ross
	31st	Wells City	A	" "	2-4	Powell, Purchase
Sept	2nd	Wells City	H	" "	7-3	Woodhall 2, Powell, Cook, Aplin, Purchase, Smith

*and those which were never played....*

Sept	6th	Trowbridge Town	A	West Lge Benefit		
	9th	Poole Town	H	Western Div 2		
	16th	Street	A	" "		
	18th	Lovells Athletic Res		West Lge Benefit (at Street FC)		
	23rd	Chippenham Town	H	Western Div 2		
Oct	7th	Radstock Town	A	" "		
	14th	Peasedown MW	A	" "		
	21st	Radstock Town	H	" "		
Nov	4th	Glastonbury	H	" "		
	11th	Portland United	A	" "		
	18th	Bristol City 'A'	A	" "		
Dec	2nd	Weymouth	A	" "		
	16th	Chippenham Town	A	" "		
	30th	Poole Town	A	" "		
Jan	6th	Salisbury City	H	" "		
	13th	Salisbury City	A	" "		
	18th	Lovells Athletic Res	A	" "		
	20th	Bath City Res	A	" "		
	27th	Bristol Aero Co	A	" "		
Feb	3rd	Bristol City 'A'	H	" "		
	10th	Weymouth	H	" "		
	24th	Welton Rovers	A	" "		
Mar	9th	Frome Town	A	" "		
	16th	Street	H	" "		
	23rd	Frome Town	H	" "		
	26th	Peasedown MW	H	" "		
	30th	Paulton Rovers	A	" "		
April	6th	Paulton Rovers	H	" "		
	13th	Welton Rovers	H	" "		
	20th	Bath City Res	H	" "		
	25th	Bristol Aero Co	H	" "		
	27th	Trowbridge Town	H	" "		
May	4th	Trowbridge Town	A	" "		

**Southern League  
Western Section 1939-1940**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lovells Athletic	14	11	1	2	53	22	23
Worcester City	14	9	2	3	55	30	20
Hereford United	14	8	0	6	45	31	16
Yeovil & Petters U	14	7	2	5	30	24	16
Gloucester City	14	5	0	9	35	49	10
Barry Town	14	4	1	9	31	56	9
Cheltenham Town	13	3	2	8	21	38	8
Bath City	13	3	2	8	21	41	8

soon as peace came, the idea being to have a strong Yeovil Football Club with finances available to improve Huish with Football League in mind. By then restrictions on daily life were not quite so stringent and with the threat of more enemy action receding, plans for organised football began in earnest, although it would be nine months before everything became official in Europe. Yeovil Police by this time were playing regular matches against visiting service sides, with a number of ex-Yeovil pro's turning out, collections at the matches helping to swell the Development Fund and on August 7th, what was billed as Yeovil Town FC v an Army X1 attracted 500 to Huish, for the first game under the old banner, although Petters still had an involvement, albeit only on paper. Locally the FA began a Works and Services League with all matches played at Huish and with a Yeovil Combined FC playing a number of fixtures also, the ground was constantly in use from then on. Over 2000 turned up to watch the Combined beat the RNTD 7-4, all receipts taking the grand total in the fund to over £1000 and a week later on January 13th a Naval X1 won 3-0, the crowd described as somewhat smaller.

There were further matches against Exeter City, and an RAF X1, and by February 1945 the Southern League had met to discuss re-opening the league, and to elect Bill Farthing as Chairman, he having been on the management committee for 15 years. A further meeting was planned for June 1945, by which time it was assumed that the War in Europe would

be over and football would be up and running.

The season ended with Yeovil Combined losing to a Royal Marine side and beating Whitehead Torpedo Works, and within weeks the country was rejoicing as VE Day had arrived. The first AGM since 1939 was called on June 19th 1945, once again in the salubrious surroundings of the dressing rooms at Huish, where the assembled heard that the club was exempt in the FA Cup until the First Round, a situation held over from the days of Sheffield Wednesday. By then the club had applied to the Football League to go into the Division 3 South, and Bert Smith, the new Chairman, stated through the press that the club would enter the reserves in the Southern League, if successful, the press adding that there was little doubt that they would be.

Some £1400 had been raised to start things off and to rebuild parts of the ground and work began at once, although the club was somewhat hamstrung by the lack of materials, having to wait for a timber license. Yet another meeting was called to discuss a proposal to dump the name "Petters" and go with Yeovil United FC, and that appeared for a while to be the line which everyone would go down, but the end of July brought immense disappointment when the League announced that there would be no non-League clubs allowed in, and so it was Southern and Western League football again, both having been curtailed due to the restrictions on travel, lighting and fuel.

Bill Kingdon returned as manager, on a part-time basis, as he was still employed by Westlands and Stan Abbott was back as trainer, overseeing seven pros and 20 odd amateurs. As the new season neared, Huish received a new exterior fence, the dressing rooms were repaired and painted and new steps were ordered for in front of the stands. One change which did not occur was to the name, as to change it then would mean the club losing its FA Cup exemption, and so until December 31st, or whenever they were knocked out of the Cup, the club was to remain Yeovil and Petters United FC. It had been five and a half years since competitive football was last played, and the public were desperate for something to attach themselves to, after so much tragedy and drudgery. Football was the ideal outlet and with the club outwardly looking strong, it was not long before the old Huish roar was back, with a vengeance.





## PART TWO

1945 – 1995



## CHAPTER ONE

# Farewell to Petters United, welcome Yeovil Town again....

**Organised professional football had returned to England with almost undue haste, men anxious to be involved again after so long, with many others equally anxious to resume their careers whilst they still could.**

The Southern League had originally believed that all the sides in the league in 1940 would be able to start up again at once, but this plainly was not going to happen, especially with restrictions on the use of fuel and the sheer numbers of players still not de-mobbed. Eventually eleven clubs played in one league with a League Cup to boost the fixtures, on a regionalised basis and it soon became apparent that it was unlikely that the league would be completed. Yeovil were fortunate to have Houndstone on their doorstep, which held at various times any amount of good footballers, a number of whom were attached to League clubs. Of course the opposition was often likewise handily disposed and the likes of Stan Mortensen were to figure in Bath City's team for some while. Bill Kingdon had signed up a number of young players such as Wint and Wyndham Edwards, from the RAF and RN respectively, plus Langley, a centre-forward from Wolves who would find the net with regularity. Another was George Dewis, a striker from Leicester City and after losing the first game to Louis Page's young Swindon Town Reserve side in the first competitive game since 1939 on 25th August 1945, Kingdon introduced several new players as guests, Dewis included, and his hat-trick in front of over 3000 secured the first points since late 1939.

Dewis, Langley and Regan created havoc a week later against Cardiff City Res and when Langley hit five against Colchester United the crowd at Huish had grown to well over 4000. It was not all good news, sadly as Trowbridge Town's star-studded line up trounced the reserves 17-1 in a League benefit game in September, 16 year old keeper Smith was nevertheless a hero on the day. The side was rarely the same two games running, as servicemen came and went or became available on leave or through demob. Kingdon was no different from all other managers by using whoever was at his disposal, using around 50 players in the first team to play 36 games, including friendlies. With wages to be paid and so few matches in which to bring in the revenue, a Cup run was doubly important and the exemption to the First Round gave Yeovil a two-legged match with Bristol City, the only time it happened. The home leg drew a crowd of 7,690, paying £654 to see Hamilton score twice to secure a 2-2 draw, but a week later City eased through 3-0 in the second leg to leave Yeovil chasing the league.

It also left Yeovil free to look into the change of name that many had wanted since Petters moved to Loughborough and became part of Brush Works. On December 13th 1945 at the Shareholders AGM, officials of Westlands Aircraft, a subsidiary of Petters, confirmed that they would continue to support the club if the name changed, and a proposal that the name Petters be dropped from the title was formally made and passed with only one dissident. There was an amendment that the club be called Yeovil United, but this was not seconded, and so they once again became Yeovil Town Football Club.

Poor weather had lessened crowds leading up to Christmas, as had the lack of FA Cup action which was standard for the public in the town. On Boxing Day, Yeovil were to play a very strong Exmouth Marine side. Crowds of people rolled into Huish but, an hour after the scheduled start, there was still no sight of the visitors. People began to get angry, so the management tactfully gave their patrons free tickets for the next home friendly. Telephone calls were made, but to no avail... the Marines had set out in plenty of time but nothing else was known. The crowd thinned; just a few optimist stayed on. A few sang Christmas carols, others swore. Then around the bend by Douglas Seatons came a military lorry. The occupants, who had obviously carried the festive spirit a little too far, tumbled out the back and – after virtually incoherent apologies – took the field to lose to Yeovil in a farcical game by ten goals to one.

The league matches were never finished, but that was largely immaterial as they had won but seven of the eighteen matches played. The League Cup results were better but they were played without Harold Heward, who returned to his native Newcastle after ten seasons at Huish. He worked at Westlands during the War but found employment back home and was gone, as was Harold Devoto, Secretary for nineteen years after the long serving Ernie Sercombe. His departure was postponed until the end of the year, as the club decided to offer a secretary-managership following Bill Kingdon's decision to step down. He had decided upon a career as a licensee and took over a pub in Weymouth, although he continued to play.

The displays by Alf Calverley, a winger from Huddersfield playing as a guest were attracting attention from a number and eventually he went to Mansfield Town and then Arsenal, Preston North End and Doncaster, where he made nearly 150 appearances. There had been some sixty applications for the

## Season 1945-1946

Aug	25th	Swindon Town Res	H	Southern League	0-3	
Sept	1st	Swindon Town Res	A	" "	7-1	Dewis 3, Regan 2, Langley 2
	8th	Cardiff City Res	H	" "	8-2	Dewis 2, Regan 3, Langley 3.
	15th	Cardiff City Res	A	" "	0-3	
	22nd	Colchester United	H	" "	8-0	Langley 5, Laing, Hunt, Regan pen
	29th	Worcester City	A	" "	2-3	Langley, Wyatt
Oct	6th	Bath City	A	" "	3-7	Langley, Dewis, Hamilton
	13th	Bath City	H	" "	4-1	Langley, Davis 2, Roy
	20th	RASC	H	Friendly	4-5	Dewis 2, Hamilton, Wyatt
	27th	Hereford United	H	Southern League	2-3	Hamilton, Hunt
Nov	3rd	Hereford United	A	" "	0-3	
	10th	Cheltenham Town	H	" "	3-2	Roy, Langley, Wyatt
	17th	Bristol City	H	FA Cup 1 1st Leg	2-2	Hamilton 2
	24th	Bristol City	A	FA Cup 1 2nd Leg	0-3	
Dec	1st	Barry Town	H	Southern League	4-1	Dewis 2, Hamilton, Hunt
	8th	Hereford United	H	South LC West	4-0	Calverley, Dewis, Regan pen, og
	15th	Colchester United	A	Southern League	3-3	Hunt, Dewis, Langley
	22nd	Worcester City	H	" "	2-4	Roy, Regan pen
	26th	Exeter Utd Services	H	Friendly	10-1	Langley 5, Middleditch 2, Robinson 2, Wilson
	29th	Bedford Town	A	Southern League	2-4	Middleditch, Langley
Jan	5th	Bedford Town	H	" "	6-3	Hamilton, Wilson, Regan 2 (1pen), Wilson
	19th	Cardiff City Res	H	South LC West	1-3	Regan pen
	26th	Cheltenham Town	A	Southern League	1-5	Mann pen
Feb	2nd	Worcester City	H	South LC West	4-1	Dewis 2, Addinall, Calverley
	9th	Cardiff City Res	A	" "	2-2	Regan pen, Kay
	23rd	Bath City	A	" "	1-3	Langley
March	2nd	Bath City	H	" "	6-3	Dewis 4, Tindill, Langley
	9th	Barry Town	A	" "	2-4	Tindill, Dewis
	16th	Barry Town	H	" "	2-1	Dewis 2
	23rd	Hereford United	H	Southern League	5-2	Spinner 3, Wilson, Robson
	30th	Worcester City	A	" "	3-4	Robson 2, Tindill
April	6th	Barry Town	A	" "	3-1	Gore, Tindill, Robson
	13th	Arsenal	H	Friendly	4-1	Dewis, Gore, Kingdon, Marshall
	20th	Bath City	H	Som Professional Cup Final 1st Leg	2-1	Stock, Marshall
	22nd	Bath City	A	Som Professional Cup Final 2nd Leg	2-4	Stock, Love
	29th	Millwall	H	Friendly	5-2	Carr 2, Dewis, Gore, Robson

job as manager and from a short list of six, the club gave the position to Captain AW Stock, a 28 year old former Queens Park Rangers and Charlton Athletic midfielder who had been in the Northants Yeomanry since 1939. Captain Stock had been wounded on D Day at Caen, but had recovered to be able to play again.

The supporters at once warmed to the man who had fought for the country and were equally impressed when he announced that "This is just the job I have been looking for, I believe the club has every chance of going into Division Three next season".

George Dewis was allowed by his club Leicester City to continue to play whilst still serving in the area and his goals ensured that the League Cup matches were not pointless in every sense, and he was regularly assisted in the attack by a

## Reserves 1945-1946

Sept	8th	Bristol Rovers Res	A	Western League	0-0	
	13th	RNAS	H	Friendly	2-0	Rigdon, Horlock
	15th	RASC	H	" "	2-7	
	29th	Trowbridge Town	A	WL Benefit	1-17	Rigdon
Oct	6th	Bristol City Res	H	Western League	3-2	Andrews, Rigdon, Boucher
	13th	Peasedown MW	A	" "	2-2	Horlock, Boucher
	27th	Clandown	A	" "	4-1	Boucher 2, Middleditch, Mann pen
Nov	3rd	Paulton Rovers	A	Western League	2-3	Middleditch, Boucher
	10th	Welton Rovers	A	" "	6-0	Middleditch 2, Rymall 2, Rigdon, Boucher
	17th	Radstock Town	A	" "	2-4	Andrews, Rymall
Dec	8th	RASC	H	Friendly	6-2	Rigdon 4, Andrews, Horlock
	29th	Clevedon	H	Western League	4-2	Rymall, Boucher 3
Jan	12th	Soundwell	A	" "	5-3	Middleditch 2, Boucher 2, Rymall
	19th	Trowbridge Town	A	" "	2-4	Middleditch 2
	26th	BAE Douglas	A	" "	3-3	
Feb	9th	Peasedown MW	H	" "	0-3	
	16th	Trowbridge Town	H	" "	5-1	Mann pen, Middleditch 2, Horlock 2
	23rd	Clevedon	A	" "	0-3	
Mar	9th	Radstock Town	H	" "	3-2	Horlock, Spinner, Wyatt
	23rd	Bristol Aero Co	A	" "	0-1	
	30th	BAE Douglas	H	" "	2-6	Boucher, Rymall
April	6th	Welton Rovers	H	" "	3-0	Wint 2, Horlock
	13th	Chippenham Town	A	" "	1-1	Deacon
	19th	Bristol City Res	A	" "	1-1	Rymall
	20th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	" "	0-6	
	27th	Paulton Rovers	H	" "	8-2	Deacon 3, Northover 2, Rymall 2, Davis
	30th	Chippenham Town	H	" "	1-0	Rigdon
May	1st	Clandown	H	" "	5-1	Deacon 2, Rymall 2, Cook
	4th	Soundwell	H	" "	3-2	Hartburn 2, Deacon
	6th	Bristol Aero Co	H	" "	0-2	

whole host of guest players secured by Stock, including three from Crystal Palace alone.

The season ended with a two-legged Professional Cup final for a Cup which did not exist, in the words of the splendid Pullman's, "...the Somerset FA have never raised the competition to the dignity of providing it with a trophy nor indeed any medals!". It was lost, to little acclaim, but the final game, against a Millwall side at Huish in a friendly, was watched by 6000, many of whom had come to forgive the Boxing Day friendly and had tried again.

That first season saw many players come and go plus one or two who played under aliases, and a shoal of amateurs who quickly went back to junior football from whence they came. A number returned to their own clubs throughout the season when demobbed, such as Gadsby of Manchester City and Jack Milburn, a full-back with 400 games behind him for Leeds United who played the campaign out with Bradford City before quitting. George Dewis returned to Leicester City, his only League club before and after the War, to complete 116 appearances and score 45 goals in all, and resisted all of Alec Stock's efforts to get him back. Arthur Glover returned to Barnsley where he played until 1952, completing nearly 200 matches at centre-half, and Albert Addinall, having played just twice returned to Queens Park Rangers, then Brighton and Hove Albion and finally Crystal Palace, where he ended a career with over 200 appearances and 100 goals.

Possibly the most successful of those who went on to long

careers was Herbert Tindill, an inside forward who was just nineteen years old when he played eight times for the first team. He returned to Doncaster Rovers where he played 402 times for the club until 1957, scoring 122 times before returning to the west country with Bristol City for a year, returning home again to Barnsley where his total matches in the Football League finished on 556, scoring 177 goals. Sadly Herbert died in 1973 at the age of 47.

With de-mobilisation continuing and the league becoming stricter as to who could and could not play, Alec Stock was forced to travel far and wide to find players for his first full season in charge. There was to be no League place in 1946, but the coming season was one which was to be savaged by the worst winter in living memory, claiming scores of lives. Despite valiant efforts and an extension to early June, it was destined not to be completed once again, but there were plenty of goings on along the way.

#### First Team Appearances 1945-46

Langley 21, W Kingdon, A Calverley, J Roy 17, E Regan 15, T Mann 14, Harris, G Dewis 13, Reed 12, R Hamilton 11, W Wyatt, Hunt, A Glover, J Ridout 10, J Milburn, Owen, H Tindill 8, D Horlock 7, W Drummond, D Laing, P Doyle 6, Wilson, H Heward, Gadsby, L Gore 5, Andrews, Chapman, E Marshall, A Robson 4, R Davis, W Edwards, F Middleditch 3, Robinson, W Seward, Gillies, A Addinall, D Spinner 2, Taylor, Martin, King, Powell, Wint, Gardner, Rigdon, Preece, Kay, H Cook, Hill 1

#### First Team Goalscorers 1945-46

G Dewis 20, Langley 18, E Regan 12, R Hamilton 6, Hunt, A Robson, H Tindill 4, J Roy, Wilson, D Spinner 3, W Wyatt, R Davis, L Gore, E Marshall, A Stock 2, D Laing, F Middleditch, T Mann, W Kingdon, Kay, A Addinall, Love 1

#### Reserves (known scorers) 1945-46

Boucher 12, Rymall 11, F Middleditch 10, D Horlock 5, Rigdon, Deacon 4, Wint, J Hartburn, T Mann, F Northover, Andrews 2, D Spinner, W Wyatt, H Cook, Davis 1

#### Southern League 1945-1946

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelmsford City	18	15	1	2	66	23	34
Hereford United	20	13	3	4	59	31	29
Bath City	20	12	2	6	62	32	26
Cheltenham Town	18	9	1	8	35	54	22
Barry Town	20	8	4	8	42	42	20
Yeovil & Petters U	18	7	1	10	57	52	18
Worcester City	20	8	2	10	60	58	18
Colchester United	20	7	3	10	29	47	17
Bedford Town	16	4	1	11	30	49	15
Swindon Town Res	18	4	3	11	36	65	14
Cardiff City Res	20	4	5	11	39	60	13

*Fixtures not completed*

#### Southern League Cup Western Section 1945-1946

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Worcester City	10	7	0	3	31	25	14
Yeovil & Petters U	10	6	1	3	31	20	13
Cardiff City Res	10	5	2	3	31	29	12
Barry Town	10	4	1	5	22	21	9
Bath City	10	4	0	6	30	30	8
Hereford United	10	2	0	8	15	35	4

#### Western League 1945-1946

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol Rovers Res	26	17	6	3	120	46	40
Chippenham Town	26	15	4	7	84	41	34
Trowbridge Town	26	16	2	8	114	62	34
Peasedown M W	26	13	8	5	75	44	34
Yeovil & P Utd Res	26	12	5	9	66	58	29
BAE Douglas	26	12	3	11	82	84	27
Bristol City Res	26	10	6	10	90	68	26
Clevedon	26	11	2	13	80	102	24
Bristol Aero Co	26	10	4	12	62	81	24
Paulton Rovers	26	10	3	13	67	93	23
Clandown	26	10	2	14	58	66	22
Radstock Town	26	9	2	15	65	82	20
Soundwell	26	6	3	17	67	132	15
Welton Rovers	26	4	4	18	44	115	12

#### First Team Appearances 1946-47

P Doyle 38, N Collins, L Gore 36, J Ridout, A Hickman 31, A Stock 29, R Davis, D Affleck 27, J Hartburn 25, T Smith, K Sibley 23, F Mitcheson 20, E Marshall 14, J Langford 12, K Hayward 10, D Horlock 6, W Kingdon, T Mann 4, H Cook, Douglas, R Smith 3, D Love 2, J Elder, Brown 1

#### First Team Scorers 1946-47

L Gore 25, J Hartburn 24, P Doyle 23, F Mitcheson 20, G White, T Smith 11, E Marshall, K Sibley 6, K Hayward, A Stock 3, T Mann 2, N Collins, A Hickman, D Affleck, og 1

#### Known Reserve Scorers 1946-47

Douglas 11, D Love 9, Andrews, J Elder 5, H Cook 4, og, Brown, T Mann, R Smith 3, J Hartburn, LeFevre 2. D Horlock, T Smith, P Doyle, Lambert 1

Alec Stock had signed young Stoke-Under-Ham defender Ralph Davis after the Arsenal friendly and to him he added 29 year old Albert Robson, a veteran of pre-War days at Crystal Palace and John Love, an inside forward from Wolves. Robson's former team mates at Palace, Nick Collins and Trevor Smith, both also joined Stock's impressive looking squad, the manager by now up and running with regular quotes stating "I would rather die young, playing football, than live to a ripe old age in a bank".

As predicted the truncated first season left the club with a financial headache totalling over £1200 in debts, with wages, upkeep, travel and entertainment tax combining to leave a total of £5156 with a further £508 in rates, water and printing. Happily the Development Committee had done what they set out to do during the latter stages of the War and their cheque for £1028 set the ball rolling for the new season. Huish was still slowly being brought up to scratch at that time and the club earmarked £700 for further improvements as Stock continued to fashion his side for what would be a longer and more rigorous season.

Alf Robus, an amateur centre-half who had gained the Military medal at Arnheim, was signed along with Norman Abbott, son of Stan, and Les Tucker, a local keeper who had played for a while before the conflict.

Stock also raided Southampton for David Affleck, another centre-half who once cost Clapton Orient £2000.

Altogether there were a staggering 36 players at the first public trial, and they included a late arrival, Jimmy Elder, a Portsmouth based teenager who was at Houndstone. It was to be a further three years before the young winger made his League debut, but after just one game with Pompey he joined Colchester United, for whom he played another 200 times.

## Season 1946-1947

Aug	31st	Merthyr Tydfil	H	Southern League	4-2	Gore, Hartburn, Smith 2
Sept	7th	Worcester City	H	" "	4-1	Gore 2, Smith, Hartburn
	14th	Guildford City	A	" "	0-5	
	21st	Guildford City	H	" "	1-1	Mann pen
	25th	Millwall Res	H	" "	1-1	Smith pen
	28th	Bedford Town	H	" "	6-1	Hartburn 3, Mann, Mitcheson, Gore
Oct	5th	Colchester United	A	" "	3-4	Sibley, White 2
	12th	Chelmsford City	H	" "	2-0	White, Smith
	19th	Gillingham	A	" "	0-4	
	26th	Dartford	H	" "	7-1	White, Sibley, Hartburn 3, Smith 2
	28th	Millwall Res	A	" "	1-0	White
Nov	2nd	Gloucester City	A	" "	3-1	White 2, Smith
	9th	Queens Pk Rangers	H	Friendly	4-0	Gore 2, Mitcheson 2
	16th	Dartmouth Utd	H	FA Cup 4th Qual	0-2	Gore 3, White 3, Hartburn 2, Smith, Stock
	23rd	Hereford United	H	Southern League	4-0	Hartburn 2, White, Sibley pen
	30th	Peterborough Utd	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	2-2	Sibley pen, Gore
Dec	5th	Peterborough Utd	A	Replay	0-1	
	7th	Exeter City	A	Southern League	3-2	Hartburn 2, Mitcheson
	14th	Barry Town	H	" "	1-1	Sibley pen
	21st	Gravesend & North	H	" "	1-0	Hickman
	25th	Bath City	A	" "	7-2	Hartburn 3, Doyle 2, Gore, Smith
	26th	Bath City	H	" "	9-0	Doyle 3, Gore 2, Hartburn, Sibley, Mitcheson, Smith
	28th	Chelmsford City	A	" "	1-3	Stock
Jan	4th	Charlton Ath Res	H	Friendly	0-1	
	11th	Gravesend & North	A	Southern League	3-4	Doyle, Hartburn, og
	18th	Glastonbury	H	Som Professional Cup Semi-final	2-1	Gore 2
	25th	Worcester City	A	Southern League	3-1	Mitcheson 2, Doyle
Feb	8th	Gillingham	H	" "	1-1	Doyle (abandoned 45 mins)
	19th	Exeter City Res	A	South LC Group 1	5-1	Hartburn, Mitcheson, Doyle 2, Gore
	27th	Bath City	H	Southern League	5-0	Hartburn pen, Gore, Doyle 3
March	8th	Exeter City Res	H	South LC Group 1	8-3	Hartburn 2 (1pen), Stock, Mitcheson 2, Marshall, Doyle 2
	15th	Dartford	A	Southern League	4-1	Mitcheson 2, Doyle, Hartburn
	22nd	Colchester United	H	Southern League	1-1	Mitcheson pen
	29th	Barry Town	A	" "	2-2	Gore, Marshall
April	4th	Bath City	A	South LC Group 1	2-1	Gore, Doyle
	5th	Cheltenham Town	A	Southern League	4-1	Marshall pen, Mitcheson 2, Gore
	7th	Exeter City Res	H	" "	7-1	Doyle 2, Mitcheson, Gore, Marshall, Collins, Hayward
	12th	Cheltenham Town	H	" "	4-1	Marshall 2, Mitcheson, Gore
	19th	Gillingham	H	" "	4-1	Mitcheson 2, Doyle, Gore
	26th	Gloucester City	H	" "	7-1	Mitcheson 2, Hayward 2, Gore, Doyle 2
May	3rd	Bath City (at Street FC)		Som Professional Cup Final	1-1	Gore
	10th	Merthyr Tydfil	A	Southern League	0-2	
	17th	Worcester City	H	South League Cup Semi-final	2-0	Gore, Mitcheson
	24th	Hereford United	A	Southern League	1-1	Gore
	26th	Bedford Town	A	" "	2-3	Doyle, Affleck

## Reserves 1946-1947

Aug	31st	Peasedown MW	A	Western Div 1	2-3	Love 2
Sept	14th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	" "	1-3	Andrews
	21st	Welton Rovers	A	" "	3-2	Love, Cook, Horlock
Oct	5th	Wells City	H	" "	4-0	Elder, Douglas 2, og
	12th	Bristol Rovers Res	A	" "	1-0	Andrews
	19th	Chippenham Town	H	" "	2-0	Love, Douglas
Nov	2nd	Peasedown MW	H	" "	5-1	Love, Douglas 2, Elder, LeFevre
	9th	Bath City Res	A	" "	3-0	Douglas, Elder, Brown
	23rd	Clevedon	H	" "	2-6	Love, Andrews
Dec	7th	Paulton Rovers	H	" "	5-2	Love 3, Cook (pen) Brown
	14th	Portland United	A	" "	2-1	LeFevre, Cook (pen)
	21st	Bristol Aero Co at Westlands FC	H	" "	4-0	Brown, Cook, Elder, Douglas
	26th	Glastonbury	A	" "	1-2	Douglas
	28th	Radstock Town	H	" "	5-3	Andrews 2, T Smith, Douglas, Mann (pen)
Jan	4th	Wells City	A	" "	2-1	Douglas 2
	11th	Street	A	" "	2-2	Mann, Elder
	25th	Yeovil and Dist Lge	H	Friendly	10-1	Douglas 7, Brown 2, R Smith
Feb	15th	Trowbridge Town	H	Western League	5-0	Doyle, Hartburn 2, R Smith Mann (pen)
Mar	1st	Portland United	H	" "	4-2	Douglas 3, LeFevre
	15th	Bath City Res	H	" "	8-3	Hayward 2, Box 2, Andrew 2, Cook, Francis
	22nd	Bristol Aero Co	A	" "	2-2	Box 2
	29th	Glastonbury	H	" "	2-2	R Smith, Cook (pen)
April	4th	Radstock Town	A	" "	13-2	
	7th	Frome Town	A	" "	2-2	R Smith, Mann
	19th	Chippenham Town	A	" "	1-2	R Smith
	29th	Clevedon	A	" "	0-2	
May	3rd	Street	H	" "	0-4	
	10th	Trowbridge Town	A	" "	0-2	
	24th	Poole Town	A	" "	1-0	o.g.
	26th	Paulton Town	A	" "	2-5	R Smith, og
	31st	Poole Town	H	" "	1-4	Lambert

Welton Rovers, Frome Town and Bath City Res (h) and Bristol City Colts (a) not played.

The club had pegged admission to 1/3d for the season which must have gone down well, as some 4,500 attended the opening game with Merthyr Tydfil, Stock's exciting forward line starting well with skillful Johnny Hartburn, Les Gore and Trevor Smith all finding the net. The crowd rose to 5000 for the Worcester game and settled around the 4000 mark until the FA Cup arrived. By then Stock had signed Glyn White, a 25 year old centre-forward from Ilminster Town who had scored sixteen goals in three games when he joined the club. He and Les Gore both scored hat-tricks in the demolition of Dartmouth United, a staggering 7000 turning up to watch the slaughter. The draw gave the Glovers Peterborough and Fletton United at home, not for the first time, the Midland Leaguers having left the Southern League.

8000 packed into Huish for the tie, which looked all over with minutes to go and Posh leading 2-1, until a defender lost his cool and kicked Les Gore whilst in the penalty area. Ken Sibley's penalty sent the crowd wild and sent his team mates to Peterborough for the replay, which was lost, Alec Stock taking some flak from supporters after pushing Tommy Mann up front when his regular forward line was decimated by injury and unavailability. The Northamptonshire side won few





The programme for the FA Cup Fourth Qualifying Round tie at Street which ended in defeat for Yeovil and sent shockwaves through the club.

friends in Somerset by providing no seating for the travelling supporters, cold baths and even colder tea on the day. By Christmas Yeovil were heading the Southern League table, alongside Chelmsford City, with the reserves cruising steadily along in the Western League. Bath City did not enjoy their holiday greatly, as Yeovil won 7-2 on Christmas Day and 9-0 a day later, with Paddy Doyle scoring five in all. It set Town up for the clash with Chelmsford City, but Stock switched the side around and they were well beaten, City taking over at the top.

Johnny Hartburn, the little winger from Bishop Auckland was leading scorer at the half way stage, but the partnership with Glyn White was soon dissolved, as he returned to junior football, to be replaced by a famous name. Ken Hayward, son of the great Johnny Hayward, joined Yeovil Town in January, with Keith Francis, an exciting 17 year old wing half who was to figure for some time before enjoying a very brief League career with Leyton Orient.

Along with many other top sides, Yeovil Town had become frustrated by the closed shop mentality of the Football League's member clubs, and they had helped form the National Association of Non-League Football Clubs, whose aim was collectively to lobby the members to form a two tier Fourth Division. A number spoke in favour, but some were against what was called a possible "great, lumbering 110 team league".

In February Yeovil had two pieces of bad news, firstly Ken Sibley, the well liked half-back who had featured in virtually every game was ruled out for six months, having burst a blood vessel in his chest, and to compound the problem the Somerset

FA insisted on picking five Yeovil players for a County game on the day of the club's important Southern League match with Bedford Town.

It had already become apparent that due to various circumstances the season was not going to end satisfactorily, if at all, as the ban on mid-week football and the fuel shortage made things extremely difficult. Millwall did not help, having entered the London Combination as well they insisted on playing their games mid-week, and with the league deciding to award one point for each unplayed game Yeovil could do little to retrieve the situation. Alec Stock was aware of this and when Queens Park Rangers came in for the gifted Johnny Hartburn, their offer of £1700 was taken, Trevor Smith also going at the same time, to Colchester United. Merthyr Tydfil was another club with no chance of finishing the season, but they were more interested in winning the Welsh Cup, although the game in Merthyr ended abruptly for Les Gore, who was sent off, one of a number of dodgy decisions that went against Yeovil in Wales.

#### Southern League 1946-1947

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gillingham	31	20	6	5	103	45	47
Guildford City	32	21	4	7	86	39	46
Merthyr Tydfil	31	21	2	8	104	37	45
Yeovil Town	32	19	6	7	100	49	44
Chelmsford City	31	17	3	11	90	60	38
Gravesend & North	32	17	4	11	82	58	38
Barry Town	30	14	6	10	89	61	36
Colchester United	31	15	4	12	65	60	35
Cheltenham Town	31	14	3	14	68	75	32
Millwall Res	24	8	5	11	59	57	29
Dartford	32	10	5	17	71	100	25
Bedford Town	32	8	8	16	63	98	24
Hereford United	32	8	7	17	37	85	23
Worcester City	31	8	5	18	55	90	22
Exeter City Res	32	10	2	20	69	126	22
Bath City	32	7	7	18	52	93	21
Gloucester City	32	8	1	23	57	120	17

#### Southern League Cup Group 1 - 1946-1947

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil Town	4	4	0	0	20	5	8
Barry Town	4	1	2	1	6	5	4
Merthyr Tydfil	2	1	1	0	4	2	3
Exeter City Res	6	0	3	3	9	20	3
Bath City	4	1	0	3	3	10	2

Both League and League Cup groups were unfinished

#### Western League Div One 1946-1947

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Trowbridge Town	31	27	1	3	123	43	55
Poole Town	29	20	5	4	86	26	45
Bristol Rovers Res	31	19	4	8	96	53	42
Chippenham Town	31	20	2	9	115	68	42
Yeovil Town Res	30	16	4	10	85	56	36
Clevedon	30	15	5	10	87	62	35
Portland United	31	14	4	13	92	69	32
Street	32	13	5	14	75	80	31
Paulton Rovers	31	13	3	15	79	110	29
Glastonbury	29	12	3	14	72	87	27
Bristol Aero Co	29	12	3	14	72	87	27
Wells City	31	8	9	14	52	78	25
Radstock Town	29	9	3	17	66	92	21
Peasedown MW	21	7	6	8	43	49	20
Bristol City Res	24	7	1	16	50	92	15
Bath City Res	26	5	4	17	34	72	14
Frome Town	29	4	3	22	45	129	11
Welton Rovers	20	2	3	15	40	72	7



1946-47 Yeovil side emblazoned with the photographer's captioning possibly with a hint of annoyance at the exodus to Leyton Orient in later times.  
Courtesy of Nick Collins

Stock was also aware that there was to be no wage limit in the league for the next season, the minimum being £6 in the winter and £5 in the summer, and he was reshaping his squad two months before the season was over.

Fred Mitcheson was off to Plymouth Argyle as Head Groundsman and in his place came Bill Mustard, a speedy winger from Exeter and Reg Swinfen, a bustling centre-forward from Queens Park Rangers who cost a club record fee.

While the senior side were busy playing what games they could, the Western League had worse problems, as the mid-week ban imposed by the FA had killed off any hope of a sensible finish. Many clubs who had replayed Cup ties and were then hit by the icy weather throughout much of the winter, could not hope to finish, and Paulton and Peasedown were still playing games in mid-June, although Yeovil gave up at the end of May with four matches still unplayed.

Behind the scenes a band of men had formed the Entertainment Committee, whose aim was to lay on various shows to raise funds for the club, but they soon ran into trouble when organising a boxing tournament, as the Football Club directors demanded a guarantee of £150, despite the fact that all proceeds were going to them anyway, in effect charging the men for their own fund raising. It was a spectacular own goal which raged on and rounded off what had been a bizarre season, but one which had kick started the club in no uncertain terms.

At the AGM a handsome profit of over £2,500 was announced, but that was with Supporters' Club and Entertainment Fund money, as well as the fee for Johnny Hartburn, and the club was quick to point out that the average crowd of 3,370 was not enough, especially if they were to be serious about entering the Football League. As expected all four

#### Season 1947-1948

Aug	23rd	Gillingham	A	Southern League Cup		
				Final 1946 1st Leg	1-4	Swinfen
	30th	Gillingham	H	2nd Leg	1-0	Swinfen
Sept	3rd	Exeter City Res	A	South LC Gr 1	0-0	
	6th	Guildford City	A	Southern League	3-1	Gore, Swinfen 2
	11th	Exeter City Res	H	South LC Gr 1	5-1	Marshall 2, Swinfen 2, Horlock
	13th	Gravesend & North	H	Southern League	5-1	Marshall 2, Swinfen, Boulter, Gore
	18th	Torquay Utd Res	H	South LC Gr 1	5-0	Swinfen 2, Marshall, Boulter, Horlock
	20th	Exeter City Res	H	Southern League	4-0	Douglas 3, Horlock
	24th	Torquay Utd Res	A	South LC Gr 1	1-0	Marshall pen
	27th	Colchester United	H	Southern League	2-0	Swinfen 2
Oct	1st	Bath City	A	South LC Gr 1	2-0	Marshall, Swinfen
	4th	Chelmsford City	A	Southern League	1-1	Horlock
	9th	Bath City	H	South LC Gr 1	3-1	Gore 2, Swinfen
	11th	Lovells Athletic	H	Southern League	0-2	
	18th	Gloucester City	H	" "	0-0	
	23rd	Lovells Athletic	A	South LC Gr 1	0-3	
	25th	Bedford Town	H	Southern League	3-0	Swinfen 3
Nov	1st	Cheltenham Town	A	" "	2-4	Swinfen, og
	8th	Dartford	H	" "	2-1	Boulter 2
Nov	15th	Street	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	1-2	Gore
	29th	Gloucester City	A	Southern League	3-0	Dodkin 2, og
Dec	6th	Hereford United	A	" "	2-5	Swinfen 2
	13th	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	1-1	Swinfen
	20th	Worcester City	A	" "	1-3	Mustard
	25th	Bath City	A	" "	1-1	Swinfen
	26th	Bath City	H	" "	2-2	Affleck, Gore
	27th	Lovells Athletic	H	South LC Gr 1	2-1	Rogers, Gore
Jan	3rd	Lovells Athletic	A	Southern League	0-0	
	10th	Worcester City	H	" "	0-2	
	17th	Merthyr Tydfil	A	" "	2-3	Sibley pen, Marshall

## Season 1947-1948 continued

Jan	24th	Guildford City	H	Southern League	3-1	Swinfen, Mustard, Boulter
	31st	Glastonbury	H	Som Pro Cup S-F	3-0	Swinfen 2, Gore
Feb	7th	Exeter City Res	A	Southern League	0-5	
	14th	Merthyr Tydfil	H	" "	4-1	Merritt 2, Mustard, Swinfen
	21st	Chelmsford City	H	" "	0-0	
	28th	Millwall	H	Friendly	0-3	
March	6th	Street (at Ilminster Town FC)		Somerset Professional Cup Final	5-2 aet	Swinfen 3, Merritt, Rogers
	13th	Bedford Town	A	Southern League	0-0	
	20th	Cheltenham Town	H	" "	1-2	Swinfen
	26th	Gravesend & North	A	" "	1-1	Swinfen
	27th	Dartford	A	" "	2-0	Swinfen, Gore
	29th	Torquay Utd Res	H	" "	3-3	Gore, Rogers 2
April	3rd	Gillingham	H	" "	0-1	
	5th	Barry Town	A	" "	2-0	Merritt 2
	10th	Barry Town	H	" "	2-0	Hayward 2
	15th	Bristol City	H	Friendly	3-0	Gore, Merritt, Hayward
	17th	Hereford United	H	Southern League	6-1	Gore 2, Davis, Merritt 2, Hayward
	19th	Newport County	H	Friendly	2-0	Merritt, K Sibley
	24th	Colchester United	A	Southern League	0-3	
	26th	Merthyr Tydfil	H	Southern League Cup Semi-final 1st L	0-0	
	28th	Gillingham	A	Southern League	0-5	
	30th	Merthyr Tydfil	A	Southern League Cup Semi-Final 2nd L	2-4	Rogers, Hayward

clubs were re-elected with 26 non-League clubs unsuccessful and there was no change for the new season, although, with restrictions easing, it was hoped that proceedings would come to a sensible conclusion. The Supporters' Club's AGM heard talk that a staggering 47,000 programmes were sold during the season and, with over 2000 members, Alec Stock would not be short of backing. His squad was boosted by the arrival of Les Boulter, an inside forward from Brentford, for whom Charlton accepted £6,000 before the War. The ex-Welsh International was 32 but had plenty left and would play at the opposite end to Stan Hall, a 29 year old keeper from Leyton Orient who made 26 League appearances either side of the War. Both Keith Francis and Dennis Horlock went off for trials at Queens Park Rangers in the summer but they were both back for the big kick-off.

## Southern League 1947-1948

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Merthyr Tydfil	34	23	7	4	84	38	53
Gillingham	34	21	5	8	81	43	47
Worcester City	34	21	3	10	74	45	45
Colchester United	34	17	10	7	88	41	44
Hereford United	34	16	10	8	77	53	42
Lovells Athletic	34	17	6	11	74	50	40
Exeter City Res	34	15	7	12	65	57	37
Yeovil Town	34	12	11	11	56	50	35
Chelmsford City	34	14	7	13	62	58	35
Cheltenham Town	34	13	9	12	71	71	35
Bath City	34	12	8	14	55	62	32
Barry Town	34	10	9	15	60	70	29
Gravesend & North	34	11	6	17	52	81	28
Guildford City	34	11	4	19	69	74	26
Dartford	34	10	6	18	35	62	26
Gloucester City	34	8	6	20	45	78	22
Torquay United Res	34	6	9	19	43	95	21

## Reserves 1947-1948

Aug	23rd	Crown Dynamos	H	Friendly	10-1	Rogers 4, LeFevre 2, Douglas 2, Kinsela, Hayward
	30th	Trowbridge Town	A	Western Div 1	2-3	LeFevre 2
Sept	6th	Peasedown MW	H	" "	0-1	
	13th	Bristol Rovers Res	A	" "	0-5	
	17th	Portland United	H	" "	3-2	Hayward 2 (1pen). Rogers
	20th	Wells City	A	" "	1-5	Cook
	27th	Poole Town	A	" "	1-4	Rogers pen
Oct	4th	Bristol City Res	H	" "	3-1	LeFevre, Mann, Andrews
	11th	Bristol Aero Co	A	" "	1-0	
	18th	Bristol Rovers Res (at Westlands FC)	H	" "	3-2	Cook, Douglas, Rogers
Nov	1st	Bath City Res	H	" "	2-0	Hayward 2
	8th	Portland United	A	" "	2-4	Cook, Alford
	15th	Paulton Rovers	H	" "	3-4	Hayward 3
	29th	Poole Town	H	" "	4-4	Rogers, Alford 2, Fuller
Dec	6th	Clandown	H	" "	3-3	Rogers 2, Charles
	13th	Bristol Aero Co	H	" "	1-0	Douglas
	20th	Glastonbury	H	" "	0-1	
	26th	Clevedon	H	" "	1-5	
	27th	Clandown	A	" "	3-1	Manns 2, Hayward
Jan	3rd	Trowbridge Town	H	" "	0-3	
	24th	Glastonbury	A	" "		
	31st	Paulton Rovers	A	" "	0-2	
Feb	7th	Peasedown MW	H	Som Sen Cup 3	3-0	Cook 2, Harrison
	21st	Peasedown MW	A	Som Sen Cup 3	0-5	
				Replayed after appeal		
	28th	Radstock Town	A	Western Div 1	3-1	Manns, Hayward 2
Mar	6th	Bristol City Res	A	" "		
	13th	Wells City	H	" "	1-1	Hayward
	20th	Street	A	" "	0-2	
	27th	Clevedon	H	" "	1-2	
April	3rd	Bath City Res	A	" "	2-2	Hayward 2
	13th	Peasedown MW	A	" "	5-0	Manns 2, Horlock, Doyle 2
	24th	Soundwell	H	" "	4-1	Lewer, Marshall 2, Clough
	26th	Chippenham Town	H	" "	5-4	Mann 2, Cook 2, og
	28th	Radstock Town	H	" "	5-1	Scott 4, LeFevre
May	1st	Chippenham Town	A	" "	4-1	Lewer 2, Rogers 2

## Known First Team Appearances 1947-48

S Hall, A Hickman 43, L Gore 42, R Swinfen 41, R Davis 40, D Affleck 39, P Doyle 34, K Sibley 31, L Boulter 30, E Marshall 25, D Horlock 23, N Collins 22, W Mustard 15, H Merritt 13, K Hayward 11, R Rogers 10, A. Dodkin 8, A Stock 5, Douglas 4, R Charles 3, C Smith, F Chapman 2, J Langford 1

## Known First Team Scorers 1947-48

R Swinfen 29, L Gore 10, E Marshall 8, H Merritt 7, L Boulter 5, D Horlock, K Hayward 4, Douglas, W Mustard, R Rogers 3, og, F Dodkin 2, D Affleck, K Sibley, R Davis 1

## Known Reserve Scorers 1947-48

K Hayward 14, T Manns, R Rogers 8, H Cook 7, LeFevre, Scott 4, Lewer, Alford 3, E Marshall, R Doyle 2, Andrews, Fuller, Douglas, Charles, D Horlock, Harrison, Clough, og 1

**Southern League Cup  
Group 1 – 1947-1948**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil Town	8	6	1	1	18	6	13
Exeter City Res.	7	3	3	1	9	8	9
Lovell's Athletic	6	3	0	3	14	7	6
Bath City	5	1	2	2	7	10	4
Torquay Res	8	0	2	6	9	26	2

**Western League 1947-1948**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Trowbridge Town	34	29	3	2	131	33	61
Glastonbury	34	26	3	5	119	40	55
Street	34	23	7	4	98	40	53
Bristol Rovers Res	34	21	6	7	121	60	48
Clevedon	34	20	4	10	17	66	44
Clandown	34	16	5	13	84	80	37
Poole Town	33	14	6	13	73	72	34
Yeovil Town Res	34	14	4	16	70	79	32
Paulton Rovers	34	13	5	16	78	93	31
Portland United	34	11	7	16	64	72	29
Bristol City Res	34	11	7	16	69	104	29
Bath City Res	34	10	8	16	56	82	28
Wells City	34	11	5	18	58	71	27
Peasedown MW	34	11	5	18	74	96	27
Soundwell	32	8	7	17	64	103	23
Chippenham Town	33	8	6	19	65	97	22
Radstock Town	34	8	3	23	64	108	19
Bristol Aero Co	34	4	1	29	56	165	9

*Two matches not played*

Alec Stock's first full season in charge started poorly, with the players having little chance to train together due to a shortage of housing and digs in the area. A number were based in London and it showed with the delayed League Cup Final with Gillingham being lost and a match with Exeter City drawn 0-0. Soon, however, the forward line was up and running with Les Gore, Reg Swinfen and Ernie Marshall finding the net. With the defence superbly driven by Dave Affleck the team's most productive time came in September, with a whole string of wins, albeit half of them in the League Cup. The committee began to act on accommodation and bought two houses, thus negating the London problem, but this solution was soon to run into big trouble. The previously prolific forward line suddenly dried up in October and although Reg Swinfen's hat-trick beat lowly Bedford Town it was a tentative Yeovil which made the short journey to the Victoria Ground to take on Street in the F.A. Cup. The homesters included young Miles, the striker not retained by Yeovil the year before and the tie drew a record 4,300 crowd, amongst them many hundred Glovers. Les Gore's goal was cancelled out by Miles, and it was he who scored the winner which stunned the west country and caused the home fans to chair him off the field. It was a result that no one had bargained for, least of all the directors who had set their sights on another big Cup run. Alec Stock's plans were in ruins and the result was estimated to have cost Yeovil hundreds of £s, which was of no concern to Street who went on to lose at Cheltenham in the First Round. It was a lesson to learn, but sadly as subsequent seasons were to show, the directors did not take it on board. To add to the problems the first team then had no less than five consecutive away matches, stretching the finances to the limit, and with only one win in eleven games, it was rapidly collapsing around them. By then young Keith Francis had left

the area to serve in Kent and was turning out for Ashford Town and his skills were needed as the new year came in with the club gripped by apathy. Crowds had tumbled and the press appeared to have lost interest as some weeks there was no more than a couple of paragraphs of coverage. Despite all the sadness Reg Swinfen's goals had kept him in the limelight and he remained the Southern League's leading scorer as January and February went by. Ignoring the financial plight that they were in, the directors pressed on with their admirable campaign for a new British League outside, and independent, of the Football League. Based on today's Conference, the idea gathered momentum and various meetings led to some fierce lobbying, with an alternative idea of a Fourth Division or promotion for the Southern League winners, equally well supported. It deflected much of the criticism away from the club who had got into a row with neighbours Ilminster Town, over the staging of the Somerset Professional Cup, a competition which many saw as a joke as it still at that time did not provide the winners with a trophy or medals. The ground at Ilminster was deemed by Yeovil as being unsuitable for the final against Street, with Yeovil insisting that the crowd would be trebled if it was played at Huish, but Ilminster it was and Reg Swinfen's hat-trick secured revenge on the field, if not financially off it. Ernie Marshall's early season flurry had faded, but he was still wanted by Bath City and towards the end of the season he was swapped for Harry Merritt and, although he did well, the season was long dead and it was neatly capped off with another appearance in the League Cup final, which was again lost, this time to Merthyr Tydfil.

It seemed that the whole club had lost its way, from supporters to directors, and blame was put firmly on the board by the Supporters' Club, whose 300 strong petition called for the club's policy to be spelled out. Eventually a decision was taken that Yeovil Town players must live in the area, but that had already run into problems, for the Street F.A. Cup fiasco had seen finances dry up and the housing policy was changed, with money lost when the club could not go ahead with the sale. Things were grim, but despite the bumbleings of the board one man continued with his quest for greatness, and remarkably the finest hour in the entire history of Yeovil Town Football Club was just around the corner.

## *Sunderland, and all that.....*

A number of players had bade farewell after the debacle of the previous season, including Tommy Manns, after many years service he went down to be player-manager at Bridport. Dennis Horlock and Stan Hall were also freed, although Hall returned for the new season. Stock's rebuilding was done amidst much despondency as the club reported heavy losses of over £1,600. Money was lost on the two houses which were sold on after the Street match as the council intervened and a further £100 went due to the Professional Cup. Travel expenses from London were another drain on the stretched finances and, with players contracts at other clubs not expiring until the end of July, Stock was faced with a massive task to build a side strong enough to challenge for Cup and league honours and to bring back the crowds and the interest in the club. His first major signing was Jack Hargreaves, a 26 year old Yorkshire born winger who had three seasons with Leeds United before the War and then came south to Bristol City and Reading, where he played fifteen times in the first team the season previous. He was joined by Eric Bryant, a bustling centre-forward from Birmingham who had a couple of seasons with Mansfield before coming south. 25 year old Les Blizzard joined Queens Park Rangers during the War, and then had just one game with Bournemouth and Boscombe Athletic before

## Season 1948-1949

Aug	21st	Worcester City	A	Southern League	2-3	Bryant 2
	25th	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	1-2	Bryant
	28th	Merthyr Tydfil	H	" "	2-2	Merritt 2
	30th	Barry Town	A	South LC 1st Rd	2-2	Merritt, Stock
Sept	4th	Hereford United	A	Southern League	1-2	Merritt
	9th	Barry Town	H	South LC1 Rep	2-1	Bryant 2
	11th	Torquay Utd Res	H	Southern League	4-3	Merritt 2, Bryant, Roy
18th		Gillingham	A	" "	0-2	
	25th	Hastings United	H	" "	2-0	Hayward, Hamilton
	30th	Torquay Utd Res	H	South LC 2nd Rd	3-1	Bryant, Blizzard pen, Stock
Oct	2nd	Cheltenham Town	A	Southern League	0-1	
	9th	Bedford Town	H	" "	3-0	Bryant, Hamilton, Collins
	16th	Bath City	A	South LC 3rd Rd	1-0	Blizzard
	23rd	Kidderminster Harr	H	Southern League	4-0	Blizzard pen, Hargreaves 2, Bryant
Nov	6th	Chelmsford City	H	" "	0-1	
	13th	Lovells Athletic	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	3-2	Bryant 2, og
	20th	Colchester United	H	Southern League	0-1	
	27th	Romford	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	4-0	Bryant 2, Hamilton, Hargreaves
Dec	4th	Guildford City	H	Southern League	3-0	Blizzard, Bryant 2
	11th	Weymouth	A	FA Cup 2nd Rd	4-0	Bryant 2, Hamilton, Hargreaves
	18th	Dartford	H	Southern League	0-1	
	25th	Bath City	A	" "	1-1	Bryant
	27th	Bath City	H	" "	3-4	Bryant, Hargreaves, Wright
Jan	1st	Chelmsford City	A	" "	1-3	Bryant
	8th	Bury	H	FA Cup 3rd Rd	3-1	Hargreaves, Wright, Hamilton
	16th	Tonbridge	A	Southern League	1-2	og
	22nd	Worcester City	H	" "	2-0	Bryant 2
	29th	Sunderland	H	FA Cup 4th Rd	2-1	Stock, Bryant aet
Feb	5th	Hereford United	H	Southern League	0-3	
	12th	Manchester United	A	FA Cup 5th Rd	0-8	
	19th	Gillingham	H	Southern League	3-1	Bryant 2, Roy
	26th	Dartford	A	" "	1-1	Blizzard
March	3rd	Chingford Town	A	" "	0-0	
	5th	Cheltenham Town	H	" "	5-2	Stock 2, Wright, Bryant, Hamilton
	12th	Bedford Town	A	" "	3-0	Bryant 2, Roy
	17th	Gravesend & North	H	" "	0-1	
	19th	Barry Town	H	" "e	5-0	Coffey, Murray, Hamilton, Bryant, Blizzard pen
	21st	Hereford United	A	South LC S-Final	2-1	Stock 2
	24th	Lovells Athletic	A	Southern League	2-0	Bryant 2
	26th	Colchester United	A	" "	1-1	Bryant
	30th	Gravesend & North	A	" "	2-2	Rogers, Bryant
April	2nd	Guildford City	A	" "	3-0	Keeton, Coffey, Hamilton
	4th	Tonbridge	H	" "	6-0	Wright 2, Stock, Bryant 2, Hamilton
	7th	Gloucester City	A	" "	2-2	Stock, Wright
	9th	Bristol City	H	Som Pro Cup S-F	4-0	Bryant 4
	16th	Exeter City Res	A	Southern League	2-0	Coffey, Bryant
	18th	Exeter City Res	H	" "	2-1	Bryant 2
	19th	Barry Town	A	" "	1-1	Hamilton
	20th	Kidderminster Harr	A	" "	6-1	Bryant 3, Hamilton, Coffey, Wright
	23rd	Lovells Athletic	H	" "	3-1	og, Coffey, Hamilton
	25th	Merthyr Tydfil	A	" "	0-4	

## Season 1948-1949 continued

	28th	Bath City	A	Somerset Professional Cup Final	1-2	Blizzard
	30th	Chingford Town	H	Southern League	6-0	Bryant 5, Hargreaves
May	2nd	Colchester United	H	Southern League Cup Final	3-0	Bryant, Coffey 2
	5th	Gloucester City	H	Southern League	5-1	Hamilton 2, Wright, Hargreaves, Bryant
	7th	Hastings United	A	Stock, Bryant	2-2	Hamilton, Bryant
	9th	Swindon Town	H	Yeovil Chall Cup	0-1	
	14th	Jersey Sat League	A	Friendly	4-0	Coffey 2, Wright, Hamilton
	16th	Guernsey	A	Friendly	6-1	Wright 5, Bryant

linking up with Alec Stock, not for the last time as it later transpired. Another important capture was Bobby Hamilton, a Scottish left winger who began at Hearts before playing seventy odd games for Chester. Taking up the challenge to continue rebuilding the club in all ways, the Supporters' Club concreted the North Terrace during the summer, sixteen steps in all with a four feet wide footpath along the top. Electric heating was installed to improve the catering in the refreshment hut and plans were announced to level the notorious slope, which, although only truly rivalled by that at Wycombe's Loakes Park, was almost ignored and never remarked upon until the club came to world wide prominence as the season progressed.

## Reserves 1948-1949

Aug	21st	Trowbridge Town	H	Western League	3-3	Hayward 2, Roy
	28th	Paulton Rovers	A	" "	1-1	Hayward
Sept	4th	Chippenham Town	H	" "	1-1	Rogers
	11th	Wells City	A	" "	1-0	Rogers
	18th	Bristol Rovers Colts	H	" "	1-1	Hayward
	30th	Wells City	H	" "	7-0	Hargreaves 2, Bryant 2, Blizzard pen, Merritt, og
Oct	2nd	Paulton Rovers	H	" "	1-0	Swinfen
	9th	Trowbridge Town	A	" "	2-2	Hayward, Whitlock
	16th	Bath City Res	H	" "	2-3	Hayward 2
	23rd	Bristol Rovers Colts	A	" "	1-1	Rogers
	28th	Clevedon	A	" "	1-1	Roy
Nov	6th	Poole Town	A	" "	1-3	Hayward
	13th	Street	H	" "	1-1	Anderson
	20th	Portland United	A	" "	0-1	Dec
	4th	Bath City Res	A	" "	1-4	og
	11th	Bristol City Colts	H	" "	3-1	Murray 2, Roy
	15th	Peasedown MW	A	" "	0-4	
Jan	22nd	Glastonbury	A	" "	0-3	
Feb	5th	Bristol City Colts	A	" "	0-6	
	26th	Chippenham United	H	Friendly	0-4	
Mar	12th	Clandown	H	Western League	1-3	og
	19th	Soundwell	A	" "	2-3	Box, Hayward
	24th	Salisbury City	H	" "	2-2	Murray 2
	26th	Weymouth	H	" "	2-5	Rogers, og
April	4th	Portland United	H	" "	2-1	Stock, Hayward
	6th	Salisbury City	A	" "	2-4	Hickman 2
	9th	Clandown	A	" "	1-7	Hayward
	11th	Peasedown MW	H	" "	8-1	Bryant 5 (1pen), Wright 2, Hayward
	15th	Street	A	" "	1-3	Hamilton
	16th	Clevedon	H	" "	2-2	Whitlock, Stock
	18th	Chippenham Town	A	" "	0-6	
	23rd	Soundwell	H	" "	5-1	
	27th	Weymouth	A	" "	1-1	Coffey
May	3rd	Poole Town	H	" "	2-4	Bryant 2
	7th	Glastonbury	H	" "	2-2	Wright, Hayward pen





**Yeovil Town team versus Bury in the Third Round of the FA Cup 1948-49**

*Back Row (L to R): Stan Abbott (trainer), Alec Stock (player/manager), Bob Keeton, Arthur Hickman, Ray Wright, Stan Hall, Les Buzzard, Eric Bryant.*

*Front Row: Bob Hamilton, Ralph Davies, Mr H.A. Smith (chairman), Mr Fox (vice president), Mr Johnson (president), Nick Collins, Jack Hargreaves.*

There were also plans to cover the terrace and an appeal was launched with local traders in mind, an estimated capacity of 20,000 being mentioned, roughly that of the entire town at the time.

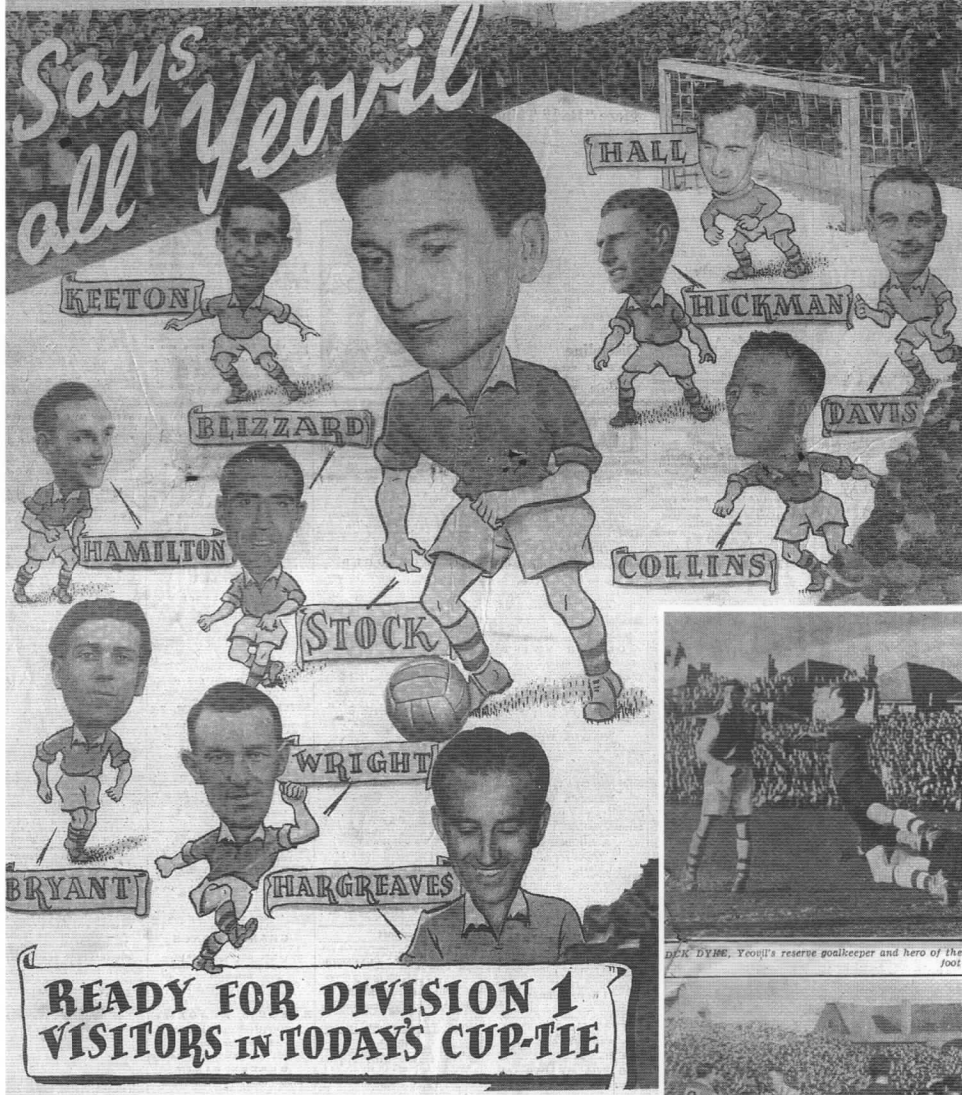
In early August Paddy Doyle returned to Everton, having played for Town whilst stationed at Houndstone, but Stock continued building, with Ray Wright, an inside forward from Exeter City signing. Pontefract born Ray had a season at Molineux before the War and then played around sixty times for the Grecians. Reg Swinfen was in dispute over wages and the club itself was in trouble with the FA, being accused of poaching Harry Daniels from Queens Park Rangers. Within a fortnight he had changed his mind and gone to Bournemouth, but they were still hauled up before the FA. An unrepentant Bert Smith, chairman, railed that Everton had done the same with Doyle after Yeovil had paid him summer wages until two weeks before the start of the season. With work starting on the new Jubilee Terrace the season got under way at Worcester City and Torquay United, both games being lost. Despite the poor start, Eric Bryant had scored three times, but it was Harry Merritt who gained the first points against Merthyr Tydfil, the reigning champions, in front of over 6,000 supporters who had shown their usual pre-season optimism. The directors soon got in on the act after the third game, overruling manager Stock and promoting reserve team player Jack Roy for the Hereford game, but their meddling did not pay off and by the middle of September changes were being made by Stock himself as the forward line was not firing. Ken Hayward came back into the side briefly, but it soon became apparent that the side was primarily geared for Cup football, as so many league games were being used as experiments. Having beaten Barry

Town and Torquay United Reserves in the League Cup, a Les Blizzard goal beat Bath City, and after a win and a draw in the league, the FA Cup was upon the side, which had been exempt to the fourth qualifying round. The draw could have been easier, but some 700 travelled by special train to Newport to take on Lovells Athletic. Eric Bryant's two goals, the winner late in the game, provoked joyous scenes, those being continued after as players and supporters alike returned together. The next round was to bring amateur side Romford and, with barely a fortnight between the ties, the Supporters' Club again got to work on the ground, strengthening the embankment at the Town end, for the expected 10,000 plus attendance. Over 1000 journeyed from Essex, but many were caught up in fog and by the time they arrived, Yeovil were 3-0 up and cruising, Eric Bryant's excellent season continuing apace. It was not all good news at the club sadly, for earlier it was announced that Reg Kingham, Yeovil's full-back who signed from Luton Town after eleven seasons before the war, had died from spinal trouble at the age of 43. He had returned to his native Luton to be groundsman at Vauxhall Motors.

There was more sad news when Arthur Hickman was injured in a car-crash, his wife and mother-in-law also being injured, but he subsequently recovered.

The Cup draw had Yeovil on their travels again, but not far, for the 2nd Round draw sent them to Weymouth, where a huge crowd was anticipated. Over 3,000 journeyed down to be amongst around 11,000 at the Rec, where Bryant, Hamilton and Hargreaves scored the goals which started off the period in the life of the Football Club which will never be forgotten and is still referred to regularly to this day.

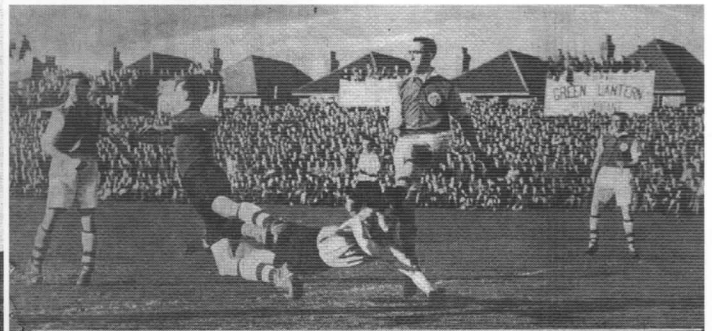
# 'AND NOW FOR SUNDERLAND'



Preparations were held up slightly due to the supporters and officials being unable to return home after the Weymouth game, torrential rain had flooded large areas of Dorset and had marooned most, some of whom did not return until the following morning.

There were some four weeks separating the rounds, and the draw had given Yeovil a home tie with Bury.

Unsurprisingly the four league matches in between the rounds failed to bring a win, the team by that time in the bottom six, but with the club applying to the police to have the limit extended to 15,000 for the game, and more ground work going on, it was an exciting time for everyone concerned. Bury were riding high at the top of



DEK DYME, Yeovil's reserve goalkeeper and hero of the match, punches clear as Sunderland's centre-forward dives past Blizzard's foot in a goalmouth tussle.



EVIDENCE OF THE WIDESPREAD INTEREST in Yeovil's Cup match with Sunderland is given in this picture. Press photographers are busy at the goal entrance, attended by Yeovil's mascot who hands banners to the visitors.



BIG PICTURE above shows an ardent Yeovil "fan" keeping the crowd happy before the start. Left inset: Alec Stock spins the coin while Hart, the Bury captain calls. Right inset: Yeovil's mascot leads his team on to the field.

Division Two, and Stan Abbott and Alec Stock watched them in action over Christmas, but the results of their exploits were not to be included in the club's Silver Jubilee Handbook, as with an almost heroic sense of mis-timing, it was published over the New Year, just days before two of the the most important matches in the history of Yeovil Town. Nevertheless Stock's preparations were immaculate, and his side enjoyed the publicity that the match had generated.

Some four hours before the kick-off there were queues



ROYIE-CAMERAMAN films the crowd meeting the Yeovil team as they approach their dressing rooms after their great win.







Above: Superb view of the covered stand which lasted barely twenty years at Huish.

This picture was taken before the Sunderland game.

### YEOVIL TALK OVER THEIR CUP PLAN



**PREPARING** to meet Sunderland in Saturday's fourth round Cup tie, some of the Yeovil players talk tactics. Alec Stock, manager and inside right, is discussing moves with (left to right at back), Bryant (centre forward), Blizzard (centre half), Keeton (right half), and (front) Davis (left back), Wright (inside-left), Hickman (right back), Hamilton (outside right).



Above: Alec Stock, standing centre, plots Sunderland's defeat.



### THE KILLERS FROM SOMERSET DO IT AGAIN...



Dicky Dyke, Yeovil's reserve goalkeeper—6ft. 3ins. tall—dives and punches clear from a Sunderland attack in the 120-minute drama-charged game at Yeovil.

### Went mad down Somerset way



A Yeovil player is carried shoulder high by the crowd who stormed the pitch after the game



Dickie Dyke, called in at the last minute as goalkeeper for Yeovil, is congratulated by trainer Stan Abbot.



# TOWN FETES CUP GIANT-KILLERS

BRISTOL EVENING POST

No. 5,207—14d. The Paper All Bristol Asked For and Helped to Create. Mon., Jan. 31 1949.

HERBS FOR HEALTH  
Health & Heather  
Supply the Finest  
Herbs to the  
ST. STAPLETON RD. BRISTOL

FOR WINTER WARMTH

WM YOUNGERS No 3 SCOTCH ALE



## Yeovil Away to Bradford or Manchester

### FIFTH ROUND

YEovil are away to Manchester United or Bradford in the Fifth Round of the F.A. Cup. The draw for which was made in London this morning. The ties are to be played on Saturday, February 12.

Manchester United and Bradford drew at Maine Road and replay at Bradford this coming Saturday.

If Manchester United, the present cupholders, win the return match Yeovil will find themselves laying before a 75,000 crowd.

It could not have been better for an away game. Alec Stock, Yeovil's aye manager, when told the news of the Cup draw.

"Of course, we hoped we should re. had another home fixture, this would have given us a better hope of going a stage further. We shall do our best and certainly hope to see the replay between Bradford & Manchester United."

Yeovil manager, when told the news of the Cup draw.

## THE MEN FROM ROKER PARK

MANCHESTER UTD. or BRADFORD v. YEovil.

Bradford v. Burnley.

Derby County v. Cardiff City.

Leeds United v. Leicester City.

Portsmouth v. Newport County or Huddersfield.

Sheff. City or Blackpool v. Millwall.

West Bromwich v. Chelsea.

Wolves v. Liverpool.

All the non-associated clubs—the "B" clubs—of the F.A. Cup draw have been favoured with the luck of a bye.

Match of the round will be between Manchester United and Liverpool.

The 1948-49 season's team is complete. The 1948-49 season's team is complete. The 1948-49 season's team is complete.

6 FEET HIGHER HERE THAN THERE

outside Huish, as the whole of Somerset seemed to want to watch the match. Most of the clubs in the Southern League had sent telegrams of good luck for the game which before it had even started had been a triumph of organisation for the overworked secretary, 21 year old Ivan Rendall. Former manager David Halliday sent a sprig of white heather from Aberdeen and as the game neared people scrambled to any vantage point they could, up trees, on hoardings, balanced on the scoreboard and on roofs. Makeshift press tables had been knocked together with planks and desks borrowed from a nearby school as interest had increased.

Bury did not settle and within ten minutes of the start Jack Hargreaves had scored with a glancing header from which Bury never fully recovered, despite equalising soon after. Just before half-time Ray Wright sent the crowd wild by scoring the second and when Bobby Hamilton wrapped it up with a third the party began in Yeovil. Alec Stock's message to distribute the ball quickly and to expose the Bury flanks had worked perfectly and the final whistle brought bedlam to Huish as thousands poured on to acclaim their heroes.

Many thought that this was the club's finest hour, and that comprehensively beating a top Division



BEHIND THE H.Q.  
SCENES AT YEOVIL

# Stock's Men In Trim

By NOMAD

WELCOME to Sunderland. Who next? These words, on a banner outside a store in the centre of Yeovil, typify the confidence of every supporter of the Somerset club.

"We beat Bury on our penals. We are not afraid of Sunderland in the fourth round."

That is what the man-in-the-street is saying about next Saturday's Cup clash.

### Optimism Abounds

Go where you will in Yeovil and you can hear nothing but football. Enthusiasm breeds optimism. Yeovil fans have an abundance of both.

Behind the scenes at the G.H.Q. of the club I found the same qualities. Smiling Alex Stock, the live-wire manager who must be Britain's busiest man to-day, approached the tie this way:—

"Sunderland will have to go to beat us. Whatever the result, we shall give them a good game. The boys are determined. Team spirit can count for more than class in a Cup clash."

And Ray Wright, who is employed in the office of an aircraft factory apart from being a master schemer in the Yeovil attack, interjected:—

"Tell my old friends in Exeter that Yeovil will not be overawed. How the ball will run next Saturday no man can foretell. If it runs our way we can surprise Sunderland. The team is playing good football."

Ray played a magnificent dual role in last week's Southern League game with Worcester. At inside-left he was the mainspring of the forwards. When goalkeeper Hill

## ALL READY FOR THE GREAT DAY "Private Lives" Of Yeovil's Stars



(Continued from Previous Column.) making good progress towards recovery.

### CUP FIGHTING IN THEIR BLOOD

well known star players, few of whom knew much, if anything, about Yeovil Town and their quaint ground and pitch. Within hours all the stand and enclosure places had been sold and with over a thousand applications pouring in per day, Ivan Rendall and his schoolboy brother were forced to convert a bedroom into an office to cope with the frenzy. 13,500 had turned up for the Bury game, but many thousands more wanted tickets for Sunderland and the biggest problem was how to accommodate them. Ground tickets were priced at 2/-, with the enclosure at 7/6 and the stand at 10/6 for the match which the Sunderland manager described as "It could be worse, but not much". The women's section of the Supporters' Club provided a new kit for the occasion as Stock took the players away to relax. There were two league matches in between the ties, but disaster struck in the second, as keeper Stan Hall was injured and was not fit to play. In his place came young Vic, or Dickie Dyke, a raw 21 year old solicitor's

# THIS IS THE SPIRIT OF YEOVIL

## MANCHESTER UNITED 5, YEOVIL TOWN 0

With eight goals piled up against him, Yeovil goalkeeper Stan Hall was nevertheless the hero—and an unknown hero—of a team who were outclassed from start to finish.

Immediately after the match he had four stitches inserted in the lower part of his abdomen and nobody off the field knew that for 70 minutes he had been playing in agony.

He was injured after 20 minutes in a collision with Rowley, the man who scored five of Manchester United's eight.

True to the great sporting spirit of his gallant Southern League club, Hall said after the game: "Although I did feel upset by the injury, please do not blame that for the goals. The Manchester United forwards beat me airily and squarely."

The result was never in doubt from the sixth minute when the mouth United goal machine clicked into gear for Rowley, a near-genius at inside-left, to score the first of his five.

He had added two more after 22 minutes, obtained another 16 minutes after half-time, and his last a minute before time.

Burke also claimed two opportunist goals and Mitten completed the Manchester total.

Yeovil forced a corner in the first 10 seconds, but they attacked only spasmodically after that, and centre-forward Bryant was too often a lone

figure in the Manchester penalty area.

Forced to give a great deal of help in defence, Stock and Wright, the visiting inside forwards, at times seemed over-anxious in their passes to the wings, which were often faulty.

Deputy left-winger Roy tried hard against Johnny Carey, and once or twice beat him to the ball, but the Manchester defence were generally the complete masters.

Delaney, back into his stride as the United outside-right, was too much of a handful for Davis, and plied his inside men with well-judged centres.

Yeovil found the heavy, slippery ground a severe handicap, but Blizzard, overworked at centre-half, emerged with great credit.

Yeovil should have no regrets.

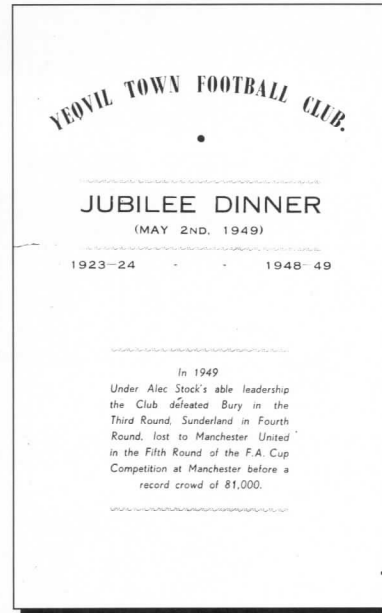
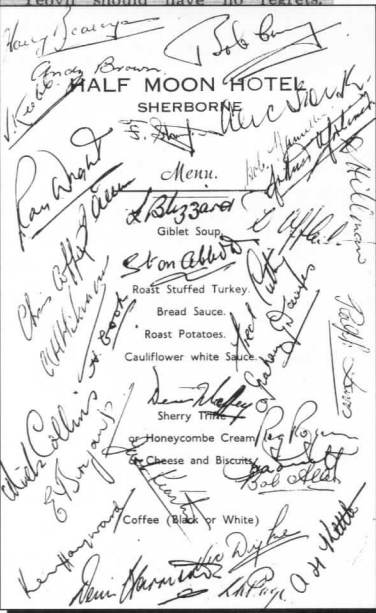
Two side would be the epitome of their accomplishments, but there was much more and the Huish hysteria was to be cranked up one more time.

All ears were on the Monday draw, and it brought Sunderland to Somerset, sixth in the First Division and packed with

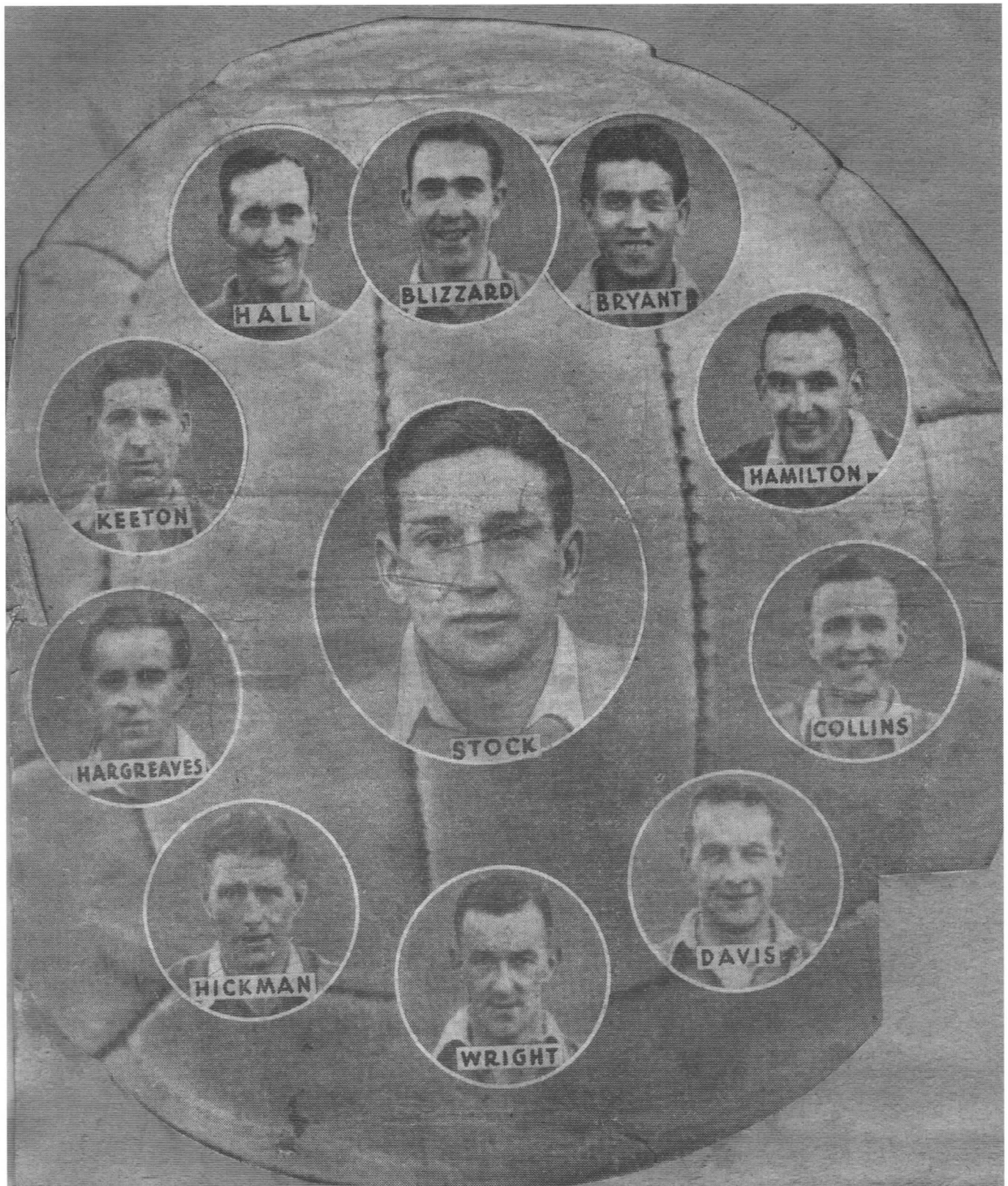
clerk with little experience. There were scenes of chaos at the ground when tickets were put on sale, when people who had queued for hours were confronted by workers coming out of the factories and joining the lines. Police intervention eventually enabled order to be restored.

Match day arrived with the usual turmoil which had become part of the Yeovil FA Cup ritual. Over 17,000 had tickets, with umpteen thousand more milling around trying to get in. Sunderland, with their manager Billy Murray, had inspected the ground the day before and had pronounced the slope as being greatly exaggerated, and Murray himself hedged his bets by saying that if they should happen to get beaten there would be no complaints about the slope from them. Yeovil began well, but after just ten minutes Jack Hargreaves pulled a leg muscle and he was little more than a passenger for the rest of the game. Joe Mapson in the

Sunderland goal was having a torrid time and he was fortunate when Eric Bryant bundled him and the ball over the line, only to be given a free-kick. Despite the disadvantage, Stock's men responded to the fanatical support from the seething terraces, and after 28 minutes their dreams came true. Les Blizzard and Ray Wright combined to set up manager Stock, and he scored with a swivel shot past a bemused Mapson. Yeovil continued to







*The Giant Killers*

come at the Division One side, but they were still dangerous and Dickie Dyke was forced to make a number of fine saves, until tragedy struck when he missed a speculative through ball which left Robinson to tap in from close range. Both sides had chances to win, but they held out and at 90 minutes, extra-time was ordered. Luck was with Yeovil that, due to the travel restrictions of the time and the fuel shortage, all matches were designated to have extra-time. Mist enveloped the ground to add to the already unbearable tension, and the real possibility of an abandonment seemed close, but it lifted near half time. Sunderland's Len Shackleton received the ball,

and instead of laying it off, his mis-judged overhead kick went straight to Ray Wright. He controlled it and pushed it through to the onrushing Eric Bryant, and he hit it sweetly past the stranded Mapson. The keeper played nearly 400 times for the Rokerites, but this was his worst moment by far.

Huish erupted with a noise never heard before, a mixture of elation and disbelief. Their team, eighth from bottom of the Southern League, were leading one of the most famous clubs in the country, in extra time and with ten men, but there was more drama. The last fifteen minutes were spent in and around the Yeovil penalty area, as their exhausted troops attempted to

hold out. With three minutes left the referee's whistle blew for a free-kick, but thousands spilled on to the pitch thinking it was all over. Frantically waving and gesticulating the players cleared a way for play, and when it was all over there was a stunned reaction from many, tears from some and scenes which were reminiscent of VE Day from thousands of others. Yeovil Town Football Club had created three records of which two are unlikely to be beaten. The crowd of 17,123 was the biggest for a match in their history, the receipts of £2,000 were also the best at the time, and their passage through to the Fifth Round has also not been beaten.

The line up which beat Sunderland on that day was immediately placed into the realms of folklore and, although there was one more big day ahead, that was their moment.

*Dickie Dyke, Arthur Hickman, Ralph Davis, Bob Keeton, Les Blizzard, Nick Collins, Bobby Hamilton, Alec Stock, Eric Bryant, Ray Wright, Jack Hargreaves.*

The wild and abandoned celebrations went on long into the weekend and it was with many heavy heads that the club supporters heard of their fate for the fifth round - Manchester United away. United were at the time playing at Maine Road, due to bomb damage at Old Trafford and a crowd of somewhere around 55-60,000 was expected. The team prepared with their by now customary league defeat, which left them fifth from bottom, although few were too concerned at that time, and on February 11th 1949 the party went up north where they were treated to visits to theatres and were engulfed in the streets, as people just wanted to meet the heroes of the last round. United were the Cup holders and boasted a side with six Internationals, but over 6,000 Glover's followers paraded around the city before the game, with rattles, horns and drums, plus a three foot long green glove which was shown off to the crowd.

Thousands were locked out of the ground, but a staggering 81,565 got in to see the Reds make sure that history did not repeat itself. Stan Hall was back to replace Dickie Dyke, but he could do nothing to stem the flow as United scored eight without reply, Jack Rowley netting five. Jack Hargreaves also failed a fitness test before the game at the old Broughton Rangers Rugby ground, now incidentally the training ground for United called the Cliff. Stan Hall was again in the wars, having sustained a nasty gash from a stud in the stomach after 20 minutes, but he bravely played the next seventy despite the pain, but the day was United's and Yeovil's long flirtation with the Cup was over for another year. There would be other great days, but the early weeks of 1949 would never be surpassed and the cheque for £3,500 being Yeovil's share of the gate was most welcome.

The players returned home to a civic reception, but the sense of anti-climax was almost unbearable, and possibly drained of the ability to show emotion after such a few weeks, the public did not respond to the team after that. Fewer than 4000 turned up for the Gillingham game a week later, when Eric Bryant's double won the points, and Alec Stock could not hide his frustration, calling the figure "disgusting". With impeccable timing Gateshead FC came in to offer Stock their manager's job, but he rejected the offer and turned his attention back to the league, which had become a problem. Not only the public seemed to lose interest once the run was over, for having committed feet of print space, the local press were also less than impressed with mundane Southern or Western League fixtures and all but ignored the rest of the campaign, instead asking the question "Is it worth the vast sums spent to increase capacity, just on the off chance that the club meet a big club in the FA Cup?", a valid if somewhat negative suggestion bearing in mind the Supporters' Club were still hoping to erect some 180 feet of cover over the North Terrace when allowed by the Ministry.

Yeovil's Cup exploits had left them with a massive fixture pile-up, and the Southern League was forced to appeal to the powers that be to be allowed to play mid-week games with early kick-offs. This they did and to help with the squad Stock signed Tom Liddle from Bournemouth, a full-back who was listed as 25 but was in fact nearly 29. He had played but one match for the Cherries and arrived to boost the rather thin squad.

Yeovil's progress had been seen by none other than Barcelona FC in Spain, and they were invited to play a match with the guarantee of 100,000 pesetas, around £1000, plus expenses. The directors announced themselves anxious to reward the players, but the cost at £50 per head, £750 insurance and compensation through loss of work was deemed as too much, and so the players dream holiday was denied them, to be replaced by a couple of weeks in the Channel Islands, courtesy of a friend of the club.

Results picked up through March and April, but crowds and interest did not, for with little being reported and few concerned, little more than a thousand were turning up towards the end. It was a poor percentage of what was being touted as around 150-200,000 a week who were allegedly watching Southern League football, and it was of grave concern to all, not least the directors who were never slow to castigate the public.

The Western League side had also suffered and were in the grips of a relegation battle, and in April when two matches clashed, some of the professionals played two matches in one day to help what was an eventually successful mission.

The side had managed to win both Southern League Cup and Somerset Professional Cup semi-finals since the United match and the season ended with a flurry of finals and benefit games. Eric Bryant limbered up by scoring five against Chingford Town, two days after losing the county cup to Bath, but the League Cup final, against Colchester United, came uniquely just two weeks after the Essex side had played the 1948 final! The crowds swarmed back, albeit in smaller numbers, as 8,200 saw Town take the cup, the players being presented with wrist watches. It left the Yeovil Challenge Cup match with Swindon and the tour to Jersey and Guernsey to finish off the strangest season in the club's history. A party of just thirteen left by boat-train from Pen Mill to Weymouth, and thenceforth to the HQ at the Hotel de l'Europe. After playing a match at Springfield Stadium against the Jersey Saturday League there was sight seeing and a boat trip before another match, this time against Guernsey.

Sadly the spirit of bonhomie did not last long, as chairman Bert Smith announced that, despite the receipts being an all time record for the club, the subsequent drop in attendances and end of season travel had all but accounted for the money recouped. It was seen by many as a scandalous way to treat supporters and the players who had put together a fourteen match unbeaten run to climb the table. Sadly for all it was not the first, nor the last own goal that Mr Smith would score on behalf of his football club.

The Football League and its members were suitably unimpressed by Yeovil's performances and they gained just one vote in their quest to join. The Southern League, however were recruiting and expanding, with Weymouth coming back stronger and more vibrant than ever. It was something else for the board to think about.

Despite the blusterings of certain club officials, the cup profits had not been swallowed up, and indeed the best part of £3,000 was showing on the credit side. It was going to be needed, as the Southern League was bigger, but without the proposed extra division Stock was going to have to extend his staff. The professional strength required was quoted as twenty six more than got the club to the fifth round of the Cup, with much emphasis on building a strong Western League side to provide first team material and to attract

crowds to Huish when the senior side were away, thus bringing in more cash. Nick Collins took over the reserves for the start which included brothers 'Jack' and Don Haines, both ex-miners from Cardiff. 'Jack', or more correctly Mervyn, was an outside right with his brother playing at full back. Alec Stock paraded a whole host of other signings in the trials, including Charlie Turner, a 30 year old goalkeeper who had played forty odd times for Swansea and Newport either side of the war, Cliff Mansley, a 28 year old wing half who was with both Barnsley and Chester and Albert Foulds a 30 year old striker who had been Chester's leading scorer having gone there from Altrincham.

The continued talk of an extra division in the Football League was now "a certainty" according to some, although Yeovil's 3,000 odd did not stand up too well against the likes of Gillingham and Colchester United who were regularly bringing in 8-10,000. It was suggested that a minimum of 5,000 was needed at every game for Yeovil to compete with the rest, which according to Mr Smith, "Should not be impossible considering the club has had its best season ever". A somewhat overblown statement based purely on the FA Cup matches, considering the side had finished eighth in an ordinary Southern League after spending most of the season in the bottom six, and its reserves had only just avoided relegation by the skin of their teeth. He also stated that four or five first class players would come to Yeovil Town like a shot if accommodation were to be found, but he again blamed the supporters for not coming to every game, depriving the club of its much needed funds. Little did he know, but the public, and the much maligned Supporters' Club, were fast becoming fed up with Mr Smith's constant blaming of all but himself.

#### Southern League 1948-1949

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gillingham	42	26	10	6	104	48	62
Chelmsford City	42	27	7	8	115	64	61
Merthyr Tydfil	42	26	8	8	133	54	60
Colchester United	42	21	10	11	94	61	52
Worcester City	42	22	7	13	87	56	51
Dartford	42	21	9	12	73	53	51
Gravesend & North	42	20	9	13	60	46	49
Yeovil Town	42	19	9	14	90	53	47
Cheltenham Town	42	19	9	14	71	64	47
Kidderminster Harr	42	19	6	17	77	94	44
Exeter City Res	42	18	7	17	83	73	43
Hereford United	42	17	6	19	83	84	40
Bath City	42	15	8	19	72	87	38
Hastings United	42	14	10	18	69	93	38
Torquay Utd Res	42	15	7	20	73	93	37
Lovells Athletic	42	14	8	20	73	74	36
Guildford City	42	12	12	18	58	85	36
Gloucester City	42	12	10	20	78	100	34
Barry Town	42	12	10	20	55	95	34
Tonbridge	42	9	7	26	54	105	25
Chingford Town	42	6	9	27	43	94	21

#### First Team Scorers 1948-49

E Bryant 55, B Hamilton 15, A Stock 11, J Hargreaves, R Wright 8, L Blizzard, C Coffey 7, H Merritt 6, J Roy 3, K Hayward, N Collins, Murray, R Rogers, R Keeton 1, 3 og's

#### Known Reserve Scorers 1948-49

K Hayward 13, E Bryant 9, Murray, R Rogers, og 4, J Roy, R Wright 3, J Hargreaves, K Whitlock, A Stock, Hickman 2, L Blizzard, H Merritt, R Swinfen, Anderson, Box, R Hamilton, C Coffey 1

*There are no records available of the appearances for this season.*

#### Western League 1948-1949

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glastonbury	34	24	6	4	93	50	54
Trowbridge Town	34	22	6	6	100	44	50
Weymouth	34	22	4	8	100	44	48
Chippenham Town	34	19	5	10	94	50	43
Street	34	18	4	12	90	58	40
Salisbury City	34	17	5	12	78	51	39
Bristol Rovers Colts	34	12	12	10	65	63	36
Paulton Rovers	34	13	6	15	57	64	32
Wells City	34	14	4	16	51	67	32
Bath City Res	34	14	4	16	63	92	32
Poole Town	34	13	5	16	59	65	31
Soundwell	34	13	5	16	76	100	31
Peasedown MW	34	12	3	19	54	81	27
Clandown	34	12	3	19	55	102	27
Portland United	34	11	4	19	51	70	26
Yeovil Town Res	34	7	12	15	61	81	26
Clevedon	34	5	10	19	48	74	20

With several other local amateurs on board, Stock's side began in front of over 7,000, no doubt enticed by the prospect of seeing another record breaking Cup run. In baking heat Kidderminster Harriers were hammered 8-0, Bryant starting where he finished off, with another five. There was little wrong with Stock's side through the early weeks as his exciting attacking knocked in twenty-two goals in the first four matches. The 'tousle haired' Eric Bryant and Albert Foulds brilliance at inside-right combined with Les Blizzard's probings were looking likely to reap dividends, but as soon as it looked good, then the club was struck a double blow. A 3,000 gate, a record for a reserve match, saw Glastonbury crush the life out of Town, and hours later manager Alec Stock announced that he had accepted the post of Secretary-manager of Leyton Orient. It was the beginning of the break up of the Cup side, as within days, Plymouth Argyle sniffed blood and came in with a bid of £1,750 for Eric Bryant. It was rejected but the omens were not good, and Stan Abbott was left to take over the reigns for the Weymouth league game.

The board announced that they were not going to hurry to replace Stock, and rumours began to fly that both Charlie Mitten and Jim Delaney from Manchester United were interested. Whoever took the job would need to be strong, as the team was rapidly gaining a reputation for rough play and the game with Weymouth in front of 11,000 fans, did not dispel that view. Their tactics against both Hereford and Hastings provoked boos from the crowd, and the press stated that their avowed intent "to play the man and not the ball is unsportsmanlike". The response to the advert for a player-manager was disappointing, with just one current League player applying, but the same advert in the Manchester press was more successful in numbers, if not in standard. At one point the board considered offering top scale wages to entice a big name player who would take over a team who were top of the league. Crowds were still around the 7,000 mark, but many were angry when hero Bryant was put on the transfer list, albeit at his request. Within days Argyle had upped their offer to around £3,000 and he was gone, the club having lost its influential manager and top scorer within weeks of each other, and all this whilst top of the Southern League.

In the end they appointed George Paterson, a 35 year old Scot who had been at Brentford since coming south. A wing-half, he gained a single cap for his country in peace time, plus several more unofficially and during fourteen seasons at

## Season 1949-1950

Aug	20th	Kidderminster Har	H	Southern League	8-0	Bryant 5, Coffey 2, Wright
	24th	Weymouth	A	" "	4-1	Foulds, Hickman, Wright, og
	27th	Tonbridge AFC	H	" "	5-0	Wright 2, Foulds, Coffey, Bryant
Sept	3rd	Kidderminster Har	A	" "	4-4	Bryant, Davis, Hamilton, Foulds
	7th	Weymouth	H	" "	2-2	Wright, Bryant
	10th	Dartford	H	" "	3-0	Bryant 2, Coffey
	14th	Hastings United	A	" "	1-3	Hargreaves
	17th	Hereford United	H	" "	1-0	Bryant
	21st	Barry Town	H	" "	3-0	Bryant 2, Hamilton
	24th	Lovells Athletic	H	" "	5-1	Bryant 2, Foulds 2, Wright
Oct	1st	Weston-S-Mare	A	Friendly	3-0	Phillips 2, Wright
	8th	Worcester City	H	Southern League	1-1	Wright
	13th	Gloucester City	A	South LC Prel Rd	0-4	
	15th	Guildford City	H	Southern League	3-1	Wright, Mansley pen, Phillips
	22nd	Colchester United	A	" "	1-2	Foulds
	29th	Merthyr Tydfil	H	" "	3-1	Wright, Foulds, Mansley
Nov	5th	Chingford Town	H	" "	9-0	Foulds 3, Mansley 3, D Haines 2, Hamilton
	12th	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	3-1	Wright, Hamilton, Mansley
	19th	Chelmsford City	H	" "	3-0	Foulds 2, Paterson
	26th	Romford	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	4-1	Mansley 2, Wright, Foulds
Dec	3rd	Cheltenham Town	A	Southern League	4-3	Mansley 2, Foulds, Hamilton
	10th	Gillingham	H	FA Cup 2nd Rd	3-1	Mansley, Foulds, Wright
	17th	Merthyr Tydfil	A	Southern League	0-1	
	24th	Bath City	A	" "	2-0	Foulds, Hamilton
	26th	Bath City	H	" "	1-0	Mansley pen
	31st	Gillingham	A	" "	1-0	og
Jan	7th	Chesterfield	A	FA Cup 3rd Rd	1-3	Mansley pen
	14th	Chingford Town	H	Southern League	2-0	Mansley, Rae
	21st	Worcester City	A	" "	1-2	Mansley
	28th	Headington United	H	" "	0-0	
Feb	4th	Bedford Town	A	" "	1-0	Mansley
	11th	Reading	H	Friendly	5-1	Phillips 3, Foulds, Wright
	25th	Bedford Town	H	Southern League	4-0	Foulds, Rae, Wright, Phillips
Mar	4th	Torquay Utd Res	H	" "	2-0	Phillips, Rae
	8th	Bath City	H	Som Pro Cup	4-0	Wright, Phillips, Rae, Mansley pen
	11th	Lovells Athletic	A	Southern League	2-1	Wright, Foulds
	18th	Guildford City	A	" "	1-1	Wright
	23rd	Hastings United	H	" "	5-1	Hamilton, Foulds, Mansley 2, Wright
	25th	Gillingham	H	" "	2-1	Foulds, Hamilton
	29th	Tonbridge AFC	A	" "	1-0	Mansley
April	1st	Colchester United	H	" "	1-0	Mansley
	4th	Celtic	H	Friendly	2-0	Mansley, Hamilton
	5th	Gloucester City	H	Southern League	3-0	Mansley 2, Hamilton
	7th	Headington United	A	" "	1-1	Mansley
	8th	Exeter City Res	H	" "	2-0	Wright, Phillips
	10th	Exeter City Res	A	" "	2-1	Wright, Hamilton
	12th	Chelmsford City	A	" "	0-3	
	15th	Cheltenham Town	H	" "	0-1	
	17th	Bristol City	H	Somerset Pro Cup semi-final	3-1	Foulds, Phillips, Mansley
	19th	Swindon Town	A	Yeovil Chall Cup	1-4	Foulds
	22nd	Gravesend & N	H	Southern League	4-1	Phillips 2, Wright 2

## Season 1949-1950 – continued

	24th	Barry Town	A	" "	0-1	
	29th	Dartford	A	" "	2-2	Mansley, Hamilton
May	1st	Gloucester City	A	" "	0-4	
	3rd	Gravesend & N	A	" "	1-2	Foulds
	6th	Hereford United	A	" "	0-2	
		Glastonbury	A	Somerset Pro Cup Final	6-1	Wright 2, Mansley 2, Hickman pen, Hamilton

## Reserves – Season 1949-1950

Aug	20th	Bristol Rovers Colts	H	Western Div 1	0-0	
	27th	Paulton Rovers	A	" "	2-1	Phillips, Hayward
Sept	3rd	Glastonbury	A	" "	0-4	C Hayward
	8th	Portland United	A	" "	3-0	Hargreaves, Coffey, Phillip
	10th	Wells City	H	" "	1-1	Phillips
	15th	Portland United	A	" "	1-0	Wright
Oct	1st	Bristol Rovers Colts	A	" "	2-1	Bryant 2
	8th	Chippenham United	H	" "	1-1	Palmer
	22nd	Chippenham Town	A	" "	2-5	Hayward, Hargreaves
	29th	Clandown	A	" "	2-1	Phillips 2
Nov	12th	Peasedown MW	H	" "	3-1	J Haines, Hayward, Phillips
	19th	Street	A	" "	1-1	Phillips
Dec	3rd	Cheltenham Town	H	" "	3-3	Hayward, Coffey, Hargreaves
	17th	Wells City	H	" "	1-11	Hayward
	24th	Bath City Res	H	" "	4-2	Hawkins, Phillips, Hayward, Hargreaves
	26th	Bath City Res	A	" "	6-1	Hargreaves 3, J Haines 3
	31st	Poole Town	H	" "	0-2	
Jan	21st	Trowbridge Town	A	" "	1-0	Phillips
	28th	Soundwell	H	" "	1-0	Phillips
Feb	4th	Chippenham Unt	H	" "	1-4	Buttle
	18th	Paulton Rovers	H	" "	2-0	Rae, Stone
Mar	4th	Chippenham Town	A	" "	2-4	J Haines, Hawkins
	11th	Street	A	" "	0-2	
	18th	Salisbury City	H	" "	2-1	James 2
	25th	Glastonbury	H	" "	1-3	Rae
April	7th	Poole Town	A	" "	1-8	Rae
	8th	Weymouth Res	H	" "	0-3	
	10th	Weymouth Res	H	" "	0-12	
	12th	Clandown	H	" "	2-3	Harris, Francis
	15th	Cheltenham T Res	A	" "	1-8	Hawkins
	22nd	Trowbridge Town	H	" "	1-6	Harper (pen)
	28th	Salisbury City	H	" "	1-4	James
	29th	Soundwell	A	" "	5-3	James 3, Rogers, Hargreaves (pen)
May	1st	Peasedown MW	A	" "	2-5	Hargreaves, Stevens

Celtic had gained an MA degree. Paterson was told that no more players would be allowed to leave Huish, and that included the much sought after Les Blizzard, who was rumoured to want to join Alec Stock at Leyton Orient.

The forward line was non-existent against Gloucester City, but Cliff Mansley came in and did well as the new manager prepared for his first taste of the FA Cup, at home to Romford again. An astonishing 12,000 turned up for the match against the amateurs from Essex and with Rovers, City and Exeter all away, the third highest gate in the club's history watched a one sided encounter won by the new attack of Mansley, Wright and Foulds.

It brought Gillingham to Huish for the 2nd Round, but in truth the opposition was irrelevant as Cup fever came back in waves. With an hour to kick-off there were nearly 12,000 crammed in and they watched Dickie Dyke thwart the reputed £40,000 Gills attack with a magnificent display of shot stopping.

Two goals in four minutes at the other end sealed a place in the Third Round once again. Dreams of Arsenal, Manchester United or Liverpool at home were soon shattered as the reality of Chesterfield away dawned. The side celebrated with three league wins over Christmas and Paterson signed John Rae, another Scot from Celtic, as cover on the right wing. Before the tie the club propaganda machine again went into action, warning that the expected 13,000 crowd at Saltergate would barely cover expenses. It was another disgracefully immoral way to try to ensure crowds remained at the level they had, but it was not necessary, as in the end 2,000 Yeovil fans were amongst some 24,288 which witnessed a 3-1 defeat, a result which had Paterson stating that he "did nae know whether to laugh or cry". His team received a sporting ovation at the end, but despite reaching the Third Round and enjoying two huge home crowds, again the anti-climax was felt by all. The average attendance at Huish had virtually doubled in eighteen months and they had enjoyed regular 8,000 crowds, but they knew that there was still four months to go and if the title race did not inspire the public, then many would drift away until next August.

All involved at the club were given a boost in February when Football League clubs asked to extend both Division 3's by two clubs. There had been no change since 1938, but both Gillingham and Colchester were bankers to go up, but Yeovil sensed a way in. The board stated that Huish was equal to, and in some places better than, some League grounds and with good gates and sound finances there was no reason why the club should not go up. Once again the committee propaganda machine was up and running, almost in one breath warning that if gates dipped they would be in trouble, but then reassuring the League that all was well at Huish. On the field Paterson's men were still in with a chance of the title, and having gone a year unbeaten at home much praise was rightly heaped upon the miserly defence which did not concede more than one goal a game

#### Western League 1949-1950

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wells City	34	22	7	5	87	43	51
Poole Town	34	22	7	5	88	45	51
Glastonbury	34	23	4	7	78	38	50
Trowbridge Town	34	22	5	7	104	40	49
Cheltenham T Res	34	21	4	9	91	58	46
Chippenham United	34	16	8	10	57	49	40
Bristol Rovers Colts	34	15	7	12	54	50	37
Chippenham Town	34	13	7	14	77	70	33
Street	34	12	9	13	71	75	33
Weymouth Res	34	13	5	16	67	49	31
Salisbury City	34	14	3	17	64	66	31
Yeovil Town Res	34	13	5	16	55	102	31
Paulton Rovers	34	12	3	19	60	76	27
Peasedown MW	34	8	9	17	56	82	25
Portland United	34	8	6	20	44	74	22
Clandown	34	8	5	21	46	80	21
Soundwell	34	6	6	22	61	116	18
Bath City Res	34	5	6	23	45	103	16

for seventeen matches. Dickie Dyke had made the keeper's jersey his own once Stan Hall had moved on and with experienced Arthur Hickman and Ralph Davis in front of him, the title was a strong possibility. It was not all good news, for Tony Acreman, Bob Keeton and Jack Haines had all suffered illness and were out long term and it was going to be an arduous April with thirteen league games left. With a Yeovil Challenge Cup match against Swindon Town and at least one Somerset Professional Cup match as well, the last thing the squad needed were "urgent fund raising friendlies", but that is what they got just 24 hours before a gruelling Easter which saw five important league matches in seven days. Manager Paterson had persuaded Glasgow Celtic to bring down a side to play, although he did not particularly want it 24 hours before a home match with Gloucester City. Only 5,000 turned up to watch, a similar number coming back a day later, which negated the point of the exercise and only served to add a burden on the players, a point not lost on the press who published a letter from a disgruntled supporter saying as much. Easter was successful with two wins and a draw, but it drained the squad who could not maintain such a punishing schedule and three defeats in the next four league games, sandwiched between the meaningless Swindon match and a Pro Cup tie with Bristol City, handed the league to Merthyr Tydfil on a plate. Three defeats in a week finished off the fixtures and saw that the runners up spot went to Colchester United in their last season as a non-League club. The lunacy of the last month's fixture pile-up and the folly in adding to it was another string to the supporters' bow, who were fast becoming dissolutioned with the Football Club's mismanagement. They had also looked on in anguish as the reserves had fallen apart in April, 37 goals having been conceded in just six games. It was a sad end to a curious season which saw the end of Alec Stock and the loss of a title which they could and should have won.

The club's Football League application was looked at with more optimism than ever before during the summer, with the extension of the division, which meant that team building was delayed to see which league they would be in, with the subsequent knock on effect for the reserves as well. They would not be allowed into the Southern League or the Football Combination and the Western League would then become too weak to sustain a reserve side from the Football League. A Colts side was also of prime importance, as towards the end of the previous April it was a struggle to field an eleven in the reserves.

#### Southern League 1949-1950

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Merthyr Tydfil	46	34	3	9	143	62	71
Colchester United	46	31	9	6	109	51	71
Yeovil Town	46	29	7	10	104	45	65
Chelmsford City	46	26	9	11	121	64	61
Gillingham	46	23	9	14	92	61	55
Dartford	46	20	9	17	70	65	49
Worcester City	46	21	7	18	85	80	49
Guildford City	46	18	11	17	79	73	47
Weymouth	46	19	9	18	80	81	47
Barry Town	46	18	10	18	78	72	46
Exeter City Res	46	16	14	16	73	83	46
Lovells Athletic	46	17	10	19	86	78	44
Tonbridge AFC	46	16	12	18	65	76	44
Hastings United	46	17	8	21	92	140	42
Gracesend & N	46	16	9	21	88	81	41
Torquay Utd Res	46	14	12	20	80	89	40
Bath City	46	16	7	23	61	78	39
Gloucester City	46	14	11	21	72	101	39
Hereford United	46	15	8	23	74	76	38
Cheltenham Town	46	13	11	22	75	96	37
Headington United	46	15	7	24	72	97	37
Bedford Town	46	12	11	23	63	79	35
Kidderminster Harr	46	12	11	23	64	108	35
Chingford Town	46	10	6	30	63	151	26



The new third team applied for and got into Division Two South of the Somerset Senior League in June, around the time that the various AGM's heard that gates had doubled in two seasons and the club had a balance of nearly £4,500 in the kitty. Paterson's team building was going in reverse in June, as the club lost Les Blizzard to Leyton Orient as had been expected for some time. It did not please the Supporters' Club, but at least they would not move up into the League without him, as the club gained just one vote again, and that from Leicester City. Gillingham and Colchester gained 72 votes between them to be promoted, with Worcester City next nearest with 11.

#### First Team Appearances 1949-50

A Hickman, R Hamilton 56, R Davis 54, D Dyke, A Foulds 53, R Wright 52, C Mansley 50, L Blizzard 48, D Haines 40, G Paterson 37, L Phillips 31, R Keeton 24, C Coffey 12, J Rae 11, E Bryant 10, K Francis, D Affleck 7, J Haines, J Hargreaves, C Turner, K Hayward 3, N Collins 2, R Rogers 1

#### First Team Scorers 1949-50

C Mansley 28, R Wright 23, A Foulds 22, E Bryant 15, R Hamilton 12, L Phillips 8, J Rae, C Coffey 4, A Hickman, D Haines, og's 2, R Davis, J Hargreaves, G Paterson 1

#### Known reserve scorers 1949-50

J Hargreaves 9, L Phillips 8, K Hayward, James 6, J Haines 5, Hawkins, J Rae 3, C Coffey, E Bryant 2, R Wright, W Palmer, Buttle, Stone, Harris, K Francis, Harper, Rogers, Stevens 1

### "Paterson in Stocks shoes...."

So it was the same again for the new term, with the Supporters' Club announcing that they would help fund the new Colts, their membership of 5,100 meaning that they could boast a bank account almost as impressive as the parent club. They were, however, still being frustrated by the refusal of the Ministry of Works to grant them a licence to cover the North Terrace, as they had the funds and the manpower to complete the task.

Paterson's signings soon mounted up, William Corbett, a Scottish International centre-half came to Huish, having cost Leicester City £10,000 when he signed for them from Preston North End. He played just 35 League games in that short career before the lure of a house in the town, financed by the committee, brought him south. He was joined by another Scot, Tom Dougall, whose five match League career was spread between Coventry City, Brentford and Sunderland over three years. Paterson certainly was in need of a centre-forward at that stage, as Ken Hayward had announced his retirement at the age of 27, possibly due to impending matrimonies, and Lionel Phillips was injured and also awaiting National Service call up.

In the end Hayward combined both interests, scoring twice in the first trial and then getting married, but the new season started badly in Kent, with the side going 3-0 down at Gravesend inside 25 minutes, a late rally proving insufficient. Town enjoyed a run of five matches unbeaten, but the paucity of goals was a real problem until Joe Rae began to find the net in October.

Amidst the gloom, one story shone out concerning a young Colts player Peter Purchase who returned from a ten day Irish holiday unaware if he was playing or not. On being unable to contact the club he set out to cycle the 220 miles from Liverpool to Yeovil, and with the help of a couple of lifts in lorries, he arrived in time to snatch a brief snooze and a cup of tea before playing for the Colts. At the other end of the scale, Bert Grist, then Chard Town's groundsman, turned out for Yeovil Reserves

#### Season 1950-1951

Aug	19th	Gravesend & N	A	Southern League	2-3	Foulds, Wright
	26th	Gloucester City	H	" "	1-0	Hamilton
	30th	Hastings United	A	" "	1-1	Phillips
Sept	2nd	Llanelly	A	" "	0-0	
	6th	Dartford	H	" "	2-1	Phillips, Hamilton
	9th	Llanelly	H	" "	1-1	Rae
	16th	Guildford City	A	" "	0-1	
	20th	Tonbridge AFC	A	" "	3-0	Rae 3
	23rd	Chelmsford City	H	" "	0-2	
	27th	Merthyr Tydfil	H	" "	1-1	Phillips
Oct	7th	Cheltenham Town	H	" "	0-1	
	14th	Lovells Athletic	A	" "	2-2	Mansley 2 (1pen)
	21st	Bedford Town	H	" "	6-0	Rae 4, Mansley, Wright
	26th	Chingford Town	A	" "	2-0	Rae, Phillips
	28th	Bath City	A	" "	0-0	
Nov	4th	Barry Town	H	" "	3-0	Rae 2, Phillips
	11th	Cheltenham Town	H	FA Cup 4th Qual	2-4	Rae 2
	14th	Llanelly	A	South LC Qual	3-2	Rae 3
	18th	Kidderminster Harr	A	Southern League	1-1	Mansley
	25th	Chingford Town	H	" "	3-0	Rae 3
Dec	2nd	Headington United	A	" "	1-1	Hamilton
	9th	Hastings United	H	" "	5-3	Rae 3, Mansley 2
	16th	Dartford	A	" "	2-2	Mansley, Rae
	23rd	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	0-3	
	25th	Weymouth	A	" "	1-1	Mansley
	26th	Weymouth	H	" "	2-2	Wright, Rae
	30th	Tonbridge AFC	H	" "	5-0	Rae, Wright 2, Mansley 2
Jan	13th	Headington United	H	" "	1-4	Dougall
	20th	Worcester City	A	" "	2-3	Mansley, og
	25th	Merthyr Tydfil	A	" "	0-6	
	27th	Gravesend & N	H	" "	3-2	Rae, Wright, C Hayward
Feb	1st	Kidderminster Harr	H	South LC 1st Rd	0-2	
	3rd	Gloucester City	A	Southern League	0-2	
	8th	Kettering Town	H	" "	2-3	Phillips, Conaghan
	10th	Bournemouth & BA	H	Friendly	2-3	Phillips, Rae
	17th	Torquay Utd Res	H	Southern League	1-1	Wright
	24th	Guildford City	H	" "	1-1	Paterson
Mar	3rd	Chelmsford City	A	" "	0-3	
	8th	Hereford United	H	" "	1-2	C Hayward
	10th	Worcester City	H	" "	5-0	Wright 3, Phillips, Hamilton
	17th	Cheltenham Town	A	" "	1-1	Rae
	23rd	Exeter City Res	A	" "	1-5	Phillips
	24th	Lovells Athletic	H	" "	3-1	Rae 2, og
	26th	Weston-S-Mare	H	Som Prem Cup 1	7-0	Rae, K Hayward, Wright 2, Phillips 2, og
	31st	Bedford Town	A	Southern League	0-1	
April	7th	Bath City	H	" "	3-1	K Hayward, Wright, og
	12th	Exeter City Res	H	" "	2-1	Wright, Rae
	14th	Barry Town	A	" "	0-2	
	16th	Kilmarnock	H	Friendly	1-1	Wright
	21st	Kettering Town	A	Southern League	2-2	Rae, K Hayward
	22nd	Wells City	A	Som Professional Cup Semi-Final	0-0	
	25th	Swindon Town	H	Yeovil Chall Cup	0-0	Lost on spin og coin
	28th	Kidderminster Harr	H	Southern League	4-2	Rae 3, Wright
	30th	Plymouth Argyle	H	Friendly	1-3	Hamilton
May	2nd	Wells City	H	Som Pro. Cup Semi-final Replay	3-1	Mansley pen, Wright, Conaghan
	5th	Aberdeen	H	Friendly	0-4	
	12th	Hereford United	A	Southern League	1-4	Rigden
	12th	Bridgwater Town	H	Somerset Pro.Cup Final	5-1	Phillips 2, Mansley 2, Rogers

## Reserves – Season 1950-1951

Aug	19th	Weymouth Res	H	Western Div 1	2-0	Phillips 2
	23rd	Dorchester Town	A	" "	0-3	
	26th	Clandown	A	" "	2-0	Phillips, K Hayward
Sept	9th	Salisbury	A	" "	1-2	C Hayward
	13th	Barnstaple Town	A	" "	0-2	
	16th	Bristol Rovers Colts	H	" "	0-3	
	23rd	Glastonbury	A	" "	1-5	Conaghan
	30th	Bristol Rovers Colts	A	" "	2-2	Mansley, Rae
Oct	7th	Chippenham Town	A	" "	0-0	
	14th	Paulton Rovers	H	" "	1-2	Scott
Nov	4th	Cheltenham T Res	A	" "	0-3	
	11th	Chippenham Utd	A	" "	1-5	K Hayward
	18th	Trowbridge Town	H	" "	3-4	Phillips 2, G Hayward
	25th	Wells City	A	" "	0-6	
Dec	2nd	Portland United	H	" "	5-1	K Hayward 3, Dougall, og
	23rd	Chippenham Town	H	" "	2-3	Phillips, K Hayward
	26th	Weymouth Res	A	" "	1-0	Phillips
Jan	6th	Salisbury	H	" "	1-4	Rogers
	13th	Paulton Rovers	A	" "	1-5	Scott
	20th	Clandown	H	" "	1-0	Rigden
March	3rd	Barnstaple Town	H	" "	0-1	
	17th	Wells City	H	" "	0-2	
	23rd	Poole Town	A	" "	0-2	
	24th	Peasedown MW	A	" "	3-4	Rigden 2, Conaghan
	31st	Cheltenham T Res	H	" "	0-1	
April	2nd	Dorchester Town	H	" "	1-1	Rae
	4th	Trowbridge Town	A	" "	3-4	Rae 2, Wright
	18th	Street	H	" "	0-2	
	21st	Chippenham Utd	H	" "	1-2	C Hayward
	25th	Poole Town	H	" "	1-0	James
	28th	Street	A	" "	2-3	C Hayward, Rigden
May	5th	Peasedown MW	H	" "	2-0	James, Hamilton
	10th	Glastonbury	H	" "	1-0	og
	12th	Portland United	A	" "	0-7	

in a charity game when they were a man short, some twenty years after playing his last game for the club. Bert played for Yeovil and Petters United from 1927-1931. One man who had definitely played his last game for the Glovers was Albert Foulds, who was given a free transfer and joined Rochdale, days after an incident at a club had caused him to be arrested and charged with being drunk and disorderly. By that time there was no little criticism of the team in the press, as they had been heralded as one of the best sides on paper, but until the introduction of Joe Rae, had won one game in seven. The defence was still holding up well as the all important FA Cup came around, having not conceded a goal for four games and with Rae knocking in seven goals in that time, morale had lifted for the tie against Cheltenham Town. The usual huge Huish FA Cup crowd was down to 8,400 on the day which started badly for the Gloucestershire side but got better. The £60 a week part-timers coach broke down on the way to the game, leaving the players to walk to the nearest village, Pensford, where luckily there was another coach firm who got them to Huish just in time. It seemed that it would all be in vain as Yeovil went 2-0 up in half an hour, but the home supporters were stunned when their side collapsed to lose 4-2. Chairman Bert Smith did not mess about, describing the performance as "pathetic". As usual the word was financial panic at the prospect of there being heavy losses due to the lack of a Cup run. With no star players to off load and a Western League side struggling without a win for ten games it was a bleak time for Town, with only the Colts, playing at Lyde Road, having anything resembling success.

Two weeks after the Cheltenham debacle, Paterson blooded

## Colts – Season 1950-1951

Aug	19th	Crewkerne Town	A	Som Sen Div 2S	4-2
	26th	Minehead Res	H	" "	3-1
	30th	RNAS Yeovilton	A	" "	0-1
Sept	2nd	Taunton Res	H	" "	1-0
	9th	Chard Town Res	H	" "	4-3
	16th	Alcombe Rovers	A	" "	0-4
	23rd	Porlock	H	" "	7-2
Oct	7th	Minehead Res	A	" "	3-5
	21st	Crewkerne Town	H	" "	2-3
	28th	Burnham Utd Res	A	" "	4-1
Nov	4th	Taunton BR	A	Som Sen Cup 1	3-6
	11th	Chard Town Res	A	Som Sen Div 2S	2-1
	18th	Watchet Town Res	H	" "	10-2
Dec	25th	Ilminster Town Res	H	" "	5-2
	26th	Ilminster Town Res	A	" "	1-5
Jan	6th	Taunton BR Res	H	" "	5-3
Feb	3rd	Williton	A	" "	3-1
	17th	East Coker	A	Yeo Hosp Cup 1	3-1
	24th	Taunton BR Res	A	Som Sen Div 2S	5-1
Mar	3rd	Watchet Town Res	A	" "	2-1
	10th	RAF Watchet	H	" "	5-1
	23rd	Taunton Res	A	" "	2-4
	24th	Williton	H	" "	1-2
	26th	Alcombe Rovers	H	" "	4-1
April	7th	Bridgwater T Res	H	" "	1-5
	14th	Highbridge Town	A	" "	2-1
	25th	RNAS Yeovilton	H	" "	1-3
	28th	RAF Watchet	A	" "	4-5
May	5th	Highbridge Town	H	" "	-

young Cyril Hayward, younger brother of Ken and son of Johnny, in the game at home to struggling Chingford, but Rae's hat-trick in the match, and indeed the win at Chingford earlier, counted for nothing as a week later they folded with huge debts. With a wage bill of £80 and only £30 coming in through the gates, it was forlorn and indeed Yeovil's Supporters' Club paid Chingford's expenses to get them down to Somerset, rather than lose the fixture and the revenue. The loss of the four points was a bitter blow, as was the decision of the FA to warn of dire consequences after a linesman was hit by a bottle and fans ran on to the pitch where the referee was struck, in a home reserve match with Paulton Rovers. Form picked up as December came in and at one point the club was lying fifth having lost only one league game in nine, but the slump and loss of finance meant that squad players were forced to leave and the Haines brothers both moved on to Newport County, where they played around 100 times between them in their League careers. Ever mindful of the financial struggle, the Supporter's Club gifted the Parent club £1,000 at Christmas, possibly with the thought that the side would not be broken up because of it. The board had already blamed the Southern League's fixture chaos for their plight, demanding that alternate home and away fixtures must be brought in and complaining that fellow members were forced to play in early rounds of the Cup, losing them Saturday fixtures and causing a pile up at the end. There was also talk of a new London League which was suggested to take the cream of the Southern League as well as the possibility of the Football Combination reverting to two divisions again, which would see Yeovil playing predominantly League reserve sides again, something they left behind before the War.

Something needed to be done to shake up the whole set up but in the end it was the exclusion of around 250 smaller clubs from the competition by extending the criteria for entry, that caught the eye.

## Southern League 1950-1951

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Merthyr Tydfil	44	29	8	7	156	66	66
Hereford United	44	27	7	10	110	69	61
Guildford City	44	23	8	13	88	60	54
Chelmsford City	44	21	12	11	84	58	54
Llanelli	44	19	13	12	89	73	51
Cheltenham Town	44	21	8	15	91	61	50
Headington United	44	18	11	15	83	84	47
Torquay Utd Res	44	20	6	18	93	79	46
Exeter City Res	44	16	12	16	90	94	44
Weymouth	44	16	12	16	82	88	44
Tonbridge AFC	44	16	12	16	79	87	44
Gloucester City	44	16	11	17	81	76	43
Yeovil Town	44	13	15	16	72	72	41
Worcester City	44	15	11	18	69	78	41
Bath City	44	15	10	19	66	73	40
Dartford	44	14	11	19	61	70	39
Bedford Town	44	15	9	20	64	94	39
Gravesend & N	44	12	14	18	65	83	38
Kettering Town	44	13	11	20	87	87	37
Lovells Athletic	44	12	13	19	81	93	37
Kidderminster Harr	44	13	9	22	58	103	35
Barry Town	44	13	7	24	54	104	33
Hastings United	44	11	6	27	91	143	28

## Western League Div 1 – 1950-1951

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glastonbury	34	26	6	2	102	27	58
Wells City	34	22	9	3	83	39	53
Chippenham Town	34	18	8	8	86	48	44
Chippenham United	34	18	6	10	72	44	42
Trowbridge Town	34	17	7	10	83	49	41
Barnstaple Town	34	18	4	12	71	62	40
Poole Town	34	18	3	13	71	71	39
Salisbury	34	14	7	12	65	55	35
Dorchester Town	34	13	8	13	64	58	34
Street	34	13	8	13	74	69	34
Weymouth Res	34	13	6	15	54	56	32
Cheltenham T Res	34	12	7	15	56	46	31
Bristol Rovers Colts	34	11	8	15	60	85	30
Clandown	34	10	9	15	49	58	29
Paulton Rovers	34	9	9	16	62	75	27
Portland United	34	6	7	21	56	112	19
Yeovil Town Res	34	8	3	23	38	79	19
Peasedown MW	34	1	3	30	25	123	5

The new year started dismally with three defeats, the last a 6-0 loss at Merthyr after Dickie Dyke had fractured his shoulder after 20 minutes. Yeovil lost their League Cup tie with Kidderminster Harriers and a week later the league match with Kettering attracted just 1000 people, as gates dwindled yet again in the face of apathy. "The post-War boom is well and truly over", stated Chairman Smith with some certainty, although a number of mediocre seasons in the bread and butter league games plus a dire reserve side had seen to it that the ever eager Yeovilians had become very selective with their viewing.

The Colts had entered both the Somerset Senior Cup and the Yeovil Hospital Cup to boost a somewhat flimsy fixture list, but despite beating East Coker in the latter, they did not progress as they had not registered the players before hand. The club appealed, stating that the forms were delivered by hand, but the County Commission was having none of it and

Somerset Senior Division 2 South  
1950-1951

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bridgwater Tn Res	30	23	4	3	139	44	50
Williton	30	18	5	7	97	57	41
Crewkerne Town	30	17	5	8	114	43	39
Yeovil Town Colts	30	18	0	12	91	75	36
Taunton Res	30	16	4	10	89	75	36
RNAS	30	16	3	11	96	72	35
Minehead Res	30	13	6	11	75	65	32
Alcombe Rovers	30	13	2	15	78	87	28
RAF Watchet	30	10	6	14	94	95	26
Highbridge Res	30	10	6	14	60	102	26
Chard Town Res	30	10	5	15	90	94	25
Watchet Town Res	30	10	3	17	87	111	23
Ilminster Town Res	30	9	4	17	69	95	22
Taunton BR Res	30	8	3	19	64	102	19
Burnham Utd Res	30	9	1	20	46	111	19
Porlock	30	4	5	21	51	99	13

threw it out, enraging Bert Smith, who had enlisted the help of the local CID to locate the missing forms! With masterful understatement a police officer declared that the forms were of no value and as such their enquiries would not be continuing. Smith retorted by announcing that his club would "never again enter another Yeovil League competition". Three months later the club applied to go into the Yeovil League.

Arthur Hickman waved farewell to a long career at Huish, when he went off to manage a pub in Glastonbury and Lionel Phillips joined the RAF on April 4th, as things ground to a halt the club finding a modicum of success with a win over Bridgwater in the Professional Cup final.

Paterson's side ended with twelve players on the transfer list after the most disastrous season for years. "Lack of support and a heavy financial loss" were the reasons given for the decision, with only Bobby Hamilton, Ralph Davis, Cliff Mansley, Brian Saville and Lionel Phillips retained. It provoked some angry letters in the press, with supporters railing on Bert Smith and his board for once again blaming the supporters for the mistakes made by board and management. The loss of Les Blizzard was still felt by the public who nevertheless numbered over 5,000 for the final against Bridgwater and the fund raising friendly with Aberdeen, managed by David Halliday.

The last two reserve games epitomised the bumbling nature of the club at that time, for with two matches to go, one against the all conquering Glastonbury, they were informed that one win would be good enough to once again avoid relegation. An own goal brought a narrow win over the champions, albeit courtesy of the full first team, but a weak eleven travelled to Portland and were beaten 7-0, returning to the news that they had indeed been relegated by .491 of a goal. It was the final humiliation.

The cause of the calamitous campaign was debated heartily at the various AGM's, the Supporter's Club wanting to know how, with a professional strength larger than ever, they could have underachieved so badly. There was a train of thought that a couple of inside forwards should have been brought in, rather than tying up money by luring William Corbett. The wrangling went on, losses of £1,300 were blamed on bad weather, an unsatisfactory fixture list and the FA Cup loss and when the Supporter's Club and the Football Club clashed over the poll vote for board places, it seemed that things could not get any worse. In July Bert Smith resigned as chairman, leaving the way for Bill Farthing, a director since the company was set up, to take over. George Paterson's brief was simple, ignore all that was going on, prepare a squad which could not

only reach the money stages of the FA Cup but challenge for the Southern League and gain promotion back to the First Division of the Western League, and all against a background of bickering and small-mindedness.

#### First Team Appearances 1950-51

R Hamilton 56, C Mansley 55, R Wright 53, W Corbett 52, A Hickman 48, J Rae 47, R Davis 46, G Paterson 42, C Turner 35, R Keeton 34, L Phillips 31, K Hayward 26, D Dyke 21, W Dougall 18, Parker 14, Conaghan 13, B Saville, J Haines 11, C Hayward 10, R Rogers 4, D Affleck 3, A Foulds 2, Gard, Abbott, Scott, Rigdon, James, C Hayward 1

#### First team scorers 1950-51

J Rae 36, R Wright 16, C Mansley 14, L Phillips 12, og's 4, K Hayward 3, C Hayward, Conaghan 2, A Foulds, W Dougall, G Paterson, Rigden, Rogers 1

#### Reserve scorers 1950-51

L Phillips 7, K Hayward 6, J Rae, Rigdon 4, C Hayward 3, Scott, og's, Conaghan, James 2, R Wright, C Mansley, W Dougall, G Hayward, Rogers, R Hamilton 1

Paterson's orders to dismantle and rebuild for the 1951-52 season were a little easier to complete with no change of league on the horizon. Dickie Dyke had retired briefly due to an injury, leaving the manager to bring in 30 year old Don Clegg, who had had a couple of dozen matches for Huddersfield Town, Bury and Stoke City. In front of him would be Peter McGuinn, a young centre-half from Sunderland, and Hugh Colvan, another Scot who had played in his native country for Hibs as well as over the water for Derry City, his lone League appearance being for Rochdale. To those Paterson added Alan Short, a striker from

Exeter who had served in the Parachute Regiment in Palestine, James Bury, Bill Bird, a wing-half from the Welsh League, Norman Case, a centre-forward on loan from Watford and David Lindsay, a 26 year old full back with 50 odd appearances under his belt for Southend United. As usual for Yeovil it was a squad with a heavy accent on Scottish players, with a sprinkling of Welsh and Irish for good measure and as always the supporters, starved throughout the summer of football, returned to Huish for the start, 6,500 seeing the game with Chelmsford City. No sooner had Paterson's side racked up a few league victories and progressed in the League Cup, than they were hit by a string of injuries, forcing him to sign David Neville, a full back who had not made the grade for Bournemouth or Chelsea, but had had spells with Paget Rangers and Burton Albion. Some four years later Neville would make his one and only League appearance, for Rochdale.

The forward line with Hugh Colvan leading the way, was firing well, Norman Case and the ever reliable Ray Wright proving excellent back-ups. In October, Yeovil met Weymouth in an eagerly anticipated local derby watched by a staggering 11,000, just a month before the two sides battled it out for a place in the First Round of the FA Cup. It finished 2-2, but the Cup tie saw Yeovil in a different mood, as they had been forced to wave farewell to manager George Paterson, who had been offered the manager's job with Stirling Albion. Their offer of a five year contract was too much to resist and despite saying he would stay while the club were in the Cup, he was released anyway, as was long serving Dave Affleck, who signed for Wells City.

The home tie was expected to attract 15,000 to Huish, and in the end a healthy 13,600 packed in to watch a 1-1 draw. The



**Yeovil Town F.C. 1951-52**

Back Row (l to r): Case, Bird, Lindsay, Clegg, McQuinn, Wright, Aldred, Abbott (trainer).  
Front Row: Hamilton, Colvin, Paterson, Mansley, Davis, with their young mascot (Johnnie Purnell) sitting in front.





Top: Chelmsford's goalkeeper, Purdle, lies helplessly on the ground as the ball speeds towards the net during the match with Chelmsford at Huish, which Yeovil won 4-1 on 18th August 1951.



Left: Corbett, Weymouth's goalkeeper, saves confidently an attempt by Case, Yeovil centre-forward during the Southern League thriller which drew a record gate at Huish for a League match on 13th October 1951.

Bottom: Twerton Park under a sea of mud on May 5th 1952 for the Somerset Professional Cup semi-final second replay with Bath City.





## Season 1951-1952

Aug	18th	Chelmsford City	H	Southern League	4-1	Wright 2, Colvan, Hamilton
	22nd	Kidderminster Harr	A	Southern League	0-2	
	25th	Lovells Athletic	H	SLC Q Rd 1st L	5-2	Case 3, Wright, Colvan
Sept	1st	Llanely	A	Southern League	1-1	Rigden
	6th	Lovells Athletic	A	SLC Q Rd 2nd L	2-3	Aldred, Colvan
	8th	Gloucester City	H	Southern League	3-1	Aldred, Colvan, Hamilton
	13th	Llanely	H	" "	5-0	Case, Wright 3, Colvan
	15th	Merthyr Tydfil	H	" "	2-4	Mansley, Wright
	17th	Hereford United	H	" "	3-2	Wright, Colvan, Aldred
	22nd	Hereford United	A	" "	1-1	Case
	29th	Hastings United	H	" "	2-0	Colvan, Wright
Oct	3rd	Kidderminster Harr	A	South LC 1st Rd	1-0	og
	6th	Headington United	A	Southern League	3-0	Colvan, Case, og
	13th	Weymouth	H	" "	2-2	Hamilton, Colvan
	20th	Gloucester City	A	" "	0-2	
	27th	Lovells Athletic	H	" "	1-1	Short
Nov	3rd	Tonbridge AFC	A	" "	1-2	Aldred
	10th	Weymouth	H	FA Cup 4th Qual	1-1	Aldred
	14th	Weymouth	A	Replay	1-2	Colvan
	17th	Bedford Town	H	Southern League	2-2	Short, Case
	24th	Dartford	A	" "	1-0	Aldred
Dec	1st	Guildford City	H	" "	0-0	
	8th	Wells City	H	Som Pro Cup 1	2-0	Mansley, Aldred
	15th	Kidderminster Harr	H	Southern League	1-2	Case
	22nd	Hastings United	A	" "	0-3	
	26th	Exeter City Res	A	" "	1-1	Short
	29th	Cheltenham Town	H	" "	2-0	Phillips, Mansley
Jan	5th	Barry Town	H	" "	0-1	
	12th	Chelmsford City	A	" "	2-2	Aldred, Lindsay
	19th	Bath City	H	" "	1-0	Simpson
	26th	Kettering Town	A	" "	0-3	
Feb	2nd	Tonbridge AFC	H	" "	2-0	Hunter, Hamilton
	9th	Worcester City	H	" "	2-1	Lowthorpe, Simpson
	16th	Lovells Athletic	H	South LC 2nd Rd	5-1	Simpson, Colvan, Hunter (pen), Lowthorpe 2
	23rd	Cheltenham Town	A	Southern League	0-1	
Mar.	1st	Dartford	H	" "	0-2	
	6th	Hereford United	A	South LC 3rd Rd	0-2	
	8th	Gravesend & N	A	Southern League	2-2	Stenner, Hamilton
	13th	Lovells Athletic	A	" "	0-2	
	15th	Worcester City	A	" "	2-3	Colvan, Hunter
	20th	Exeter City Res	H	" "	2-1	Lowthorpe, og
	22nd	Bedford Town	A	" "	1-1	Simpson
	27th	Bath City	A	Som Prof Cup	1-1	Colvan
	29th	Fulham Res	H	Friendly	1-2	Hunter
	31st	Swindon Town	A	Yeo Chall Cup	1-7	Hunter
April	5th	Merthyr Tydfil	A	Southern League	1-4	Colvan
	11th	Weymouth	A	" "	1-2	Colvan
	12th	Bath City	A	" "	1-4	Easton
	14th	Weymouth	H	Friendly	0-4	
	19th	Barry Town	A	Southern League	0-8	
	21st	Bath City	H	Som Professional Cup		
		Aban. in extra time		Replay	0-1	
	24th	Headington United	H	Southern League	0-1	
	26th	Kettering Town	H	" "	0-0	
	28th	Southern League X1	H	Ralph Davis Bene	0-3	
	30th	Guildford City	A	Southern League	1-3	Easton
May	2nd	Leyton Orient	H	Friendly	6-1	Easton 4, Pye, Anderson
	3rd	Gravesend & N	H	Southern League	4-8	Hunter, Easton 2, Neville
	5th	Bath City	H	Som Professional Cup		
		Semi-final 2nd Replay			0-2	

## Reserves – Season 1951-1952

Aug	18th	Ilfracombe Town	A	Western Div 2	2-1	Rigden, Simpson
	25th	Weston-S-Mare	A	" "	3-2	Paterson, Conaghan, Short
Sept	1st	Bridgwater Town	H	" "	4-0	Short 2, Whitlock, C Hayward
	8th	Radstock Town	A	" "	2-7	Rigden, Simpson
	15th	Swindon Town Colts	A	" "	1-3	Short
	22nd	Bideford Town	H	" "	2-6	Whitlock, Short
Oct	6th	Peasedown MW	H	" "	3-1	Short 2, Simpson (pen)
	20th	Chippenham T Res	H	" "	1-1	C Hayward
	27th	Peasedown MW	A	" "	0-3	
Nov	3rd	Bristol City Colts	H	" "	4-1	Conaghan 3, Rigden
	17th	Chipping Sodbury	A	" "	4-2	Simpson, Rigden, C Hayward, Conaghan
	24th	Weston-S-Mare	H	" "	8-1	McGuin, C Hayward 3, Conaghan 3, og
Dec	1st	Gloucester City Res	A	" "	3-2	Conaghan, Rigden, McGuin
	8th	Cinderford Town	A	" "	3-3	Simpson, Short 2
	15th	Minehead	A	" "	0-1	
	22nd	Radstock Town	H	" "	3-0	Rigden 2, Phillips
	25th	Chippenham Town	A	" "	3-7	McGuin, Simpson, og
Jan	5th	Bideford Town	A	" "	0-11	
	12th	Ilfracombe Town	H	" "	1-5	Conaghan
	26th	Clevedon	H	v	2-6	Short, Lowthorpe
Feb	2nd	Bristol City Colts	A	" "	0-6	
	9th	Welton Rovers	A	" "	1-3	Aldred
	23rd	Swindon Town Colts	H	" "	4-1	Wright, Short, Peace, Cochran
March	1st	Trowbridge T Res	A	" "	1-0	Short
	8th	Welton Rovers	H	" "	4-2	Cochran 2, Aldred, Simpson
	15th	Cinderford Town	H	" "	1-1	Simpson (pen)
	22nd	Trowbridge T Res	H	" "	6-0	Conaghan, Purchase, Short 2, Wright 2(1pen)
	29th	Clevedon	A	" "	0-5	
April	5th	Hoffman Athletic	H	" "	2-2	Conaghan, Wright
	11th	Frome Town	A	" "	1-9	Conaghan
	12th	Frome Town	H	" "	4-0	C Hayward 2, Short 2 (1pen)
	14th	Chipping Sodbury	H	" "	9-2	C Hayward 3, Simpson, Neville 2, Short, 2og
	16th	Minehead	H	" "	3-2	Wright 2, Short
	19th	Gloucester City Res	H	" "	6-1	Whitely, Lowthorpe 3, C Hayward 2
	26th	Hoffmann Athletic	A	" "2	0-4	
May	3rd	Bridgwater Town	A	Western Div 2	1-1	Short



Hugh Colvan, top scorer for 1951-52.

## Colts – Season 1951-1952

Aug	18th	Clevedon	A	Som Sen Div 2S	2-5
	25th	Williton	H	" "	3-3
Sept	1st	Williton	A	" "	1-2
	8th	RAF Watchet	H	" "	2-0
	15th	Highbridge Tn Res	A	" "	2-2
	29th	Minehead Res	H	" "	1-6
Oct	3rd	Burnham Utd Res	A	" "	2-5
	13th	Bristol Rovers Colts	A	" "	0-3
	20th	Burnham Utd Res	H	" "	3-3
Nov	3rd	Stoke-U-Ham	A	Yeo Hosp Cup 1	0-2
	17th	RNAS Yeovilton	A	Som Sen Div 2S	2-3
	24th	Minehead Res	A	" "	1-1
Dec	1st	Odd Down	A	Som Sen LC 1	1-9
	8th	Chippenham Utd	A	Som Sen Div 2S	1-2
	15th	Chippenham Utd	H	" "	3-1
	22nd	Crewkerne Town	A	" "	1-5
	26th	Crewkerne Town	H	" "	1-4
	29th	Watchet Town	A	" "	0-2
Jan	5th	Bristol City Colts	H	" "	0-3
	12th	Ilminster Town Res	A	" "	2-3
	19th	Ilminster Town Res	H	" "	0-2
	26th	Shepton Mallet	A	" "	1-3
Feb	9th	High Littleton	A	" "	0-3
	23rd	Clevedon	H	" "	4-1
Mar	1st	RAF Locking	A	" "	2-1
	8th	Taunton Res	H	" "	0-6
	15th	RAF Watchet	A	" "	5-2
	22nd	Watchet Town	H	" "	3-1
	29th	Weston-St-John	A	" "	0-3
April	8th	RAF Locking	H	" "	2-2
	11th	Taunton Res	A	" "	3-0
	12th	Chard Town Res	H	" "	7-0
	16th	Shepton Mallet	H	" "	1-0
	19th	Highbridge Tn Res	H	" "	6-1
	24th	High Littleton	A	" "	4-0
	26th	Weston-St-John	H	" "	6-2
		Chard Town Res	A	" "	2-3

replay four days later held the fate of the club for the following six months, as defeat would mean yet another struggle and the re-evaluation of the squad. 9,000 saw Weymouth consign Bill Farthing's men to the role of also rans, despite being fourth in the league, behind Worcester City and a rampant Weymouth. The irony of the Cup draw took a while to sink in to followers of Yeovil Town, as Weymouth played Brush Sports, the works side of Brush Engineering from Loughborough, the very company which incorporated Petters before the War, bringing up the intriguing possibility of a club playing their estranged partners in the FA Cup.

The board were in no mood to rush into an appointment, as they could not afford to get it wrong. Announcing that it could be weeks before a new man was appointed, the season went on with the government still digging their heels in regarding any new building work. Supporters' Club volunteers were still standing by to cover the whole of the north side with a pre-fabricated shelter, and the £4,000 kit was ready, at 240' long and 50' at its apex, it would cover 6,000 when it was allowed to. Meanwhile the supporters handed over a new Public Address system and arranged a 'mile of shillings' fund to help finance the stand.

## First team appearances 1951-52

Davis 51, Colvan 50, Clegg 49, Hamilton 42, Mansley 41, Lindsay 39, Saville 32, Aldred 28, McGuin 26, Case 24, Wright 20, Witlock 19, Neville 16, Simpson 15, Short 14, Bird 13, Paterson 11, Hunter, Lowthorpe 10, Stenner 6, Dennison 4, Whitely 3, Rigden, Peace, Conaghan, Thornton, McFetteridge, Astell 2, Watson, Rogers, Geddes, Cook, Hayward, Crane, Drummond Tallon, Dyke, Readwin 1

## First team goalscorers 1951-52

H Colvan 15, R Wright 9, N Case, A Aldred 8, R Hamilton 5, A Easton, T Lowthorpe, J Hunter, Simpson 4, C Mansley, A Short, og's 3, D Lindsay, L Phillips, Rigden, A Stenner, D Neville 1

## Reserve team appearances 1951-52

Scott 31, Conaghan 30, Rogers 29, C Hayward 26, Simpson, G Hayward 23, Witlock 21, Short 19, McGuin 18, Neville 16, Dyke, Wright 15, Saville 12, Rigden 11, Cochran, Purchase 9, Harvey 8, Gard, Newman, Stenner, Lowthorpe, Robinson 5, Paterson, Hamilton, Thornton, Crane 4, Easton, Aldred, Astell, Peace 3, Abbott, Whitely, Bird, Dennison, Hart, Williams 2, Palmer, Milburn, Phillips, Grubb, Tallan, Gilvin, Clegg, Kirkman, Readwin, Hunter, Cook, Geddes, Leach 1

## Reserve team goalscorers 1951-52

Short 19, Conaghan, C Hayward 13, Simpson 9, Rigden 7, Wright 6, Lowthorpe 4, Cochran, McGuin, og's 3, Aldred, Neville, Whitlock 2, Paterson, Peace, Phillips, Purchase, Whitley 1

## 'Another new man, Harry Lowe'

The new manager arrived sooner than the board would have had the public believe, and he was Harry Lowe, a respected former Bournemouth and Boscombe manager who had scouted for Chelsea after a successful spell at Guildford City. His playing career began at sixteen at St Leuchar before going south to Watford where he played 200 times in six years for the Vicarage Road side. In 1935 he signed for Queens Park Rangers where he missed one game in three years before the War interrupted his career. He was a policeman during the conflict and was a grocer in Bournemouth when taking the job at Huish.

Lowe's baptism was most definitely one of fire, as his forward line dried up around the new year when he took over. With little money to pay new players' wages, Lowe began using the previously untapped talent at REME in Honiton and both Tommy Tallon and Reg Whitley were signed on as the side dropped below half way in the Southern League. Hugh Colvan became the target of both Distillery and Stirling Albion and with Norman Case suspended for two weeks for an unspecified breach of contract, once again the squad in particular and the club in general was spiralling, the reserves by then having once again collapsed to the point that they conceded 36 goals in five matches. With little to enthuse those at Huish or at home, the local press lost interest in Yeovil Town and began headlining the sports pages with cycling and rugby.

Lowe's predilection for servicemen players continued in February when he signed another RAF Instructor in John Hunter plus Tommy Lowthorpe, a raw 18 year old from Larkhill, who scored one and had three disallowed on his reserve debut. It got no better for Yeovil or their relatively long suffering supporters as March and April descended into farce. Norman Case left to go to Rochdale, saving some wage money, and in came an 18 year old amateur Arthur Stenner, who eventually signed professional. The almost total change of the side which began the campaign saw just one win from February 16th to the end of the season, and that courtesy of an own goal at Exeter City.

Bill Bird was the unwitting recipient of headlines in March, whilst lying in hospital after an operation for enlarged veins, Yeovil were told to pay Llanelly £250 for him. The money was not there, and the club was forced to ask the Supporters' Club for it, when relations between them were at their lowest ever. At a committee meeting the chairman of the Supporters'

**Southern League 1951-1952**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Merthyr Tydfil	42	27	6	9	128	60	60
Weymouth	42	22	13	7	81	42	57
Kidderminster Harr	42	22	10	10	70	40	54
Guildford City	42	18	16	8	66	47	52
Hereford United	42	21	9	12	80	59	51
Worcester City	42	23	4	15	86	73	50
Kettering Town	42	18	10	14	83	56	46
Lovells Athletic	42	18	10	14	87	68	46
Gloucester City	42	19	8	15	68	55	46
Bath City	42	19	6	17	75	67	44
Headington United	42	16	11	15	55	53	43
Bedford Town	42	16	10	16	75	64	42
Barry Town	42	18	6	18	84	89	42
Chelmsford City	42	15	10	17	67	80	40
Dartford	42	15	9	18	63	65	39
Tonbridge AFC	42	15	6	21	63	84	36
Yeovil Town	42	12	11	19	56	76	35
Cheltenham Town	42	15	4	23	59	85	34
Exeter City Res	42	13	7	22	76	106	33
Llanelly	42	13	6	23	70	111	32
Gravesend & N	42	12	7	23	68	88	31

**Western League 1951-1952**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bideford Town	36	29	3	4	179	55	61
Bridgwater Town	36	28	1	7	126	38	57
Ilfracombe Town	36	25	4	7	106	50	54
Minehead	36	24	2	10	80	60	50
Gloucester C Res	36	19	5	12	107	73	43
Cinderford Town	36	18	6	12	95	69	42
Peasedown MW	36	17	8	11	80	72	42
Bristol City Colts	36	7	7	12	87	58	41
Yeovil Town Res	36	18	4	14	94	102	40
Frome Town	36	15	7	14	89	76	37
Clevedon	36	16	5	15	98	89	37
Radstock Town	36	17	2	17	108	103	36
Chippenham T Res	36	12	5	19	63	89	29
Hoffmann Athletic	36	13	3	20	66	101	29
Welton Rovers	36	11	2	23	73	116	24
Weston-S-Mare	36	7	5	24	42	115	19
Swindon Town Colts	36	7	4	25	54	120	18
Trowbridge T Res	36	5	4	27	56	117	14
Chipping Sodbury	36	3	5	28	43	143	11

**Somerset Senior League 1951-1952**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol C Nomads	34	27	3	4	147	42	57
Williton	34	22	4	8	119	59	48
Chippenham United	34	22	3	9	162	67	47
Minehead Res	34	22	3	9	93	49	47
Burnham United	34	18	6	10	184	85	42
Ilminster Town Res	34	19	4	11	104	78	42
Clevedon Res	34	19	3	12	115	74	41
High Littleton	34	18	2	14	111	78	38
Taunton Res	34	15	8	11	93	81	38
Crewkerne Town	33	17	0	16	96	83	34
RAF Locking	33	14	5	14	85	91	33
Yeovil Town Colts	33	11	5	17	68	83	27
Weston St Johns	33	10	3	20	90	130	23
RAF Watchet	34	7	3	24	71	130	17
Watchet Town Res	33	8	1	24	55	156	17
Chard Town Res	29	8	1	20	57	162	17

Supporters' Club walked out and resigned with immediate effect after the Football Club committee had decided to keep their entire allocation of Cup Final tickets. The Supporters were already committed to paying £4,000 for the new cover and it was refused. The row escalated and within three weeks three more members had resigned over the issue.

On the field Ray Wright had succumbed to injury and left the club to take over the Bath Arms in Frome and Dave Lindsay broke a leg in the game at Bedford Town before on March 31st, at the County Ground in Swindon, a little bit of history was made amidst all the crumbling chaos. Yeovil Town played their Challenge Cup match with Swindon under floodlights, the first ever match played thus by the Glovers. The 7-1 defeat was in keeping with the rest of the season, but it sowed the seeds for all to investigate the next big project at Huish once the cover was up on the north side.

Lowe's retained list was not surprisingly small and with the club and the press admitting that prospects were no brighter for the following season and no hope of the Supporters bailing out the parent club, it was a desperately weak club that entered the home straight in 1952. The home reserve match with Gloucester City Reserves saw no less than ten servicemen turning out in the green and white and after a 0-8 thrashing at Barry Town, an extraordinary general meeting was called by the Supporters. A vote of no confidence was registered against the Board of Directors over their chronic mismanagement, with the loss of Les Blizzard, the relegation sage of a year before, the Bill Bird incident and the final straw, the retaining of the tickets.

The Supporters accused the club of "only using us when they want money" and laughing at their efforts to build the new cover as things got worse in the stormy meeting.

On the field Lowe was having difficulty putting out a side of any description and when they were late for the County Cup semi-final replay on their own ground, thus delaying the kick-off sufficiently that the match was abandoned in extra-time, there were bound to be yet more problems. The 0-0 draw with Kettering Town was played out to a chorus of boos and slow hand-clapping and Lowe was forced to drive to Honiton to persuade the powers to release five players to play in the replay with Bath City, which was lost. Right at the end Ralph Davis, the club's ever popular full back, received his Benefit match, against a Southern League select side, but he deserved for it to be in better circumstances than five days before the final humiliation, an 8-4 home defeat by Gravesend and Northfleet, rounding off the worst season in the club's history. By then most of the squad had gone, including Don Clegg to Weymouth and Colvan, who was back in Ireland.

Perhaps the ultimate rubbing of salt into open wounds came when Leyton Orient played a friendly in May, parading the likes of Blizzard, Bryant and Stock, all memories of a couple of years earlier when Yeovil could hold their head up with pride. There was little pride at Huish as the summer of 1952 arrived.

## *No votes from Football League*

Unsurprisingly the club received no votes at the Football League meeting held in June 1952 and Harry Lowe's prognosis was equally gloomy, no accommodation available so no top class players. The AGM promised to be fiery as the small profit they had made had wiped out the overdraft, but

left the club with the princely sum of 15s in the bank, and that was after a legacy was left the club by Bob Wyatt, an old Casuals player who sadly passed away during the season. Conversely, down the road at Weymouth, a club who had been to the wall more times than most, they were celebrating a playing season which came to an end with a profit of £4,500, and ironically it was they who came to Huish to play a fund raising match, showing just how swiftly times and fortunes can change.

Manager Lowe's summer signings for the 1952-53 campaign were more southern or western based, rather than the army of Scots or northern players who had come along in the past. Andy Easton, the rugged centre-forward who played a few games the season before was back with a predominantly young squad which included Miklos Nagy, a Hungarian centre-half from Swindon Town, Bill Paton, a half-back from Motherwell, Stan Carter, a centre-half from Exeter City, Bill Brown, an inside right also from Exeter and Bob Peart, a striker who scored 32 goals in the Football Combination for Swindon Town.

Later came Bill Lunn, a centre-forward from Newport County, the most experienced of Lowe's signings with 60 odd League games under his belt, and Alec Machin, an inside forward from Plymouth Argyle. There were others and it is interesting to see now how either the players, the selling club or possibly the signing club, knocked a few years off almost all the players ages, making them look more of a bargain than they perhaps were. Bob Peart was 26 when he signed as a 24 year old, Bill Lunn, the 27 year old was in fact 30 and Alec Machin was not far off 33 when signed as a 28 year old. Whilst Lowe beavered away the club AGM signalled more grief, when over 40 shareholders walked out in protest at the adoption of a poll vote for the five vacancies on the Board of Directors. The remaining board was described as "a dictatorship" as it was argued that there should be one vote per shareholder instead of a block voting system that had them "hiding behind bureaucracy" It was a far from ideal way to start the season, but the loyal 7,000 were there again at the start, hoping against hope that the new side would entertain and wipe away the awful last two or three years.

Lowe continued signing right up to the start, with Paddy Brennan, a wing half from Brighton, Jackie Finlay, a winger from Leeds and John McKay another winger from Queens Park Rangers, rebuilding the Scots-Irish dynasty at Huish.

The opening game, a defeat at home to Hastings United saw eight men making their debuts, but wins over Dartford and the champions Merthyr Tydfil lifted morale, with the two little wingers McKay and Finlay providing for Andy Easton and Bob Peart. The Southern League Cup threw up a strange anomaly as Yeovil lost the away leg with Weymouth 3-0, winning the return 2-1. In normal circumstances the Terras would have gone through but the league had devised a strange system whereby Yeovil profited on goal difference from the other sides which had won one game, and by chance they were drawn against Weymouth in the 1st Round proper. Sadly by then the league form had slumped with injuries taking their toll and with five straight defeats including Barry away where keeper Dennis Ryland single-handedly prevented a repeat of the last result at Jenner Park, an 8-0 thrashing. The third Weymouth meeting was as fierce as the other two and ended in a draw, thus meaning that the two sides played four times in the Cup in two different rounds, surely unique.

By then Yeovil had brought in on loan Dennis McCrystal, a goalkeeper from Watford but with Easton and Machin almost permanently injured, Lowe's plans were torn up early on. He embarked on a desperate search for a big centre-forward in

## Season 1952-1953

Aug	23rd	Hastings United	H	Southern League	1-2	Lunn
	27th	Dartford	A	" "	3-1	Peart 2, Easton
	30th	Merthyr Tydfil	H	" "	4-1	Peart 2, Easton, Finlay
Sept	3rd	Weymouth	A	SLC Qual 1st Leg	0-3	
	6th	Kidderminster Harr	H	Southern League	1-1	Peart
	11th	Weymouth	H	SLC Qual 2nd Leg	2-1	Lunn pen, Peart
	13th	Worcester City	A	Southern League	0-3	
	18th	Guildford City	H	" "	0-2	
	20th	Barry Town	A	" "	1-4	Hudson
	27th	Tonbridge AFC	A	" "	1-3	Peart
Oct	2nd	Weymouth	H	S L Cup 1st Rd	2-2	Easton, Peart
	4th	Lovells Athletic	H	Southern League	1-3	Peart
	8th	Weymouth	A	S L Cup 1 Rep	0-1	
	11th	Southern Command	H	Friendly	5-0	Brown 4, Lunn
	18th	Fulham	H	Southern League	0-1	
	25th	Chelmsford City	H	" "	4-2	McKay, Hindle, Clarke, Machin
Nov	1st	Llanely	A	" "	5-4	Peart 3, Machin, Finlay
	8th	Merthyr Tydfil	H	FA Cup 4th Qual	1-0	Lunn
	15th	Cheltenham Town	A	Southern League	2-5	Machin, Lunn pen
	22nd	Brighton & Hove A	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	1-4	Finlay
	29th	Gloucester City	A	Southern League	0-0	
Dec	6th	Headington United	A	" "	2-3	Machin 2
	13th	Kettering Town	H	" "	1-1	Hindle
	20th	Dartford	H	" "	1-1	Lunn
	25th	Bath City	A	" "	1-3	Hunter
	26th	Bath City	H	" "	2-2	Inglett, Easton
	27th	Exeter City Res	A	" "	3-1	Lunn, Brown, Easton
Jan	3rd	Kettering Town	A	" "	1-1	Inglett
	10th	Headington United	H	" "	2-2	Lunn, Brown
	17th	Gloucester City	H	" "	1-0	og
	24th	Weymouth	A	" "	1-4	Hindle
	31st	Cheltenham Town	H	" "	2-3	Peart, og
Feb	7th	Gravesend & N	A	" "	1-6	Hindle
	14th	Llanely	H	" "	3-3	Finlay, McKay, Easton
	21st	Chelmsford City	A	" "	3-3	Easton, Machin, McKay
	28th	Barry Town	H	" "	2-0	Machin, Lunn pen
March	7th	Bedford Town	A	" "	0-5	
	14th	Lovells Athletic	A	" "	4-5	Lunn, Hindle 2, Finlay
	19th	Bedford Town	H	" "	1-2	Lunn
	21st	Hereford United	A	" "	1-3	Lunn
	28th	Worcester City	H	" "	2-2	Lunn, Hindle
April	4th	Exeter City Res	H	" "	3-4	Lunn 2(1pen), Machin
	6th	Guildford City	A	" "	0-5	
	9th	Gravesend & N	H	" "	4-3	Lunn 4
	11th	Kidderminster Harr	A	" "	2-0	Hawkins, Lunn
	16th	Hereford United	H	" "	3-0	Lunn 3
	18th	Merthyr Tydfil	A	" "	1-2	Lunn
	23rd	Weymouth	H	" "	3-0	Finlay 3
	25th	Hastings United	A	" "	1-3	Lunn
May	2nd	Tonbridge AFC	H	" "	1-2	Lunn pen

time for the FA Cup but, despite wins over Chelmsford and Llanely, they had but Dartford under them in the league. The man who came was Jack Clarke, a teenage striker from Sunderland who was serving at RAF Netheravon and he was joined by Jimmy Hindle from Blackpool another serviceman, but he was called away to assist with the terrible flooding on the east coast.

Both Weymouth's Recreation Ground and Huish were given good news in November, as the latter opened its new floodlights for the first time, whilst Huish was at last given a licence to erect its north terrace cover, a fact that was met with some opposition from the residents of Park Gardens, whose 300 strong petition was handed in. The FA Cup gave Yeovil an important home tie against Merthyr Tydfil. 9000

## Reserves – Season 1952-1953

Aug	23rd	Bristol City Colts	A	Western Div 2	2-1	Peart 2
	30th	Welton Rovers	A	" "	2-3	Hunter, Bambridge
Sept	6th	Minehead	A	" "	0-4	
	13th	Wells City	A	Som Pro Cup 1	0-3	
	20th	Bristol City Colts	H	Western Div 2	2-1	Hudson 2
	27th	Bristol Rovers Colts	H	" "	1-0	Brown
Oct	4th	Cinderford Town	A	" "	2-3	Peart, Peace
	11th	Weston-S-Mare	A	" "	1-2	Peart
	18th	Radstock Town	A	" "	3-4	Hawkins, Brown, Inglett
	25th	Hoffmann Athletic	A	" "	1-2	Inglett
Nov	1st	Chippenham Tn Res	H	" "	2-2	Inglett, Moore
	8th	Clevedon	A	" "	1-2	Inglett
	15th	Gloucester City Res	H	" "	1-1	Inglett
	22nd	Bristol Rovers Colts	A	" "	1-1	Inglett
Dec	6th	Weston-S-Mare	H	" "	12-1	Inglett 3, Hindle 3, Lunn 2, Peart 2, Peace 2
	20th	Chippenham T Res	A	" "	2-6	Hawkins 2
	26th	Trowbridge Tn Res	A	" "	0-10	
Jan	3rd	Welton Rovers	H	" "	0-1	
	10th	Peasedown MW	A	" "	1-4	Lunn
	17th	Frome Town	A	" "	1-3	Machin
	31st	Gloucester City Res	A	" "	4-5	Lunn, Machin, Knott, og
Feb	7th	Radstock Town	H	" "	7-1	Inglett 4, Finlay 2, Easton
	21st	Frome Town	H	" "	3-0	Smith, Inglett, Court
March	7th	Poole Town	H	" "	2-2	Inglett, Peace
	14th	Cinderford Town	H	" "	3-1	Carter pen, Hawkins 2
	28th	Stonehouse	A	" "	2-3	Hawkins, Newman
April	3rd	Ilfracombe Town	A	" "	0-1	
	4th	Poole Town	A	" "	1-4	Finlay
	6th	Ilfracombe Town	H	" "	2-2	Hawkins, Nagy pen
	11th	Trowbridge Tn Res	H	" "	7-1	Machin 3, Guppy 2, Inglett 2
	15th	Peasedown MW	H	" "	2-1	Guppy, Langford
	18th	Hoffmann Athletic	H	" "	7-4	Guppy 3, Inglett 2, Legg, Langford
	21st	Clevedon	H	" "	6-1	Guppy 2, Machin 2, Inglett 2
	25th	Minehead	H	" "	1-4	Inglett
	30th	Stonehouse	H	" "	2-1	Guppy, Inglett

saw Billy Lunn score the winner in a game which had long serving Ralph Davis as man of the match. Once again the Glovers were lucky with the draw, bringing Brighton and Hove to Huish, and although a crowd of over 10,000 turned up paying £1,123, the old Cup magic of two or three years ago was missing and the Seagulls went through 4-1. Mindful that the perennial problem of diminishing crowds would doubtless again manifest itself, the club began a Green and White Club, a fund raising scheme which was believed to be bringing in £100 a week at Weymouth. What was needed was a winning run to bring back the support, but the reverse happened with Yeovil going nine games without a win up to Christmas, the run halted by a 3-1 win at Exeter City, the third game in three days. Sadly the reserves were also struggling and sixteen goals conceded in two days over Christmas was sorry reading for Lowe, whose promise for promotion was falling somewhat short of the target. Injuries and internal problems had caused a real shortage of players and for the reserve game against Welton Rovers only four regulars were available. One long term absentee was Lionel Phillips, serving in Germany, and it was Portsmouth interest in him which led to Pompey paying £1,000 for his services once he was demobbed. Yeovil also expected to receive a

## Colts – Season 1952-1953

Sept	6th	Yeovil Harlequins	H	Yeovil Lge Prem	0-1
	10th	Barton United	H	" "	2-3
	13th	Barton United	A	" "	2-3
	20th	East Coker	H	" "	2-2
	27th	St Crispin, Street	A	" "	5-0
Oct	4th	Western Gazette	H	" "	7-1
	11th	Crewkerne	A	" "	3-3
	18th	Castle Cary	H	" "	0-0
	25th	RASC	H	Cup	1-0
Nov	15th	Castle Cary	A	Cup	5-2
	22nd	RNAS	A	Yeovil Lge Prem	10-0
Dec	6th	Tintinhull	A	Yeovil Charity Cup Semi Final	4-1
	13th	Castle Cary	A	Yeovil Lge Prem	3-3
	20th	Sherborne	A	" "	2-0
	26th	Stoke		Yeovil Charity Cup Final	1-3
Jan	3rd	Preston United	A	Yeovil KO Cup 1	4-2
	10th	Sherborne	H	Yeovil Lge Prem	1-0
	24th	RASC(Houndstone)	H	Yeovil KO Cup 2	5-4
	31st	Crewkerne	H	Yeovil Lge Prem	5-2
Feb	7th	Yeovil Harlequins	A	" "	3-1
	14th	RASC	A	" "	4-5
	21st	Tintinhull	H	" "	2-4
March	7th	Henstridge	A	" "	1-10
	14th	St Crispin, Street	H	" "	2-1
	21st	East Coker	H	Yeo KO Cup S/F	3-0
	28th	East Coker	H	Hosp Inv Cup 1	4-2
April	3rd	Somerton	H	Yeo KO Cup Final	4-3
	18th	Henstridge	H	Yeovil Lge Prem	0-7
	20th	East Coker	A	" "	2-4
	22nd	RNAS	H	" "	2-1
		Tintinhull	A	" "	1-8
		RASC	H	" "	1-4
May	4th	Tintinhull	H	Yeovil Hosp. Cup Semi Final	8-2
	9th	Crewkerne Town	H	Final	3-1

further £500 once he had made six appearances, but somewhat dubiously his league career ended on four.

Ralph Davies had struggled for some time against mounting injuries and, in February, he was advised to call it a day, although he subsequently attempted a comeback. The terrible flooding on the east coast had deprived Yeovil of several of their servicemen and the club could only raise ten players for the reserve game at Gloucester City and there was more bad news when Chipping Sodbury pulled out of the Western League, relegating Yeovil to last place. Once again the season was wandering aimlessly to a pointless conclusion and Bob Peart, who had been one of the plusses in both first and second teams, was released to join top of the table Headington United, citing travel problems as a reason. Jim Hindle was also being pursued by several northern sides eager to tempt him back home, and it was reported that Eric Bryant wanted to come back to Huish, although he denied it in print and shortly after joined Bideford.

In March it was announced that Harry Lowe was not going to apply for an extension to his contract, in a smart move before the club told him he wasn't getting one anyway, but it was not before he made a surprise appearance for a depleted reserves at Stonehouse. The club was in no rush to appoint a successor, but a number of names were leaked to the press to entice a response, one being Joe Mallett, a full-back with Southampton who was on the short list. Whoever got the job would be working without Jimmy Hindle who joined the long line of ex-Glovers at Leyton Orient. The



mantle of crowd favourite had been up for grabs for some time, but it was taken over towards the end of the season by Billy Lunn who hit a purple patch in April which included nine goals in four games. That included a match at Kidderminster, which was hailed as possibly the worst Southern League game seen at Aggborough for many seasons and was a disgrace to professional football. The crowd slow-handclapped throughout and by the end did not care who had won a desperate match.

#### Southern League 1952-1953

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Headington United	42	23	12	7	93	50	58
Merthyr Tydfil	42	25	8	9	117	66	58
Bedford Town	42	24	8	10	91	61	56
Kettering Town	42	23	8	11	88	50	54
Bath City	42	22	10	10	71	46	54
Worcester City	42	20	11	11	100	66	51
Llanelly	42	21	9	12	95	72	51
Barry Town	42	22	3	17	89	69	47
Gravesend & N	42	19	7	16	83	76	45
Gloucester City	42	17	9	16	50	78	43
Guildford City	42	17	8	17	64	60	42
Hastings United	42	18	5	19	75	66	41
Cheltenham Town	42	15	11	16	70	89	41
Weymouth	42	15	10	17	70	75	40
Hereford United	42	17	5	20	76	73	39
Tonbridge AFC	42	12	9	21	62	88	33
Lovells Athletic	42	12	8	22	68	81	32
Yeovil Town	42	11	10	21	75	99	32
Chelmsford City	42	12	7	23	58	92	31
Exeter City Res	42	13	4	25	71	94	30
Kidderminster Harr	42	12	5	25	54	85	29
Dartford	42	6	5	31	40	121	17

#### Western League Div 2 – 1952-1953

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chippenham T Res	34	24	4	6	99	51	52
Ilfracombe Town	34	20	11	3	67	28	51
Poole Town	34	21	7	6	97	42	49
Peasedown MW	34	19	3	12	76	63	41
Minehead	34	15	8	11	81	53	38
Clevedon	34	17	3	14	82	92	37
Cinderford Town	34	15	6	13	77	50	36
Bristol City Colts	34	14	6	14	75	56	34
Bristol Rovers Colts	34	12	9	13	74	54	33
Frome Town	34	13	6	15	66	66	32
Yeovil Town Res	34	13	5	16	83	78	31
Gloucester City Res	34	11	6	17	81	97	28
Radstock Town	34	11	6	17	74	102	28
Trowbridge T Res	34	11	4	19	70	89	26
Stonehouse Res	34	10	6	18	68	107	26
Welton Rovers	34	10	6	18	53	98	26
Weston-S-Mare	34	10	4	20	66	113	24

The reserves rallied well at the end with Guppy and Inglett scoring the goals which eased Yeovil up the table but by then the initial advertisement for a new player-manager had brought little to enthuse over. It had been decided to offer an extensive salary plus house for the new man after the Supporters' Club had stepped in with an offer to help with the wages. The retained list went out before the new man came and it contained eight professionals, including Mick Nagy, John Thornton and Paddy Brennan, as well as the base of a

forward line in Lunn, Finlay and McKay. Elsewhere former players were going into management in the Western League, with Ray Wright taking over at Frome Town and Jack Hargreaves managing Minehead.

#### Yeovil & District League Prem Div. 1952-1953

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Henstridge	22	18	3	1	119	31	39
RASC	22	16	4	2	78	36	36
East Coker	22	14	4	4	80	38	32
Barton United	22	12	5	5	63	37	29
Tintinhull	22	11	3	8	55	50	25
Yeovil Harlequins	22	10	5	7	51	37	25
Crewkerne Town	22	8	4	10	83	74	20
Yeovil Town Colts	22	8	4	10	52	46	20
Castle Cary	22	8	4	10	54	55	20
Sherborne Town	22	4	1	17	39	78	9
RNAS	22	2	2	18	28	125	6

The Sporting Press carried the following advert "Yeovil Town Football Club require a player-manager of outstanding quality. Terms are £1,000 per year plus a modern house and the usual bonuses. Reply HA Smith, 103 Preston Grove..."

It was the beginning of a new era, as the man who finally got the job became a legend at Yeovil Town.

Ike Clarke was the new player-manager.

#### First Team Appearances 1952-53

Brennan 47, Nagy 46, Barry 43, McKay 39, Finlay 38, Lunn 37, Ryland 34, Warren 31, W Brown 29, Machin 25, Easton 21, Davis 20, Paton, Hindle 18, Peart 16, Clark 15, Thornton 13, Hunter, Jenkins 12, Carter 7, H Brown, Hawkins 5, Inglett 4, McCrystal, Hill 3, Moore 2, Stenner, Dennison, Jones, Hudson, Andrews, Hussey, Langdon 1.

#### First Team Scorers 1952-53

Lunn 25, Peart 13, Machin, Finlay 8, Hindle 7, Easton 6, McKay 3, Brown, Inglett, og 2, Hudson, Clarke, Hunter, Hawkins 1

#### Known Reserve Appearances 1952-53

Carter 26, Scott 24, Knott 22, Hawkins 20, Inglett 19, Thornton 18, Naylor 12, Brown 11, Peart 10, Warren 9, Finlay 8, Langford, Machin 6, Hudson, Hindle 5, Davis, Barry, Hunter, Lunn, Peace 4, Ryland, Nagy, Court, Clarke 3, Paton, Easton, Smith 2, Brennan, McKay, Banbridge, Phillips, Moore, Lowe 1.

#### Known Reserve Scorers 1952-53

Inglett 23, Guppy 9, Hawkins, Machin 7, Peart 6, Lunn, Peace 4, Hindle, Finlay 3, Langford, Hudson, Brown 2, Newman, Carter, Smith, Court, Nagy, Legg, Hunter, Bambridge, Moore, Knott, Easton 1.

## *Ike arrives and Huish smiles again..... May 1953*

Ike Clarke was appointed by the board on May 10th 1953, which, without them knowing it, was undoubtedly the best move any of them had made in a long time. For some little while the basic criteria of the ideal man for the job was not solely knowledge of players or management skills, but a high

degree of administration skills, and several well thought of League players were overlooked due to their unacceptability in this area.

Ike Clarke, or to give him his full name, Isaac, had had little or no experience of management but impressed at the interview and almost at once was accepted and revered by the public and the supporters. His playing record was good, having begun with amateur side Toll End Wesley in a Wolverhampton amateur league before signing for West Bromwich Albion in January 1937. He was to stay there for ten years, interrupted by the war, making 108 appearances and scoring 39 goals, before signing for Portsmouth in November 1947. During his time there he won two League championship medals and played in an FA Cup semi-final and after five years, 116 League games and 49 goals, he moved to Yeovil Town at the age of 38.

Described as one of the cleverest centre-forwards seen in the First Division, he still had something to offer on the pitch as well as off it, and although plagued by niggly injuries, his presence was vital in the upsurge of fortunes for Yeovil Town Football Club. It also saw the beginning of an unofficial link between the Glovers and Portsmouth, which was to be of mutual benefit to both, as the Colts 18 year old keeper Len Crane joined them soon after.

There was plenty of movement elsewhere as Stan Carter joined Barnstaple Town and Ken Hayward and Jock Connaghan moved over to Frome Town, who were also about to embark on a period of great fortune. One other name from the past cropped up at the time, when Louis Page took over the reins at Chester.

At the shareholders' meeting just before the start of the season, they were told that the Lionel Phillips transfer and donations from the Supporters' Club certainly saved them from dropping out of the Southern League, as a profit was shown despite an awful season. Gate money had held up, being only £1,000 down on the previous term, wages also being up. As was the case with most Augusts at Huish, it was all cleared away and a fresh start made, with eight young professionals invited down for trials, the pick being 22 year old winger Mike Ryan, who had four years at Arsenal without breaking into the first team, before moving to Lincoln City and then York City, playing eleven times in all for both. Two other forwards signed, Cliff Marsh, a young inside right from Bournemouth and Dennis Appleby from Weymouth.

For the new season the fixed wage system had been thrown out, it having a detrimental effect on players who were paid the same whether they were in first team or reserves, and it was replaced by a sliding scale. Ike Clarke rallied the supporters saying "team spirit is the thing which counts in present day football, it is even more important than playing ability".

Having finally erected the north side cover, the Supporters' Club gave their backing to the club when plans were announced for floodlighting in August. A number of clubs in the Southern League had already taken the plunge, and several others in lower leagues, Chard Town for example, had also gone for it. The board were not sure, however, worried that they would not be able to attract enough clubs to play competitive matches to make it pay its way, ignoring the basic aspect of fixture congestion. At that time the league had banned league matches under lights so it was irrelevant and it was put on hold for a while.

Ike Clarke's wanderings had gleaned rewards with a number of new faces, two of whom had Pompey connections. Brian Edwards, a wing half was a Sergeant on RASC reserve and Mick Reid was another who had played at Fratton Park, via Watford, Wolves and Bournemouth.

### Season 1953-1954

Aug	20th	Worcester City	A	Southern League	0-2
	22nd	Exeter City Res	A	" "	1-3 McKay
	26th	Kidderminster Harr	A	" "	0-2
	29th	Lovells Athletic	H	" "	2-0 Reid 2
Sept	3rd	Gloucester City	A	South LC Pr 1st L	0-0
	5th	Gravesend & N	A	Southern League	1-1 Clarke
	10th	Gloucester City	H	South LC Pr 2nd L	2-1 Clarke, Lunn
	17th	Kidderminster Harr	H	Southern League	2-1 Clarke 2
	19th	Llanelly	A	" "	2-1 Hindle 2
	21st	Chelmsford Coty	H	" "	4-0 Lunn, Hindle, McKay, og
	24th	Gloucester City	A	" "	2-2 Hawkins, McKay
	26th	Weymouth	H	" "	2-1 Ryan, Lunn
Oct	3rd	Dartford	A	" "	2-2 Lunn, Reid
	10th	Cheltenham Town	A	" "	1-1 Reid
	17th	Hastings United	H	" "	4-2 Reid, Lunn, Ryan 2
	31st	Kettering Town	H	" "	3-0 McKay, Topping, Ryan
Nov	7th	Merthyr Tydfil	H	FA Cup 4th Qual	2-1 Lunn, Reid
	11th	Barry Town	A	Southern League	2-4 McKay, Reid
	14th	Merthyr Tydfil	H	" "	2-0 Nagy (pen), Ryan
	21st	Norwich Town	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	0-2
	28th	Bath City	H	Southern League	3-3 Ryan, Lunn, Clarke
Dec	2nd	Headington United	A	" "	3-4 Lunn 2, Hindle
	5th	Hereford United	A	" "	2-2 Lunn, Ryan
	12th	Worcester City	H	" "	3-2 Nagy 2 pens, Clarke
	19th	Exeter City Res	H	" "	5-0 Clarke, Lunn, Ryan, Hindle, Edwards
	26th	Guildford City	A	" "	2-0 Hindle 2
	28th	Tonbridge AFC	A	" "	2-2 Edwards, Lunn
Jan	9th	Guildford City	H	" "	2-1 Ryan 2
	16th	Gravesend & N	H	" "	5-5 Clarke 3, Ryan, Lunn
	20th	Guildford City	A	South LC 1st Rd	0-3
	23rd	Chelmsford City	A	Southern League	0-1
	30th	Gloucester City	H	" "	3-1 Reid 2, Clarke
Feb	6th	Street	H	Som Pro Cup 1	4-2 Northover 2, Lunn 2
	13th	Weymouth	A	Southern League	0-5
	20th	Dartford	H	" "	1-3 Ryan
	27th	Cheltenham Town	H	" "	2-0 Ryan, Nagy pen
March	6th	Hastings United	A	" "	1-4 Hindle
	11th	Lovells Athletic	A	" "	1-3 Clarke
	13th	Barry Town	H	" "	4-0 Clarke, Reid, Lunn, McKay
	20th	Kettering Town	A	" "	3-0 Ryan, Reid 2
	27th	Headington United	H	" "	4-0 Clarke 4
April	3rd	Merthyr Tydfil	A	" "	0-5
	8th	Llanelly	H	" "	0-3
	10th	Glastonbury	H	Som Pro Cup S/F	2-2 Lunn, Reid
	16th	Bedford Town	A	Southern League	0-3
	17th	Bath City	A	" "	3-5 Edwards, Lunn, Reid
	19th	Bedford Town	H	" "	1-0 Nagy pen
	22nd	Glastonbury	A	Som Pro Cup Semi-final Rep	2-0 Clarke, Nagy (pen)
	24th	Hereford United	H	Southern League	3-0 Lunn 2, Edwards
	27th	Bath City	H	Somerset Professional Cup Final	2-0 Lunn 2
	29th	Swindon Town	H	Yeovil Chall Cup	3-0 og, Reid 2
May	1st	Tonbridge AFC	H	Southern League	4-2 Reid 2, Lunn 2

The much maligned fixture compiler had been unkind to the club who began with three away games. Having lost all three, few had a good word to say, including the mild mannered Clarke. It was only a minor blip, for the next defeat did not come until the depths of November. John McKay, Bill Lunn, Clarke himself Ryan and Reid were all amongst the scorers as the unbeaten run included a match with Weymouth in front of over 8,000. Clarke's side were soon to attract the attention of scouts and it was rumoured

## Reserves – Season 1953-1954

Aug	22nd	Stonehouse Res	H	Western Div 2	3-0	Lunn 2, Hawkins
	29th	Hoffmann Athletic	A	" "	4-4	Inglett, Hawkins, Easton 2
Sept	5th	Weston-S-Mare	H	" "	4-1	og, Easton, Hawkins, Francis
	12th	Chippenham Tn Res	H	" "	2-2	Easton, Hindle
	19th	Frome Town	H	" "	1-2	Inglett
	30th	Frome Town	A	" "	3-2	Appleby, McKay 2
Oct	3rd	Gloucester City Res	H	" "	4-6	Brown 2, Inglett, Appleby
	10th	Trowbridge Tn Res	H	" "	3-2	Hindle, Brown pen, Stenner
	17th	Poole Town Res	A	" "	0-2	
	24th	Peasedown MW	H	" "	7-0	Hindle 4, Edwards, 2 og
	31st	Gloucester City Res	A	" "	1-4	Hindle
Nov	14th	Chippenham Tn Res	A	" "	2-6	Appleby, Hawkins
	28th	Cinderford Town	A	" "	5-3	Rogers, Hindle 2, 2 og
Dec	5th	Poole Town Res	H	" "	2-2	Reid, Hawkins
	12th	Welton Rovers	A	" "	2-3	Marsh, Reid
	19th	Weston-S-Mare	A	" "	1-8	Hawkins
	26th	Paulton Rovers	H	" "	5-2	Francis, Stenner 2, Foyle 2
Jan	2nd	Cinderford Town	H	" "	5-0	Ryan, Edwards, Nagy pen, Hindle 2
	9th	Bristol City Colts	A	" "	3-4	Reid 2, Appleby
	16th	Trowbridge Tn Res	A	" "	2-2	Marsh, Reid
Feb	13th	Welton Rovers	H	" "	2-2	Brown pen, Hindle
	20th	Clevedon	A	" "	3-3	Appleby, Northover, Hindle
	27th	Peasedown MW	A	" "	5-1	Hayward 3, Francis pen, Northover
March	6th	Bristol Rovers Colts	H	" "	1-2	Lunn
	13th	Bristol City Colts	A	" "	1-1	Hindle
	20th	Radstock Town	H	" "	8-2	Langdon, Northover 3, Hayward 4
	27th	Radstock Town	A	" "	2-5	Hawkins 2
April	3rd	Hoffmann Athletic	H	" "	1-2	Wylde
	12th	Stonehouse Res	A	" "	3-2	Lunn 2, Ryan
	16th	Minehead	H	" "	1-2	Montegue
	17th	Bristol City Colts	H	" "	1-3	Hawkins
	19th	Minehead	A	" "	1-0	Northover
	22nd	Clevedon	H	" "	2-3	Wood, Hawkins
	24th	Paulton Rovers	A	" "	0-6	

that Everton and Notts County had made inquiries about Miklos Nagy. Keeper Maurice Leather was picked for the representative side. With Yeovil third behind Headington and Merthyr, they were in good form when the Cup came round, the Welshmen having to come to the slope at Huish. 10,400 saw Nagy and Ryan put Town through, where their luck held once again as they welcomed Norwich City.

Merthyr visited again a week later in the league and were beaten again, and buoyed by the good start to the season, the club issued some startling plans just prior to the Norwich game. With the chronic money problems apparently a thing of the past, the plans for floodlighting Huish were re-hashed, along with the replacing of the old stand, which was still doing sterling service 30 years after being lugged across from Pen Mill. It would cost £40,000 and would be double-deck, not unlike those at Bristol City and Plymouth Argyle, with a central block with dressing rooms and offices going up first, recreation halls and bars under 1000 seats to follow. A wing would be added when appropriate, as with better support and some 23,000 having watched the two Cup games, they were on a roll and reaching for the stars.

## Colts – Season 1953-1954

Aug	29th	Crewkerne Town	A	Yeovil League	2-2
Sept	5th	East Coker	A	" "	2-2
	12th	RASC	H	" "	3-1
	19th	Castle Cary	A	" "	4-0
Oct	3rd	Castle Cary	H	" "	10-4
	10th	RNAS Yeovilton	A	" "	1-0
	17th	RASC	A	Yeovil Char Cup 1	5-1
	24th	Bourton	A	Yeovil League	3-2
	31st	Barton United	H	" "	8-2
Nov	7th	East Coker	A	Yeovil Char Cup 2	2-3
	14th	RASC	H	Yeovil League	0-2
Dec	5th	Sherborne Res	A	" "	11-0
	12th	Tintinhull	A	" "	6-1
	19th	Tintinhull	H	" "	1-1
Jan	2nd	Yeovil Harlequins	A	" "	1-2
	9th	Crewkerne Town	H	" "	5-2
	16th	RASC	A	" "	2-3
	23rd	Barwick & Stoford	H	Yeovil KO Cup 1	3-5
Feb	13th	Sherborne Res	H	Yeovil League	11-1
March	6th	East Coker	H	" "	2-1
	13th	Barton United	A	" "	0-2
April	3rd	Bourton	H	" "	2-0
	15th	Yeovil Harlequins	H	" "	0-0
May	3rd	RASC	H	Yeo Hospital Cup S/F	1-5

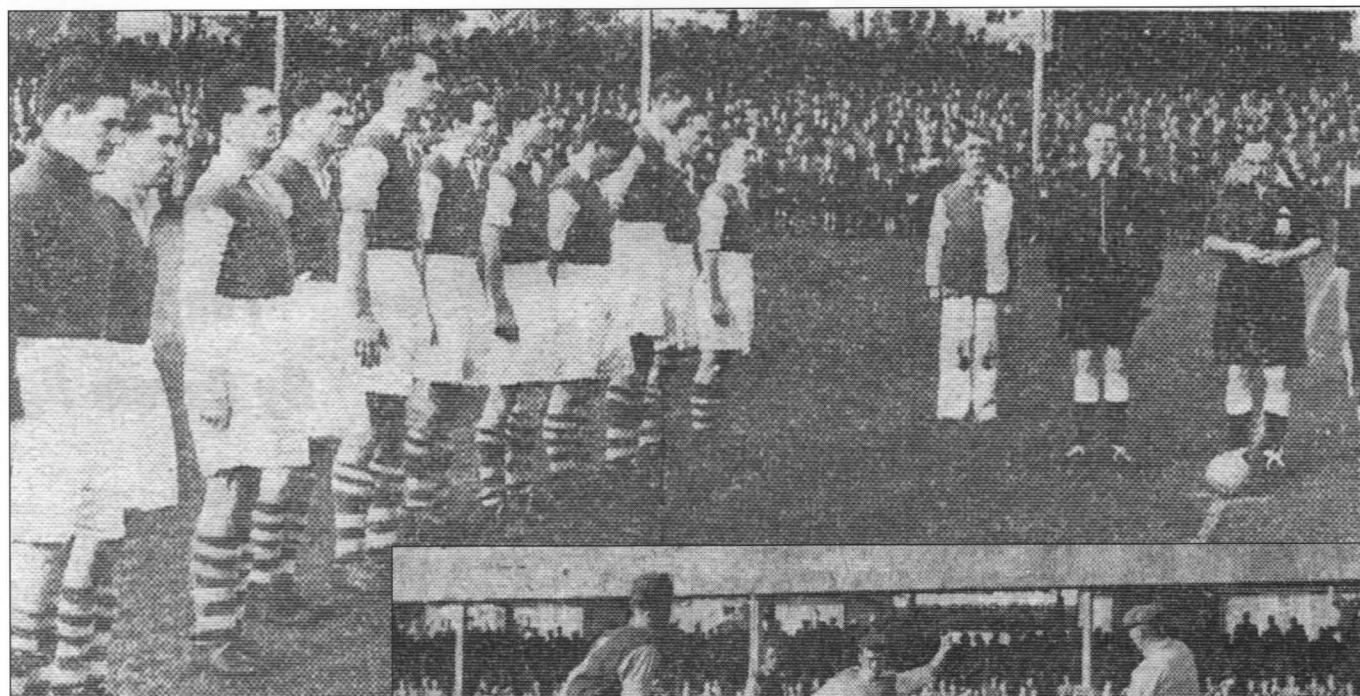
The Norwich game was lost 2-0, but it only drifted away from Yeovil after an injury to Billy Lunn, the 12,000 crowd acknowledging the effort with a rousing reception at the end. In truth it was a blessing in disguise, for apart from the League and Professional Cups, it left them with a clear run through to May, and with an outside chance of floodlit games at the end, the annual chaos could be avoided.

Yeovil and Bath shared six goals in the next match, with Ike Clarke returning after a long spell out, but five days later in a fierce match at Headington, Dave Topping was sent off. The poor run of four matches without a win ended when Clarke left out Cliff Marsh, who had not scored in twenty two games, and with Jimmy Hindle also back and making his pro debut after leaving the army, Clarke had several options, shown by a good spell through the new year. At that time there were five or six clubs all with a shout of the title, including Yeovil who were third behind Merthyr and Headington, but things were soured on January 16th. Vernon Voysey made his debut at full back as Town and Gravesend and Northfleet shared ten goals in a bizarre game. One or two decisions had gone against the home team and at the end a large number invaded the pitch in an attempt to get at the referee. Hundreds swarmed around the dressing rooms despite loud speaker appeals and for over an hour there were still large groups hanging around in the ground. After losing 4-1 at one stage, Yeovil had fought back to draw 5-5, with Billy Lunn having a goal disallowed late in the game.

The next big game was the derby at Weymouth, where over 2,000 journeyed down to see Paddy Brennan and Andy Easton both turning out against Yeovil. A brawling unpleasant game finished with Easton being sent off and several booked, but Weymouth crushed the life out of Clarke's men with a 5-0 win. Sadly the pressure was beginning to tell, as the next game, at home to Dartford, also developed into a brawl and with the next two away games lost, the title was gone for the season. Ike by then was injured again, to be replaced temporarily by Cyril Hayward, back from the RAF, and his options worsened as Jimmy Hindle tragically broke his leg in a reserve game at Radstock, just weeks after turning professional.



Above: Ike Clarke's first line up, a prelude to great times at Huish. Back Row (l to r): B. Edwards, C. Marsh, M. Leather, M. Nagy, D. Warren. Front Row: D. Topping, M. Ryan, B. Lunn, Ike Clarke, B. Brown, M. Reid, J. McKay.



Above: Players observing the two minutes silence before the cup tie with Merthyr Tydfil on 7th November 1953.

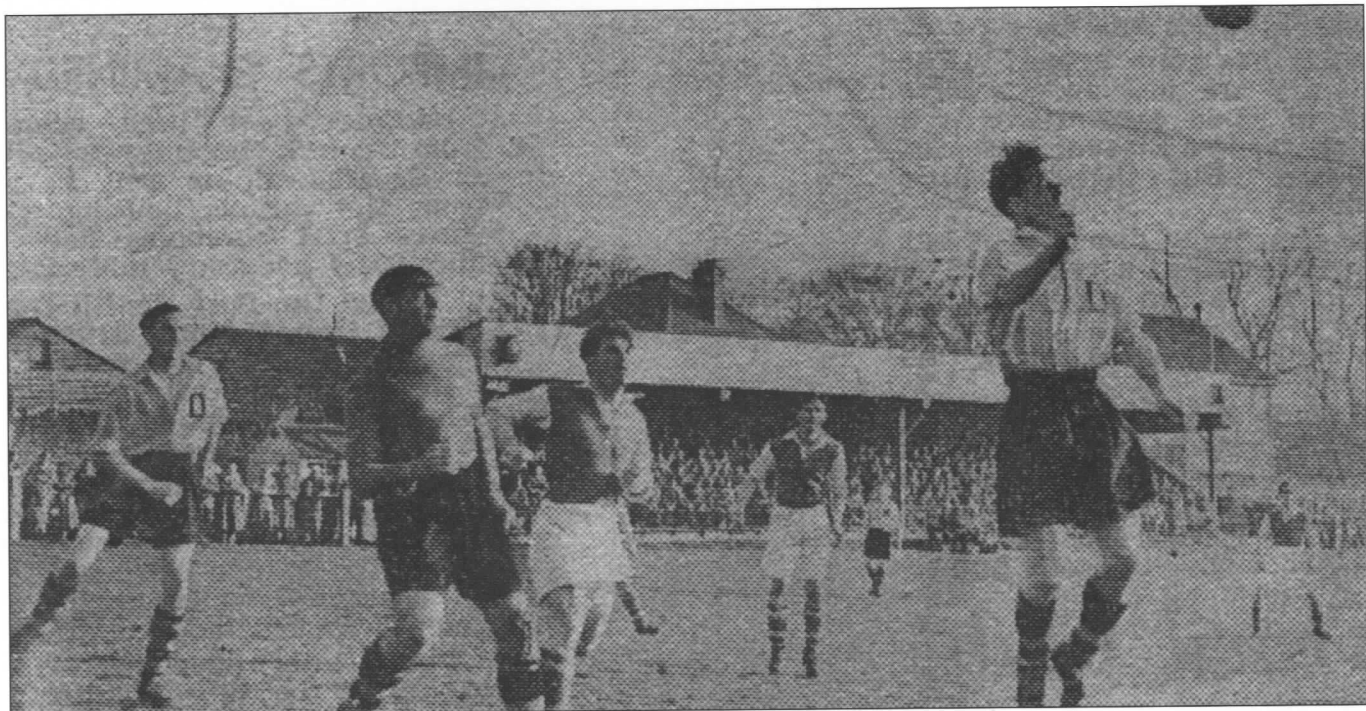


Right: Micky Reid in action during the 2-1 victory over Weymouth on 26th September 1953.





Top: Superb action shot showing the new north stand before the infilling at the back. Above left: Billy Lunn at a snow bound Huish on 30th January 1954. Above right: Ike's fourth goal against Headington United on March 27th 1954. Below: Yeovil win at Glastonbury in the Somerset Professional Cup. The stand in the background was taken to Abbey Moor when Glastonbury moved ground and the pitch is now covered with trees.





**Southern League 1953-1954**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Merthyr Tydfil	42	27	8	7	97	55	62
Headington United	42	22	9	11	68	43	53
Yeovil Town	42	20	8	14	87	76	48
Bath City	42	17	12	13	73	67	46
Kidderminster Harr	42	18	9	15	62	59	45
Weymouth	42	18	8	16	83	72	44
Barry Town	42	17	9	16	108	91	43
Bedford Town	42	19	5	18	80	84	43
Gloucester City	42	16	11	15	69	77	43
Hastings United	42	16	10	16	73	67	42
Kettering Town	42	15	12	15	65	63	42
Hereford United	42	16	9	17	66	62	41
Llanelly	42	16	9	17	80	85	41
Guildford City	42	15	11	16	56	60	41
Gravesend & N	42	16	8	18	76	77	40
Worcester City	42	17	6	19	66	71	40
Lovells Athletic	42	14	11	17	62	60	39
Tonbridge AFC	42	15	9	18	85	91	39
Chelmsford City	42	14	10	18	67	71	38
Exeter City Res	42	11	13	18	61	72	35
Cheltenham Town	42	11	12	19	56	83	34
Dartford	42	6	13	23	42	89	25

**Western League Div 2 – 1953-1954**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol Rovers Colts	34	24	6	4	89	43	54
Bristol City Colts	34	22	6	6	87	39	50
Frome Town	34	21	7	6	99	50	49
Chippenham T Res	34	18	9	7	87	58	45
Welton Rovers	34	16	6	12	54	53	38
Cinderford Town	34	15	7	12	82	72	37
Poole Town Res	34	15	5	14	79	61	35
Weston-S-Mare	34	14	7	13	89	70	35
Trowbridge Tn Res	34	12	9	13	90	88	33
Gloucester City Res	34	13	7	14	89	96	33
Hoffmann Athletic	34	13	5	16	74	61	31
Yeovil Town Res	34	12	7	15	90	89	31
Paulton Rovers	34	12	7	15	69	84	31
Minehead	34	11	6	17	62	78	28
Clevedon	34	11	4	19	77	101	26
Radstock Town	34	10	4	20	71	107	24
Peasedown MW	34	8	5	21	56	133	21
Stonehouse Res	34	4	3	27	45	102	11

**Yeovil League Premier Division  
1953-1954**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
RASC	20	17	1	21	112	50	35
Yeovil Town Colts	20	12	4	4	74	26	28
East Coker	20	11	2	7	67	50	24
Barton United	20	11	2	7	54	45	24
Yeovil Harlequins	20	10	2	8	68	53	22
Crewkerne Town	20	10	2	8	74	70	22
RNAS Yeovilton	20	8	5	7	86	59	21
Castle Cary	20	9	1	10	73	53	19
Tintinhull	20	4	4	12	58	73	12
Bourton	20	5	1	14	37	76	11
Sherborne	20	0	0	20	25	147	0

It was proving to be an exciting but inconsistent campaign, emphasised in March by the side winning three games, scoring eleven times and conceding none. Ike's old scoring touch came back in style against Headington, when he netted all four, but big defeats followed which killed all hope of a runners up spot.

One man still battling on was Miklos Nagy, whose goal in the Professional Cup semi-final replay with Glastonbury put his side through to a final with Bath City. It was another dour match, full of ill-feeling, and Nagy was injured, bravely limping on to the finish, only to discover he had a broken leg when he went to hospital afterwards. It was a sad end to what had looked to be a season full of promise. The club had won the Pro Cup and finished third in the league and had made a tidy sum through the FA Cup, much more than could have been hoped for a year earlier. The reserves had disappointed again, but Ike Clarke had that under control and with thirteen players retained, nine of whom signed straight away, the basis was there for a stronger squad come next August.

**First Team Appearances 1953-54**

Leather, Ryan 52, Topping, Warren 51, Nagy 50, McKay, Edwards 48, Lunn 47, Marsh 39, Brown, Reid 33, Clarke 26, Hindle 14, Lewis 13, Francis 6, Easton 3, Northover, Voysey 2, Pantling, Wilde, Hawkins, Skipworth 1

**First Team Goalscorers 1953-54**

Lunn 24, Clarke 18, Reid 16, Ryan 14, Hindle 8, Nagy, McKay 6, Edwards 4, Northover 2, Topping, Hawkins, og 1

**Reserve Appearances 1953-54**

Thornton 29, Voysey 27, Rogers 26, Appleby, Hawkins 23, Francis, Hampson 22, Sibbles 14, Pantling 13, Northover, Hindle 12, Stenner 11, Brown, Marsh 9, Langford, Inglett 8, Langdon 7, Edwards, Reid, Wylde, Hayward 6, Caswell, Blair 5, McKay, Saunders 4, Legg, Elliott, Murley 3, Hussey, Warren, Nagy, Ryan, Easton, Lunn, Lewis, McClure 2, Leather, Topping, Clarke, Sims, Wood 1

**Reserve Goalscorers 1953-54**

Hindle 14, Hawkins 10, Hayward 7, Lunn, Appleby, Reid, Northover, og 5, Easton, Brown 4, Inglett, Francis, Stenner 3, McKay, Edwards, Marsh, Foyle, Ryan 2, Rogers, Nagy, Langdon, Wylde, Montague, Wood 1



## CHAPTER TWO

# 1954 – 1955 and a Championship beckons

Ike Clarke's first real worry in his team building was the departure of Johnny McKay, who had gone home to Scotland. Ivor Compton, a Western League striker with Trowbridge Town had signed, his 40 goals for the Wiltshire side being noticed on more than one occasion. Arthur Hickman, in his new role as manager of Street, had persuaded both Bobby Hamilton and Keith Francis to play for him and they were joined by John Thornton, Cyril Hayward and Cliff Mansley in an old boys reunion.

Ike's first season had certainly been a turning point in a number of ways. It had brought back some self discipline to the club which had lost its way and had generated interest sufficiently to create a profit of over £6,000, a staggering total. Gate money had risen to just over £12,000, around the same amount was paid out in wages, rates and expenses, but advertising, donations and other sundries made good reading. Not surprisingly the rather cavalier trumpeting about £40,000 stands was shelved, although it was after a successful visit to Exeter City by hundreds of Yeovil fans, that pressure finally told and lighting was approved in October. The Supporters continued to upgrade Huish by building a wall in front of the North terrace and new turnstiles for season ticket holders plus a tarmac entrance were also provided in the close season. A back wall infill for the new covered terrace would be next on their hard working list.

Ike signed Jim Fraser, a 25 year old forward from Ayr United and by the end of July he had no less than twenty two professional players on the books, all but one living locally. With money coming in from the various supporters associations, the manager's position was as healthy as it had been since the days of Jack Gregory. Dave Lindsay, whose career ended with a broken leg playing for Yeovil, was then in Glasgow, and he was responsible for the constant supply of Scots players, including David Cupples from Morton FC. One man who sadly did not see the start of the history making season was former chairman Bert Smith. He died in June, aged just 54, having been chairman at the club during the great Stock days. He had also sat on the Southern League committee and was vice-chairman of Yeovil when he passed away.

A year earlier Yeovil had started Ike's reign with three straight away defeats, but had recovered well. When losing three of the first four in the following season, conceding eleven goals into the bargain, his heart must have sunk,

along with those of the 6,000 odd who saw the home match. The reserves, in contrast, got off to a flyer with Fraser, Lunn and Compton all scoring freely, but with a full eleven professionals playing in Division Two it was not surprising. Fraser was drafted into the first team after scoring four on the first day and results improved. Six high scoring wins on the bounce, including a fine victory in the League Cup over Weymouth, showed everyone else that Yeovil were back in business, but not all were happy as Micky Ryan had to endure the barracking of a lone spectator whose antics provoked Ryan into attempting to get into the crowd to have a word with him after one game.

The Football Association got into the act in early September, refusing to sanction the new Western League Professional Cup, which had already got under way. Yeovil had already beaten Minehead in the first leg when Sir Stanley Rous ordered the league to postpone all matches until they had convened and sanctioned it. Three weeks later they did, thus creating a backlog from a problem that did not exist. The jittery August gave way to a superb September and October which catapulted Yeovil to the top of the Southern League and, with the reserves doing similarly well, Clarke's plans and promises seemed to be coming to fruition. The enthusiasm saw coachloads of fans from various works and factories organising a trip to the top of the table game with Headington United and some 500 Yeovilians cheered them on, only to see them come a cropper with a 3-0 defeat, as tiredness from a hectic schedule caught up with them. Frome showed that they too were in for a fine season by holding Yeovil in the County Cup and a few days later the forward line was back in shape, going 3-0 up after nine minutes against Barry Town before winning 7-1. The reserves at that time were quoted as costing the club more in wages than the 'Sunderland' side did in 1948-49, but it was money well spent as crowds for their matches were well above 1,000.

After the Barry game Town beat Worcester City, another prospective title chaser, to go top again. That was followed by two matches at St James Park, Exeter, one in the League Cup under lights, where hoards of Town fans were impressed by the system and demanded that the board reconsider their somewhat one eyed view of a year or so earlier. The cost was put at around £1,500 and, with floodlit matches then approved by the league, it was a necessity. The FA Cup had thrown together Yeovil and Barnstaple, and the

## Season 1954-1955

Aug	21st	Hereford United	H	Southern League	2-5	Compton, Ryan
	24th	Llanely	A	" "	0-3	
	28th	Kettering Town	A	Southern League	1-0	Ryan
Sept	1st	Weymouth	A	South LC Q 1st L	1-3	Fraser
	4th	Cheltenham Town	H	Southern League	4-0	Reid 2, Fraser 2
	9th	Weymouth	H	South LC Q 2nd L	4-0	Reid 2, Ryan 2
	11th	Bedford Town	A	Southern League	5-1	McKay, Lunn 2, Fraser 2
	13th	Llanely	H	" "	4-0	Reid, Fraser, Lunn 2
	16th	Chelmsford City	H	" "	5-0	Fraser 2, Clarke 3
	18th	Bedford Town	H	" "	4-1	Fraser, Reid, Clarke, Ryan (pen)
	25th	Headington United	A	" "	0-3	
	29th	Frome Town	A	Som Prem Cup 1	3-3	Clarke, Fraser 2
Oct	2nd	Barry Town	H	Southern League	7-1	Reid 2, Clarke, Fraser 2, Ryan 2 (1pen)
	9th	Worcester City	H	" "	2-1	Fraser, Ryan
	16th	Exeter City Res	A	" "	3-2	Ryan, Reid 2
	20th	Exeter City Res	A	South LC 1st Rd	1-1	Ryan
	23rd	Lovells Athletic	H	Southern League	3-0	Reid, Ryan, Clarke
	30th	Weymouth	A	" "	2-1	Ryan, Clarke
Nov	6th	Barnstaple Town	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	1-3	Ryan
	13th	Dartford	A	Southern League	1-1	Ryan
	20th	Tonbridge AFC	H	" "	2-1	Ryan, Fraser
	27th	Guildford City	A	" "	0-1	
Dec	2nd	Exeter City Res	H	South LC 1 Rep	3-1	Reid, Fraser 2
	4th	Gloucester City	H	Southern League	1-1	Ryan (pen)
	11th	Bath City	A	" "	5-0	Clarke, Reid 3, Fraser
	18th	Hereford United	A	" "	2-1	Ryan, Fraser
	22nd	Kidderminster Harr	A	" "	1-5	Reid
	27th	Kidderminster Harr	H	" "	9-1	McKay, Ryan 2 (1pen), Reid 2, Clarke 2, Fraser 2
Jan	1st	Kettering Town	H	" "	3-2	Marsh, Fraser, Ryan
	8th	Chelmsford City	A	" "	2-5	Fraser, Ryan
	15th	Cheltenham Town	A	" "	3-1	Reid, Ryan, Fraser
	22nd	Gravesend & N	H	" "	3-2	Fraser, og, Clarke
	27th	Bedford Town	A	South LC 2nd Rd	3-3	Lunn, Fraser, Reid
	29th	Frome Town	H	Som PC 1 Rep	1-0	Clarke
Feb	5th	Gravesend & N	A	Southern League	0-0	
	12th	Headington United	H	" "	2-2	og, Fraser
	19th	Barry Town	A	" "	1-5	Reid
Mar.	3rd	Bedford Town	H	South LC 2 Rep	1-0	Ryan (pen)
	5th	Exeter City Res	H	Southern League	3-0	Reid, Clarke, McKay
	8th	Tottenham Hotspur	H	Friendly	2-0	Reid, Ryan
	12th	Lovells Athletic	A	Southern League	0-0	
	14th	Portsmouth	H	Friendly	1-4	Fraser
	19th	Weymouth	H	Southern League	3-4	Ryan, Fraser, Clarke
	23rd	Bath City	H	Som Pro Cup 2	3-1	Reid 2, McKay
	26th	Hastings United	A	Southern League	0-2	
	29th	IFK Stockholm	H	Friendly	5-0	Compton, Lunn 2, McKay, Ryan
	31st	Lovells Athletic	H	Southern League Cup Semi-final	3-2	Nagy (pen), Compton 2
April	2nd	Dartford	H	Southern League	1-1	Ryan
	8th	Merthyr Tydfil	H	" "	5-3	Ryan, Reid 2, Compton, Clarke
	9th	Worcester City	A	" "	2-2	Reid, Compton
	11th	Merthyr Tydfil	A	" "	3-3	Reid, Compton 2
	16th	Guildford City	H	" "	1-0	Nagy (pen)
	21st	Tonbridge AFC	A	Southern League Cup Final 1st Leg	0-0	
	23rd	Gloucester City	A	Southern League	1-0	Clarke
	27th	Tonbridge AFC	A	" "	2-3	Clarke, Reid
	30th	Bath City	H	" "	5-0	Fraser, Clarke, Reid 3
May	2nd	Minehead	H	Somerset Pro Final	2-1	Fraser 2
	5th	Tonbridge AFC	H	Southern League Cup Final 2nd Leg	3-1	Fraser, Clarke, Ryan
	7th	Hastings United	H	Southern League	2-2	Fraser, Reid

## Reserves - Season 1954-1955

Aug	21st	Clandown	A	Western Div 2	7-2	Fraser 4, Reid 2, Lunn
	28th	Radstock Town	H	" "	4-0	Compton 2, Lunn 2
Sept	4th	Chippenham Tn Res	A	" "	2-2	Lunn, Nagy (pen)
	8th	Minehead	A	WLP Cup Q1 1L	5-0	Nagy (pen), Compton 2, Lunn, Stewart
	11th	Toll End Wesley	H	Friendly	7-1	Compton 4, Stevens 2, Muir
	18th	Trowbridge Tn Res	A	Western Div 2	2-0	Muir, Langdon
	23rd	Minehead	H	WLP Cup Q1 2L	2-1	Compton 2
	25th	Weston-S-Mare	A	Western Div 2	2-3	Langdon, Lunn
Oct	2nd	Radstock Town	A	" "	1-4	Langdon
	9th	Welton Rovers	A	" "	1-5	Stewart
	16th	Hoffmann Athletic	H	" "	5-0	Lunn 3 (1pen), Nagy (pen), Wilkins
	23rd	Stonehouse	A	" "	1-0	Lunn
	30th	Weston-S-Mare	H	" "	4-2	Lunn 2, Langdon, Compton
Nov	6th	Gloucester C Res	A	" "	4-4	Compton, Lunn 2, Nagy (pen)
	13th	Trowbridge Tn Res	H	" "	2-1	Compton, Stewart
	17th	Poole Town	A	WL Pro Cup 2	0-1	
	20th	Hoffmann Athletic	A	Western Div 2	7-0	Compton 2, Edwards, Muir, Wallace, Francis (pen), Langdon
	27th	Stonehouse	H	" "	4-3	Francis (pen), Compton 2, Muir
Dec	11th	Taunton	H	" "	1-3	Compton
	18th	Peasedown MW	H	" "	8-0	Stewart, Compton 3, Muir 2, Langdon, Lunn
	25th	Poole Town Res	H	" "	2-0	og, Lunn (pen)
	27th	Poole Town Res	A	" "	3-1	Compton 2, Lunn
Jan	1st	Clevedon	A	" "	3-2	Hardy, Lunn (pen), Compton
	15th	Clevedon	H	" "	6-0	Langdon, Lunn 2 (1pen), Compton 2, Edwards
	22nd	Taunton	A	" "	2-2	Lunn 2
	29th	Peasedown MW	A	" "	1-1	Lunn
Feb	5th	Cinderford Town	H	" "	5-1	Compton 2, Edwards, Lunn 2
	19th	Chippenham T Res	H	" "	2-4	Lunn 2
	26th	Welton Rovers	H	" "	5-0	Lunn 3 (1pen), Compton, Clarke
March	12th	Paulton Rovers	H	" "	9-0	Marsh, Fraser 4, Compton 4
	19th	Paulton Rovers	A	" "	6-1	Langdon, Compton 2, og, Francis, Lunn
	26th	Gloucester City Res	H	" "	3-1	Lunn, Compton 2
April	2nd	Frome Town	A	" "	0-2	
	8th	Minehead	A	" "	1-0	Lunn
	9th	Frome Town	H	" "	3-1	Lunn, Fraser, Black
	11th	Minehead	H	" "	5-1	Lunn 2, Fraser 2, Day
	16th	Cinderford Town	A	" "	3-3	Lunn, Day, Black
	23rd	Clandown	H	" "	1-0	Compton

leaders went to Mill Road perhaps a little over confident, as Barum had a good side which included Stan Carter. The 6,000 capacity was to be stretched and the banking around the ground was improved for the tie, which was watched by 1500 Yeovil fans. The shock defeat did not cause the hiatus that previous early exits had done, as the FA Cup was no longer the main financial artery for the club, and in truth it once again gave the club some breathing space as they were in a far healthier position than a year earlier when chasing the title.

The Christmas list had given Yeovil a nonsensical Christmas Day trip to Kidderminster Harriers, followed by

## Colts – Season 1954-1955

Sept	4th	Somerton	H	Yeovil Lge Prem	4-2
	11th	Bourton	A	" "	6-0
	18th	Castle Cary	H	" "	1-4
Oct	2nd	Crewkerne	H	" "	6-3
	9th	RASC	A	" "	0-2
	16th	Montacute	A	Yeo Char Cup 1	2-0
	23rd	Milborne Port	H	Yeovil Lge Prem	1-1
	30th	Barton United	A	" "	2-7
Nov	6th	Castle Cary	A	Yeo Char Cup 2	4-4
	13th	Barton United	H	Yeovil Lge Prem	2-3
	20th	Castle Cary	H	Yeo Ch Cup 2 Rep	3-1
	27th	Tintinhull	H	Yeo Char Cup 3	7-0
Dec	11th	Tintinhull	H	Yeovil Lge Prem	7-1
	28th	RNAS		Yeovil Charity Cup Final	0-1
Jan	1st	Castle Cary	A	Yeovil Lge Prem	2-4
	8th	East Coker	H	" "	1-2
	22nd	Kingsbury	H	Yeovil KO Cup 1	2-2
	29th	Tintinhull	A	Yeovil Lge Prem	6-0
Feb	5th	Crewkerne	H	Yeovil KO Cup 2	4-4
	12th	Crewkerne	A	Replay	2-1
	19th	Wincanton	A	Yeovil KO Cup 3	3-2
Mar	5th	Milborne Port	A	Yeovil Lge Prem	6-0
	19th	RNAS	A	" "	1-4
	26th	Crewkerne	A	" "	4-2
April	2nd	Bourton	H	" "	7-2
	16th	Somerton	A	" "	2-0
	25th	Yeovil Harlequins	H	" "	1-2
	29th	Yeovil Harlequins	A	" "	2-0
May	3rd	RASC	H	" "	3-3
	4th	RASC	H	" "	4-3

the return two days later, but wisely the clubs brought the game forward three days, although Yeovil were less than impressed by the poor standard floodlights at Aggborough, and not for the first time came away with bitter memories and little else.

The loss was redeemed with interest on Boxing Day as the whole forward line went on the rampage led by Ike Clarke himself. Former managers were cropping up in the press, as Harry Lowe was reported to have bought a hotel in Cheshunt, Hertfordshire and was managing the local side in the Delphian League, but locally news was that floodlights had been approved by the board. There would be seven stanchions on each side with three lights on each giving a total of 54 KW.

The new year saw Yeovil top with thirty points from twenty games, the reserves also leading the way.

With finance at the ready, a strong squad including reserve back up, lights available and no cup runs or fixture pile ups, it had all come good for Ike Clarke and his men, and the press were full of the fact that Yeovil had never won the league outright and would possibly never have a better chance.

First team gates were averaging just under 5,500 and they would increase, but there would be a threat from rivals Weymouth, as they had put together a fine run which had seen them move into second place. Two draws and a heavy defeat at Barry brought Weymouth closer, they having been seven points behind at one stage, and heavy pitches and snowed up scenes had thrown Yeovil out of their stride. The club was also stunned and saddened when the jinx of Taunton hit again. Jimmy Hindle had fought back after a bad break ten months earlier, but on his return he fell awkwardly and broke the same leg, putting his career in jeopardy. A collection at the next reserve game brought him a well earned sum to help him through. The lighting system had gone up



**Yeovil Town Football Club 1954-55**

Back Row (1 to r): Stewart, Compton, Marsh, Grist (groundsman), Lunn, Brown, Pantling. Third Row: P.A. Hardy (director), Muir, E. P. Blake (director), Rogers, Langford (trainer), Singleton, Abbott (trainer), Lewis, S. Pinder (director), Warren, L. H. Pearce (director). Second Row: Edwards, E. Barber (director), Ryan, I. B. Rendall (secretary), McKay, E. Loney (director), Fraser, A. G. Goswell (director), Reid, G. E. Templeman (director), Dominy. Front Row: R. Vincent (director), Topping, W. H. Farthing (chairman), E. C. Wheeldon (president), Clark (Manager), S. Johnson (post president), R. G. White (vice chairman), Nagy, A. R. Lamb (director).



Yeovil skipper, Mick Nagy, being presented with the Somerset Professional Cup after beating Minehead 2-1 on 2nd May 1955. Also in the picture are (left to right): Edwards, Dominey, McKay, Marsh, Fraser and Singleton.

with some haste once the decision was made, without course to public appeals or heart rending pleas of poverty, and Portsmouth were invited to play the first game under them, the affection still felt toward Ike making it a formality. Sadly snow put paid to the match on January 21st 1955 and the lighting up was put back. Yeovil suffered a black day on February 19th, not only did Barry win 5-1 at Jenner Park but the reserves lost 4-2 to Chippenham Town at Huish. What were healthy leads had been whittled down with both sides only four points ahead of the pack and in the Southern League any one of six clubs could still win it. On March 8th Tottenham Hotspur came to Huish and dutifully lost 2-0 and, despite freezing near blizzard conditions, 4,000 turned up to see the spectacle. A week later in more favourable conditions Pompey played the second game, where over 8,000 turned up. By then Ike's team had shaken off the seven week spell without a league win but Weymouth had taken advantage and were two points behind and on top form. Guildford City, Worcester City and Gloucester City were all in with a shout, and they were soon joined by Hastings United as the race hotted up towards the end of March. A huge crowd saw Weymouth visit on March 19th and were treated to a thriller which left the Terras joint top with Yeovil, with Worcester and Guildford with games in hand. Clarke's dream was slowly disappearing and another defeat, at Hastings did little to help. Almost unnoticed amongst the tense league games, Yeovil had reached the Professional Cup final yet again, beating Bath City in the semi-final and then, having beaten Lovells Athletic in the League Cup semi-final, assured themselves of two cracks at silverware should they lose the championship.

The Easter period was to prove crucial and removed three of the contenders leaving Weymouth, Hastings and Yeovil. Town's excellent four points from six saw them regain the lead from Weymouth, who had knocked them off for the first time in six months when Dartford drew at Huish. With four games left Yeovil could afford to drop just one point and, equally crucially, the reserves needed to win both their games to take the Western League Division Two title and cement a famous double. The squad had to endure five away games out of six, including two demanding trips to Tonbridge in a week and it told when they lost the league game 3-2. Bath City were crushed 5-0 in the penultimate game and Weymouth also won, leaving both clubs with one game left on the week end of the Cup Final. The Terras won their game on the Friday to go a point ahead, leaving Yeovil's final match, on the FA Cup Final evening, against Hastings United.

Ike collects the Southern League Cup three days later after beating Tonbridge AFC.



The side went into the match having won both domestic cup finals in a week, and such was the interest in the title that neither were reported on in the local press. Hastings lined up in a kit not dissimilar to that worn by Weymouth, and many of that club's supporters had journeyed up to cheer on Hastings.

A draw would be good enough and 8,676 witnessed a nerve jangling match. Hastings had nothing to prove apart from the possibility of doing the double over Yeovil and fought hard, but Micky Reid put the Glovers 1-0 up after fifteen minutes. Just before half time the locals were stunned as Hastings equalised and soon after the restart panic set in as Hastings took the lead to the delight of the Weymouth fans. The hero of the evening turned out to be Jimmy Fraser, the little Scot brought to the club from Ayr, as his equaliser twenty minutes from the end brought the title to an ecstatic Huish.

Yeovil had scored the same amount of goals as Weymouth, 105, but had conceded eighteen less, yet due to the vagaries of



Players with the Championship Shield which was presented after the 2-2 draw with Hastings United on 7 May 1955.





The team that won the Southern League Cup Back Row (l to r): Billy Lunn, Dave Topping, Gordon Dominey, Mick Nagy, Barney Singleton, Brian Edwards, Cliff Marsh, Joe Langford (trainer), Front Row: Mick Ryan, Ike Clarke, Jim Fraser, Mick Reid, Johnny McKay.

**Southern League 1954-1955**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil Town	42	23	9	10	105	66	55
Weymouth	42	24	7	11	105	84	55
Hastings United	42	21	9	12	94	60	51
Cheltenham Town	42	21	8	13	85	72	50
Guildford City	42	20	8	14	72	59	48
Worcester City	42	19	10	13	80	73	48
Barry Town	42	16	15	11	82	87	47
Gloucester City	42	16	13	13	66	54	45
Bath City	42	18	9	15	73	80	45
Headington United	42	18	7	17	82	62	43
Kidderminster Harr	42	18	7	17	84	86	43
Merthyr Tydfil	42	17	8	17	97	94	42
Exeter City Res	42	19	4	19	67	78	42
Lovells Athletic	42	15	11	16	71	68	41
Kettering Town	42	15	11	16	70	69	41
Hereford United	42	17	5	20	91	72	39
Llanelly	42	16	7	19	78	81	39
Bedford Town	42	16	3	23	75	103	35
Tonbridge AFC	42	11	8	23	68	91	30
Dartford	42	9	12	21	55	76	30
Chelmsford City	42	11	6	25	73	111	28

**Western League Div 2 – 1954-1955**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil Town Res	34	23	5	6	115	49	51
Frome Town	34	24	3	7	106	49	51
Weston-S-Mare	34	22	4	8	122	58	48
Chippenham T Res	34	18	8	8	102	60	44
Taunton	34	20	3	11	95	57	43
Gloucester C Res	34	16	8	10	80	61	40
Minehead	34	15	6	13	104	65	36
Cinderford Town	34	12	12	10	85	79	36
Stonehouse	34	15	5	14	87	83	35
Poole Town Res	34	15	4	15	82	71	34
Welton Rovers	34	13	6	16	70	77	32
Peasedown MW	34	12	6	16	79	102	30
Clandown	34	12	6	16	45	75	30
Clevedon	34	12	4	18	82	90	28
Hoffman Athletic	34	11	3	20	53	97	25
Trowbridge T Res	34	10	3	21	43	86	23
Radstock Town	34	5	6	23	54	135	16

the goal average system, Yeovil won the title by 3/10's of a goal. It mattered not as Ike Clarke was presented with the massive shield by the Mayor of Yeovil. He addressed the crowd saying "How could a manager go wrong with such a grand bunch of players as this who will play anywhere". Chairman Bill Farthing looked on a proud man, having been at the club since the advent of professionalism 33 years before. It capped the finest season that the club had had to that point. The reserves had taken their league title as well, courtesy of Frome

Town's inability to win their last game at Clevedon 6-0. A 4-3 win was not good enough and the reserves took the title by .184 of a goal. The celebratory dinner saw four honours on the top table, the Southern League championship, Western League Division Two championship, the Southern League Cup and the Somerset Professional Cup.

It was a feat that could only really be equalled and never beaten, but Ike Clarke's remit, with his reserves back in the top flight, was to give it a go. Unsurprisingly the thirteen players offered contracts signed at once, including John Finlay whose original decision to go back to Scotland was reversed prior to the start of the memorable term.

**Yeovil League Premier Division  
1954-1955**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Castle Cary	22	15	3	4	76	38	33
East Coker	22	15	2	5	69	28	32
Barton United	22	15	1	6	89	36	31
RASC	22	14	4	4	89	38	30
RNAS	22	13	3	6	83	46	29
Yeovil Town Colts	22	13	2	7	77	47	28
Crewkerne Town	22	12	0	10	69	80	24
Yeovil Harlequins	22	8	0	14	55	61	16
Milborne Port	22	6	4	12	37	60	16
Somerton Amateurs	22	5	4	13	45	79	14
Bourton	22	1	3	18	31	115	5

**First Team Appearances 1954-55**

Topping 56, Ryan 55, Singleton 54, Reid 52, Fraser, McKay 51, Marsh, Clarke 48, Nagy 43, Warren 40, Dominy 39, Hardy 17, Brown 15, Edwards 14, Lunn, Compton 9, Rogers, Lewis, Stewart 7, Muir 6, Francis 4, Leather 3.

**First Team goalscorers 1954-55**

Fraser, Reid 33, Ryan 27, Clarke 20, Compton 7, Lunn, McKay 4 Nagy 2, Marsh 1, ogs 3.

**Reserves Appearances 1954-55**

Leather, Lunn 33, Muir 32, Rogers 31, Compton 29, Langdon, Lewis 26, Francis 25, Stewart 24, Hardy 19, Edwards 18, Pantling 17, Wallace, Nagy 11, Fraser 7, Dominy 6, Brown, C Francis, L Franklin, Montague, Black 4, Marsh, Warren, Day 3, Singleton, Goundry, Clarke, Allen, Wilkins 2, Sibbles, Topping, Ryan, Reid, McKay, Couples, Stevens, Hindle, Murphy, Brook, Jarvis, Mines, Williams 1.

**Reserves Goalscorers 1954-55**

Lunn 37, Compton 32, Fraser 12, Langdon 9, Muir 5, Nagy, Stewart 4, Edwards 3, Francis, Reid, Black, Day 2, Wilkins, Clarke, Wallace, Marsh, Hardy 1, 3 ogs.

**Season 1955-56**

Clarke's memorable season of 1954-55 would be almost impossible to better, which, although wonderful at the time, has caused countless problems to clubs far bigger in stature than Yeovil Town over the years. Fraser, Reid, Ryan and Clarke himself had all enjoyed productive years in front of goal, but Ryan had moved on and with Ike pushing forty he needed to strengthen his forward line. Frank Fidler was an Irish Guardsman who had enjoyed a healthy career since his time at Manchester United during the War. After a spell with Witton Albion he joined Wrexham and then Leeds United before coming south in 1952 to have two years at Bournemouth. His 55 goals in 119 League appearances showed that he would be a useful acquisition.

Winger Don Woan was a League pro for four years and had four different clubs where he made 75 appearances in all before joining Yeovil, and he was joined by two full backs, Jim Elder, a Scot from Perth whose 200 plus matches for Colchester United were in contrast to the one match he played for Portsmouth, and Jim Stephen, another Scot who was capped twice and also played 200 times, for Bradford Park Avenue and Portsmouth.

Clarke's last signing at that time was Barry Squires, a full back with spells at Birmingham and Bradford City under his belt.

The campaign began at home to Hastings United with the following line up...

*Singleton, Stephen, Elder, Marsh, Nagy, Topping, Woan, Clarke, Fraser, Reid, McKay.*

The new side was soon into its stride with Reid and Fidler scoring well and, with eight points from ten and two wins over Exeter City in the League Cup, they faced Headington United, winning 4-2 to go second behind Guildford City, who were fast taking over the mantle left behind by Merthyr Tydfil whose bubble seemed to have burst. After six games the reserves were also joint top courtesy of Billy Lunn's eleven goals, which got him a recall into the first team when injuries took care of Clarke, Stephen, Nagy, Reid and Fraser.

He was joined by Andy Easton who had come back after a tour of Weymouth, Bridgwater Town and Chippenham

Town, and once the squad regrouped Clarke had an embarrassment of riches which manifested itself in a 9-2 hammering of Hereford United in perfect time for the FA Cup, which began for Yeovil at Bideford Town. The North Devon side's ground was shared with the local rugby club and to avoid a clash the match kicked off at 1.30 in front of 4,310 fans, many from Somerset. Despite the efforts of old Huish favourite Paddy Doyle, Yeovil went through, Frank Fidler claiming a hat-trick.

The win brought Aldershot to Huish in the first round and the 10,000 crowd saw Clarke's side play second best to the 'Shots' who were unfortunate not to win at the first attempt. Brian Edward's solo run into the area with four minutes left ended with him being brought down and Jim Elder slotted home the penalty to



Unusual squad pictures presented in the programme towards the end of the season.

## Season 1955-1956

Aug	20th	Hastings United	H	Southern League	3-1	Nagy, Clarke 2
	25th	Worcester City	H	" "	2-0	Fidler, McKay
	27th	Exeter City Res	A	" "	1-1	Fidler
Sept	3rd	Barry Town	H	" "	1-1	Fidler
	8th	Exeter City Res	H	South LC Q 1 L	4-3	Reid 2, Fidler 2
	10th	Merthyr Tydfil	A	Southern League	3-1	Reid 2, Fidler
	12th	Exeter City Res	A	South LC Q 2 L	1-0	Fidler
	17th	Headington United	H	Southern League	4-2	McKay, Clarke 2, Reid
	22nd	Worcester City	A	" "	1-4	Fidler
	24th	Dartford	A	" "	0-0	
	29th	Bridgwater Town	H	Som Prof Cup 1	2-0	Reid, Fidler
Oct	1st	Kettering Town	H	Southern League	3-1	Lunn W, Fidler, Fraser
	8th	Tonbridge AFC	H	" "	4-0	Lunn W, Fidler 2, Woan
	11th	Boston United	H	Friendly	2-3	Fraser, Fidler
	15th	Bath City	A	Southern League	1-1	Reid
	17th	Southern Lge X1	H	Friendly	1-3	Reid
	22nd	Hereford United	H	Southern League	9-2	Woan, Reid 5, Clarke 2, Fidler
	29th	Cheltenham Town	A	" "	0-1	
Nov	5th	Bideford Town	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	3-0	Fidler 3
	12th	Gravesend & N	A	Southern League	3-2	Fraser, Fidler, Reid
	19th	Aldershot	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	1-1	Elder (pen)
	23rd	Aldershot	A	Replay	1-1 aet	Reid
	26th	Bedford Town	A	Southern League	0-3	
	28th	Aldershot (at Southampton FC)		FA Cup 1 2nd Replay	0-3	
Dec	3rd	Lovells Athletic	H	Southern League	3-1	Reid 2, Elder (pen)
	10th	Llanely	A	" "	1-1	Fidler
	17th	Hastings United	A	" "	2-3	Fidler 2
	19th	Bath City	H	South LC 1st Rd	6-1	Fraser, Fidler 3, Elder (pen), Reid
	24th	Exeter City Res	H	Southern League	1-0	Reid
	26th	Kidderminster Harr	A	" "	2-4	Reid, Fidler
	27th	Kidderminster Harr	H	" "	10-0	Elder (pen), Fidler 3, Reid 2, Squires 2, Easton, Fraser
	31st	Barry Town	A	" "	1-1	Fidler
Jan	7th	Weymouth	H	" "	2-0	Edwards, Fraser
	14th	Merthyr Tydfil	H	" "	7-2	Fraser 2, Fidler 2, Easton, Reid, og
	21st	Headington United	A	" "	2-3	Fidler, Reid
	25th	Cheltenham Town	A	South LC 2nd Rd	2-2	Fidler, Reid
	28th	Gloucester City	H	Southern League	2-1	Fidler, Elder (pen)
Feb	4th	Dartford	H	" "	2-2	Easton, Fidler
	11th	Kettering Town	A	" "	2-1	Easton, og
	14th	Cheltenham Town	H	South LC 2 Rep	7-3	Brown, McKay, Easton 2, Fidler 2, Edwards
	18th	Tonbridge AFC	A	Southern League	4-2	Fraser, Brown, Fidler 2
	25th	Bath City	H	" "	2-1	Easton, Fidler
	27th	Southampton	H	Friendly	2-2	og, Elder (pen)
March	3rd	Hereford United	A	Southern League	2-2	Clarke, Fidler
	5th	Plymouth Argyle	H	Friendly	5-3	Fidler, Easton, Brown, Fraser og
	10th	Cheltenham Town	H	Southern League	1-0	Easton
	12th	Boston United	A	Friendly	1-2	Fraser
	17th	Guildford City	A	Southern League	3-4	McKay 2, Fidler
	20th	Headington United	H	Southern League Cup Semi-final	3-1	Brown, Edwards, Easton
	24th	Gravesend & N	H	Southern League	4-1	Easton 2, Fraser, Elder (pen)
	30th	Chelmsford City	A	" "	0-0	
	31st	Weymouth	A	" "	0-1	
April	2nd	Chelmsford City	H	" "	3-1	Brown, Reid, Elder (pen)
	7th	Bedford Town	H	" "	1-0	Reid

## Season 1955-1956 continued

	10th	Frome Town	H	Som Professional Cup Semi-final	5-3	Fidler 3, Reid 2
	14th	Gloucester City	H	Southern League Cup Final 1st Leg	4-1	Easton, Reid, Fidler, Elder (pen)
	19th	Llanely	H	Southern League	3-0	Reid, Fidler, Easton
	21st	Gloucester City	A	Southern League Cup Final 2nd Leg	1-5 aet	Fidler
	28th	Gloucester City	A	Southern League	0-2	
	30th	Lovells Athletic	A	" "	1-2	Fidler
May	3rd	Bristol City Colts	H	Somerset Professional Cup Final	4-3	Topping, Fidler 2, Fraser
	5th	Guildford City	H	Southern League	2-0	Reid 2

send the teams to the Recreation Ground to fight for the right to play Reading in the next round. Clarke was forced into changes for the replay and they worked as Yeovil dominated for large parts of the match which went into extra time with the home keeper playing on the wing after injury.

Aldershot's penalty was equalised by Micky Reid ten minutes from time and another half hour could not split the two, which meant a third match, at The Dell, Southampton two days later. Clarke's exhausted and injury hit squad finally gave in and goals either side of half time were enough to kill off their brave challenge.

The original match saw the first big crowd since the north terrace was given its backing infill, and it caused residents of Park Road to complain of "spectators creating a nuisance, instead of using the facilities provided". A suitably coy request was printed in the programme.

Various ex-Glovers were cropping up in the press, including David Halliday who was then managing Leicester

## Colts - Season 1955-1956

Sept	3rd	Crewkerne	A	Yeovil Premier	2-3
	10th	RASC	A	" "	1-3
Oct	7th	Westland Sports	A	" "	3-1
	14th	Milborne Port	A	" "	2-1
	21st	Bourton	H	" "	4-1
	28th	RNAS Yeovilton	A	" "	2-1
Nov	12th	South Petherton	H	" "	3-1
	26th	RASC	H	" "	4-0
Dec	3rd	South Petherton	A	" "	3-4
	5th	Exeter City Colts	H	Friendly	1-2
	10th	Tintinhull	H	Yeovil Premier	1-1
	17th	Bruton Town	A	" "	10-1
	31st	Castle Cary	A	" "	1-0
Jan	7th	East Coker	H	" "	2-3
	10th	Exeter City Colts	A	Friendly	0-0
	21st	Yeovil Harlequins	H	Yeovil Premier	1-4
	28th	Melbury Osmond	A	Cup	8-0
Feb	11th	Westland Sports	H	Yeovil Premier	0-0
	18th	Castle Cary	A	Yeovil KO Cup 1 aet	3-5
March	3rd	Tintinhull	A	Yeovil Premier	3-2
	10th	Barton United	H	" "	3-0
	14th	Dulverton Town	H	Friendly	2-3
	17th	Crewkerne Town	H	Yeovil Premier	0-0
	24th	Barton United	A	" "	0-0
April	7th	Yeovil Harlequins	A	" "	1-3
	19th	South Petherton	H	Cup	5-2
	21st	Milborne Port	H	Yeovil Premier	0-4
	30th	RNAS Yeovilton	H	" "	1-4
May	1st	Somerton	A	" "	2-2
	5th	RASC	H	Yeovil Hospital Cup Final	3-2





A goalmouth incident during Yeovil Town's first match of the season 1955-56 against Hastings United showing player-manager Ike Clarke (No. 8) who had the satisfaction of scoring two goals in the 3-1 win over Hastings.

#### Reserves – Season 1955-1956

Aug	20th	Glastonbury	A	Western Div 1	2-1	W Lunn, Compton
	27th	Bath City Res	H	" "	4-2	Squires, W Lunn, Compton 2
Sept	1st	Bridgwater Town	A	WLC Prel Rd	1-1	W Lunn
	3rd	Salisbury City	A	Western Div 1	1-5	McKenzie
	10th	Bristol City Colts	H	" "	3-2	W Lunn 3
	15th	Bridgwater Town	H	WLC Prel Rep	4-3	W Lunn 4
	17th	Chippenham Utd	A	Western Div 1	1-2	H Lunn
	24th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	" "	2-1	W Lunn, Woan (pen)
Oct	15th	Chippenham Town	H	" "	2-1	Woan, Compton
	22nd	Weymouth Res	A	" "	2-2	Easton 2
	29th	Frome Town	H	" "	4-3	McKenzie, Compton 2, Woan
Nov	5th	Chippenham Town	A	" "	2-2	Compton, Easton
	12th	Taunton	H	Western LC 1	1-1	McKenzie
	19th	Bideford	A	Western Div 1	2-2	Squires 2
	26th	Bideford	H	" "	2-2	W Lunn, Cousins
Dec	3rd	Wells City	A	" "	2-7	Compton 2
	10th	Bridgwater Town	H	" "	5-0	W Lunn 2, Woan 2 (1pen), Compton
	17th	Weymouth	H	" "	1-2	H Lunn
	26th	Dorchester Town	H	" "	0-5	
	27th	Dorchester Town	A	" "	0-4	
Jan	7th	Barnstaple Town	A	" "	1-2	Compton

City, Keith Francis who had joined Taunton Town, old favourite Eric Bryant who had signed for Dorchester Town and Lionel Phillips who, having done the rounds in Kent, had joined Headington United.

For once the Cup exit did not spell the end of meaningful combat, for Christmas was enjoyed by no-one more so than Frank Fidler, whose hat-tricks against Bath City and Kidderminster Harriers kept the pot boiling. Sadly the reserves did not enjoy the festivities, losing heavily on consecutive days to Dorchester Town and they had begun to slip alarmingly down the table. The home match with Salisbury saw action taken by the board of directors, who suspended both Dave Topping and Cliff Marsh for incidents after the match, the details of which were not made public either in the press or in the programme. Micky Reid and Barry

	14th	Taunton	A	Western LC1	3-1	McKay, Woan, Compton
	21st	Salisbury	H	Western Div 1	0-1	
Feb	8th	Weston-S-Mare	H	Western LC 2-	3-0	Compton 2, W Lunn
	11th	Trowbridge Town	H	Western Div 1	3-1	W Lunn, Clarke, Compton
	18th	Poole Town	H	" "	1-2	Compton
	25th	Bristol Rovers ColtsA	"	" "	3-1	Clarke, Compton 2
March	3rd	Chippenham Town	H	Western LC 3	1-2	H Lunn
	10th	Bristol City Colts	A	Western Div 1	1-2	W Lunn
	17th	Barnstaple Town	H	" "	1-2	Franklin (pen)
	24th	Frome Town	A	" "	0-5	
	30th	Portland United	H	" "	0-2	
	31st	Glastonbury	H	" "	2-1	Franklin (pen), Reid
April	2nd	Portland United	A	" "	0-9	
	7th	Trowbridge Town	A	" "	2-6	Franklin (pen), Marsh
	23rd	Bridgwater Town	A	" "	4-2	Compton, Lewis, Franklin, Woan
	26th	Chippenham Utd	H	" "	4-3	Clarke 2, Franklin (2pens), Woan
	28th	Wells City	H	" "	3-3	Compton, H Lunn, Franklin (pen)
May	1st	Poole Town	A	" "	0-2	

Squires had also been in trouble, being sent off in bizarre circumstances at Kidderminster, and they too were suspended, by the FA this time.

Fidler and Reid continued to lead the scoring as Yeovil valiantly pursued Guildford City, and through the winter months Clarke's side lost just one in seventeen starts, and that via Lionel Phillips at Headington. Sadly Ike was injured again against Hereford United, meaning he had missed some twenty games, his worst season on the pitch, but another injury hit striker, the popular Jimmy Hindle, made another come back signing for Bath City.

The board supplemented funds by utilising the floodlights, friendlies against Southampton, Plymouth Argyle and Boston United being reasonably well attended, another motive being that a motion was on the table at the Football League to



Yeovil's centre-forward, Frank Fidler (second from left) heads the first of his three goals to put Bideford out of the 1955-56 Cup.

increase by eight clubs to form three Third Divisions, Midland, South and North for the 1957-58 season. Yeovil's geographical position made them, in their own words, "absolute certs to go in".

The Southern League Cup run had seen Cheltenham hammered in a replay, which brought Headington United to Huish for the semi-final, and 4,000 saw a thriller won by second half goals from Edwards and Easton, keeping alive the chance of doing the double again. Sadly the dream ended at Easter when one point was gleaned from away games on consecutive days. The Good Friday game at Chelmsford City was doomed from the start as Barney Singleton was taken ill with travel sickness just before the game. Brian Edwards volunteered to go in goal and with Barry Squires also not well, the club asked Chelmsford not to announce the line ups before the game. The programme for the next match, giving nothing away, stating that 'a reserve came on to play'. In fact desperation had crept in and Yeovil were forced to play Bob Spiller, a supporter now as then, who had travelled to see the match and ended up playing. It was his first and last appearance for the club on the pitch although he remains a regular off it.

The last month or so was kept alive, not only because of the League Cup final and the almost inevitable Somerset Professional Cup Final, but also by the fact that Guildford had also slipped up and with four matches to play Yeovil were just three points behind them, with the last game, at Huish, between the two.

Fidler and Reid duly took care of Frome Town in the County semi-final four days before the Southern League Cup Final 1st Leg against Gloucester City. The 4-1 win seemed good enough to retain the cup and the 3-0 win over bottom club Llanelly kept the pressure on Guildford, but they had regrouped and needing one point from two games, duly

wrapped up the title. The second leg of the final was a disaster, Yeovil collapsed, eventually losing 5-1 in extra time at Longlevens. Many said that Yeovil had lost so badly due to the fact most of the team had not been retained. Almost as a punishment they also lost two of the last three league games and thus squandered the runners up position which went to Cheltenham Town.

#### Southern League 1955-1956

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guildford City	42	26	8	8	74	34	60
Cheltenham Town	42	25	6	11	82	53	56
Yeovil Town	42	23	9	10	98	55	55
Bedford Town	42	21	9	12	99	69	51
Dartford	42	20	9	13	78	62	49
Weymouth	42	19	10	13	83	63	48
Gloucester City	42	19	9	14	72	60	47
Lovells Athletic	42	19	9	14	91	78	47
Chelmsford City	42	18	10	14	67	55	46
Kettering Town	42	16	11	15	105	86	43
Exeter City Res	42	17	9	16	75	76	43
Gravesend & N	42	17	8	17	79	75	42
Hereford United	42	17	7	18	90	90	41
Hastings United	42	15	10	17	90	73	40
Headington United	42	17	6	19	82	86	40
Kidderminster Harr	42	14	7	21	86	108	35
Llanelly	42	14	6	22	64	98	34
Barry Town	42	11	11	20	91	108	33
Worcester City	42	12	9	21	66	83	33
Tonbridge AFC	42	11	11	20	53	74	33
Merthyr Tydfil	42	7	10	25	52	127	24



**Western League Div 1 – 1955-1956**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Trowbridge Town	32	24	2	6	100	36	50
Poole Town	32	20	7	5	79	33	47
Dorchester Town	32	21	4	7	106	57	46
Chippenham Town	32	20	4	8	70	50	44
Salisbury	32	17	7	8	64	31	41
Bideford	32	14	10	8	58	50	38
Portland United	32	16	3	13	87	76	35
Barnstaple Town	32	15	4	13	61	66	34
Weymouth Res	32	10	12	10	63	70	32
Frome Town	32	10	7	15	69	64	27
Yeovil Town Res	32	11	5	16	57	86	27
Bristol Rovers Colts	32	10	4	18	49	65	24
Bristol City Colts	32	8	7	17	43	63	23
Wells City	32	8	7	17	53	92	23
Bridgwater Town	32	7	5	20	54	90	19
Chippenham Utd	32	7	5	20	54	90	19

**Yeovil Premier League – 1955-1956**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
RASC	26	18	5	3	106	39	41
East Coker	26	18	4	4	95	59	38*
Castle Cary	26	17	3	6	125	53	37
RNAS	26	16	2	8	62	76	32
Yeovil Town Colts	26	13	5	8	59	40	31
Yeovil Harlequins	25	14	3	8	78	56	31
South Petherton	26	13	5	8	81	53	31
Milborne Port	26	10	4	12	67	83	24
Westland Sports	26	8	5	13	49	63	21
Bruton Town	26	8	4	14	64	106	20*
Somerton Town	26	9	3	13	64	66	19*
Crewkerne Town	26	6	5	15	57	90	15*
Tintinhull	26	4	5	17	40	98	13
Barton United	26	1	3	22	33	113	5

\* Points Deducted

The Pro Cup win over Bristol City was almost an afterthought, as Clarke's brave battle against the elements had ended in a third place and runners up medals, the only silverware being via the county. Many other clubs would consider five trophies and a runners up spot in a year to be a stunning achievement but there was a sense of anti-climax and frustration, borne out by the decision to slash the playing staff immediately the season finished. The poor performance by the reserves was a major factor as it was still seen as being vital to the club to have a strong second string, but they apparently were no nearer achieving it than they were before Clarke. Dominy, Elder, Edwards, Nagy, Brown, Fraser, Fidler and McKay were the only players to be offered terms, along with Dave Topping who had a clause in his contract giving him the option of a free transfer. Miklos Nagy and Johnny McKay were awarded benefits to run in what would turn out to be a sad season for Yeovil and for Ike Clarke.

**First Team Appearances 1955-56**

Elder 57, Edwards, Fidler 56, Singleton, Fraser 54, Reid 47, Dominy 45, Nagy 40, Topping 37, Easton 34, McKay 33, Brown 28, Squires 21, Clarke, Hardy 17, Stephen 10, Woan 9, Marsh 4, Bird, W Lunn 2, Spiller, Crawford 1

**First Team Goalscorers 1955-56**

Fidler 50, Reid 30, Easton, Fraser 10, Elder, Clarke 8, McKay 7, Brown 4, W Lunn, Squires 2, Edwards, Nagy, Topping, Woan, 1, ogs 3

**Reserve Appearances 1955-56**

Marsh 32, Compton 31, W Lunn, H Lunn 28, Fowler, Hardy 25, Woan, Squires 24, Franklin 23, Warren, McKenzie 20, Brown 13, Hewitt, Cousins 10, Lewis 9, Gifford 8, Nagy, Wilkins, McKay 7, Stephen, Topping, Easton 6, Montague, Reid 5, Dominy, C Francis 4, Clarke 3, Jarvis, B Bennett 2, Bird, Edwards, Fraser, Jenkins, A Loader, Murley, Perry 1

**Reserve Goalscorers 1955-56**

Compton 17, W Lunn 16, Woan 6, Franklin 5, H Lunn 4, McKenzie, Squires, Easton 3, Fraser, Clarke, Cousins 2, Marsh, Reid, McKay 1

**1956-57 and Ike's spring clean...**

Ike Clarke's spring clean meant that he had to act quickly, which he did, nabbing Eddie Bird and Harry Robshaw from Reading before enticing Marcel Gaillard from Weymouth. The Belgian striker had been top scorer for the Terras for two seasons, but Yeovil made him a better offer and he came up country, passing Andy Easton on the way. Jim Stephen joined Bridgwater as player-manager and Barry Squire went off to Gloucester City as the usual merry-go-round continued.

Locally Stoke-Under-Ham were enjoying life, having dominated the local scene they moved into senior football, planning to build a stand with dressing rooms. A little further afield Crewkerne Town had survived a torrid time and were also planning dressing rooms at Viney Bridge, a little erroneously as it turned out for within a year they had moved to a new ground at Henhayes.

The trials saw a dozen new players, five of whom were from Reading and the first league game saw three make debuts, including Bill Deplidge, fresh from fifteen years at Bradford Park Avenue.

The reserves' season commenced against Bristol City Colts, wingers Doug Potter and Trevor Long delighting a crowd of 3,000, one of the biggest for a reserve game since the War. They also welcomed back Derek Warren after some 18 months out with cartiledge trouble, many having thought that he had retired.

After two defeats the first team settled with Fidler again making the running then John McKay hit a good spell with seven in four games. The good start continued until Headington United visited, the Oxford side winning 4-2 and thus becoming the first club to win a league game at Huish for eighteen months. Clarke signed Danny McCaffery from Worcester City for £300, a move which saw Jim Fraser move on to Bath City, but it backfired on Clarke as the new man did not settle and by the end of October, with no wins in six games, the supporters could see no way that the league championship was coming to Huish, and instead only saw a winter of grind.

Clarke lost patience and dropped seven players for the trip to Kidderminster, and although that game was lost Frank Fidler returned to form for the next game, and in time for the FA Cup tie against Glastonbury. Fidler and McKay saw off the Western Leaguers, but by then Clarke had already used twenty players, and he complained that "he could not find the blend". His insistence that they were the best side the club had ever had did not go down too well, as some were fast becoming restless, soon forgetting the heroics of the previous two seasons, but the frustration was showing all around, a hostile crowd coming on to the pitch to jostle and abuse the referee after the 5-1 win over Gloucester, after Johnny McKay was sent off. The Glastonbury side contained Brian Saville and Bobby Hamilton and Yeovil struggled to take control, winning 3-1. The tie gave them Peterborough United, not for the first time, the Posh managed

## Season 1956-1957

Aug	18th	Headington United	A	Southern League	0-2	
	22nd	Gravesend & N	A	" "	1-4	Fidler
	25th	Guildford City	H	" "	4-1	Elder pen, Long, Gaillard, Fidler
	28th	Weymouth	H	South LC Q1 1st L	4-1	Fidler 2, Edwards, McKay
Sept	1st	Barry Town	A	Southern League	0-0	
	5th	Weymouth	A	" "	2-2	Gaillard, Elder pen
	8th	Hereford United	H	" "	4-4	Fidler, Alexander, McKay, Long
	13th	Gravesend & N	H	" "	4-2	McKay 3, Gaillard
	15th	Cheltenham Town	A	" "	4-2	McKay 2, Topping, Alexander
	20th	Hastings United	H	" "	1-1	McKay
	22nd	Headington United	H	" "	2-4	Fidler, Elder pen
	26th	Weston-S-Mare	H	Som Pro Cup 1	4-0	Clarke, Fidler, Gaillard, McKay
	29th	Kettering Town	A	Southern League	0-1	
Oct	6th	Worcester City	A	" "	1-1	Gaillard
	8th	Wrexham	H	Friendly	2-1	Elder, Robshaw
	13th	Lovells Athletic	H	Southern League	0-2	
	20th	Kidderminster Harr	A	" "	0-2	
	22nd	Boston United	A	Friendly	1-3	Fidler
	27th	Gloucester City	H	Southern League	5-1	Fidler 2, McKay, Long, Elder pen
Nov	3rd	Glastonbury	H	FA Cup 4th Qual	3-1	Fidler 2, McKay
	6th	Bournemouth & BA	H	Friendly	1-1	Fidler
	10th	Exeter City Res	H	Southern League	5-1	McKay 2, Fidler, Elder 2 pens
	17th	Peterborough Utd	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	1-3	McCaffrey
	20th	Barry Town	H	South LC 1st Rd	5-1	Gaillard 3, McKay, Fidler
	24th	Chelmsford City	H	Southern League	3-3	Tapscott 2, Fidler
Dec	1st	Dartford	A	" "	2-3	Gaillard 2
	4th	Bath City	H	South LC 2nd Rd	3-3	Elder, Gaillard 2
	8th	Tonbridge AFC	H	Southern League	2-2	Gaillard, Fidler
	15th	Barry Town	H	" "	4-1	Elder pen, Gaillard 2,
	22nd	Guildford City	A	" "	2-2	Fidler 2
	26th	Bath City	A	" "	1-3	Gaillard
	29th	Minehead	A	Som Pro Cup 2	5-0	Fidler, Gaillard 2, Long, Alexander
Jan	5th	Chelmsford City	A	Southern League	1-2	Gaillard
	12th	Hereford United	A	" "	0-6	
	19th	Cheltenham Town	H	" "	1-2	Fidler
	24th	Bath City	A	South LC 3rd Rd	2-1	McAlone, Fidler
	26th	Dartford	H	Southern League	1-2	McAlone
Feb	2nd	Merthyr Tydfil	A	" "	2-4	McAlone, McKay
	9th	Kettering Town	H	" "	2-2	Gaillard, Elder pen
	16th	Worcester City	H	" "	2-2	McKay, Gaillard pen
Mar	2nd	Kidderminster Harr	H	" "	3-2	Elder pen, Long, McKay
	5th	Leyton Orient	H	Friendly	1-1	Gaillard
	9th	Gloucester City	A	Southern League	2-0	Alexander, Long
	13th	Tonbridge AFC	A	" "		
				Cup Semi-final	1-4	Long
	16th	Llanelly	H	Southern League	4-0	Long, Miller, Gaillard, og
	19th	Boston United	H	Yeovil Chall Cup	1-1	Alexander
	23rd	Exeter City Res	A	Southern League	1-1	Long
	26th	Bath City	H	" "	5-0	Deplidge, Gaillard, Alexander 2, Long
	30th	Bedford Town	H	" "	2-0	Alexander, Long
April	6th	Merthyr Tydfil	H	" "	3-0	Alexander 2, Long
	13th	Bath City	H	Somerset Professional Cup Semi-final	Long 2, McKay 2,	
					6-2	Gaillard, Mille
	16th	Llanelly	A	Southern League	1-2	Long

## Season 1956-1957 – continued

	19th	Weymouth	H	Southern League	1-1	Gaillard
	20th	Tonbridge AFC	A	" "	0-6	
	22nd	Weymouth	A	" "	3-2	Gifford, Edwards, Alexander
	25th	Bristol City	H	Somerset Professional Cup Final	3-3	Edwards 2, Elder pen
	27th	Hastings United	A	Southern League	0-3	
	30th	Bedford Town	A	" "	0-3	
May	2nd	Lovells Athletic	A	" "	4-3	Gaillard, Fidler, Edwards, Miller

by George Swindin, whose Midland League champions were confident. "Only McKay and Fidler are dangerous, the rest we will take in our stride. We have little to fear apart from the beastly slope", were Swindin's thoughts expressed in the local press, and he was proved right, United easing through to a tie with Bradford Park Avenue as they embarked on their own bit of glory, eventually reaching the Fourth Round.

It was a dismal performance by Yeovil, the tactics cruelly described as "the same old hit and miss stuff, hoping for the best with no method or idea." It was strong stuff but the 10,575 crowd, including 3,000 away fans, had mixed feelings after. In effect it meant that apart from the two domestic cups, the season was over and Clarke had an uphill battle.

The government introduced petrol rationing at that time, which put paid to the club's first ever Christmas Day Southern League match at Huish, against Bath City, although the return at Twerton was not affected. It was lost, as were the next three league games in a depressing run which saw Yeovil slump to fourth from bottom. The board were also getting restless and held a meeting to discuss future policy within the club which was not made public, but the general trend towards smaller crowds, the petrol shortage and dismal performances had hit the club hard, they expecting to lose upwards of £2,000. On the pitch it was no better, Hereford winning 6-0 after Tony Alexander had been sent off for remarks to the linesman after only nineteen minutes. Clarke once again made sweeping changes, dropping eight and putting the whole squad on standby as they were all in with a chance of playing. It did not work, for the paltry crowd left early, not happy with Yeovil in the bottom four and near neighbours Weymouth, complete with free-scoring Andy Easton, in a strong second place. The Dartford home match seemed to be the final straw, the Western Gazette launching into Clarke's side, stating that "they could not have been more lost if they had played in blindfolds" and when the next match at lowly Merthyr was lost, it was announced that Ike Clarke's contract would not be renewed at the end of the season. With Ike then 40, the club was looking for a new player-manager, but by the end of March there had been few applications, as player-managers had become less fashionable, and Yeovil were forced to consider a full-time boss.

Ironically the last three months saw an unbeaten run in the league which was as good as anything the club had had, but it was too late for Ike, whose plea in the programme "tell me what I have done wrong?" was lampooned in the press. It was a sad end to one of the finest eras at Huish and the man deserved better than to be treated with disrespect. The players had let him down, showing little fight when it mattered but when it was over his time was marked by a presentation as he waved farewell to Huish.

The season ended with a drawn Somerset Pro Cup final with Bristol City again, but with no time or inclination to play a replay, it was held over. Off the field four prospective managers were interviewed and Norman Dodgin, the Exeter City manager and one of the best in the game, was taken on. The 35 year old, rated by none other than Matt Busby began

before the war at Newcastle United and, having served in the Durham Light Infantry, played football in the Middle East and Italy before moving first to Reading and then Northampton Town. The brother of Bill Dodgin, he inherited little, as half the squad had been freed, with only Nagy and McKay giving a link to better times.

As had become the norm for many years, the basis of the side were Scots, including 22 year old Eddie Gray from Hibs, Andy Torrance from East Fife and Billy Elliott from Stirling, whose career at Huish was delayed after a family bereavement. Frank Fidler and Marcel Gaillard both went down the road to Weymouth, whose coastal neighbours Poole Town were welcomed back into the league after some 30 years, in place of Llanelly. The Football League had sadly once again decided that they would go with a Division 3 and Division 4, rather than expand, which slammed the door firmly in the face of the non-League sides, including Yeovil who did not receive any votes. The press declared the Football League to be on the way out along with a number of their member clubs, a prediction not entirely incorrect as it turned out, they called for a Super League to give the others a fighting chance, but it fell on deaf ears as the Alliance Premier League was twenty odd years away.

The AGM heard that there had been a small profit, almost entirely due to hand-outs and advertising, as gates were not surprisingly down by £3,000. The club had managed to buy a further three houses with which to entice players to come south and that brought the total to eight, worth nearly £15,000 in all. With the ground and fittings valued at £10,000 and the Supporters and Green and White Clubs still providing funds, they were not exactly potless, but had provided precious little to shout about for over a year, and the famous Sunderland side was now a distant memory, although one man from that side was flourishing, as Alec Stock left Arsenal, where he was manager, to take over at Roma in Italy.

The new man at Huish signed another batch of Scots, with Jim Regan, John Ferrier and Bert Thomson all coming south, and with Len Cooper, Cyril Riseborough, Matt Gemmell and Don Travis, Dodgin's plan to bring in thirteen professionals was nearly done, Harry Sinclair, a goalkeeper from Leicester City completing the jigsaw. At the end of July came a shock announcement from the club that Dodgin had left without seeing his new squad in action, to take over at Barrow on a five year contract, and on twice the money he was getting at Yeovil. It left many wondering what was going to happen next to the club, who were forced to re-appoint. Within days they had given the job to 36 year old Jimmy Baldwin, who had been manager at Eastern Counties side Great Yarmouth and had been recommended by David Halliday. A native of Blackburn he played over a hundred times for Rovers before a long spell at Leicester City where his near 200 games brought him a second division winners medal. A dispirited Huish was a million miles away from that.

One change that took place at the end of the 1956-57 season which certainly helped the club financially was the abolishment of entertainment tax on all outdoor sports. As far as the club was concerned, this would save 3d on every 1/9d paid to pass through the turnstiles.

#### First Team Appearances 1956-57

Topping 53, Elder 52, Nagy 51, McKay 50, Gaillard 44, Long 43, Alexander 40, Fidler 36, Robshaw 32, Edwards 28, Bird 27, Deplidge 23, Miller 19, Fowler, Warren 14, Kiernan 13, Clarke 12, McAlone 11, Tapscott 9, Dominey 7, McCaffrey 5, Gifford 4, Fraser, Smith 2, A Clarke 1

#### First Team Goalscorers 1956-57

Gaillard 24, Fidler, McKay 20, Long 15, Elder 11, Alexander 10, Edwards 5, McAlone, Miller 3, Tapscott 2, Clarke, Topping, McCaffrey, Deplidge, Gifford, og 1

### Southern League 1956-1957

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kettering Town	42	28	10	4	106	47	66
Bedford Town	42	25	8	9	89	52	58
Weymouth	42	22	10	10	92	71	54
Cheltenham Town	42	19	15	8	73	46	53
Gravesend & N	42	21	11	10	74	58	53
Lovells Athletic	42	21	7	14	99	84	49
Guildford City	42	18	11	13	68	49	47
Hereford United	42	19	8	15	96	60	46
Headington United	42	19	7	16	64	61	45
Gloucester City	42	18	8	16	74	72	44
Hastings United	42	17	9	16	70	58	43
Worcester City	42	16	10	16	81	80	42
Dartford	42	16	10	16	79	88	42
Chelmsford City	42	16	9	17	73	85	41
Tonbridge AFC	42	14	12	16	74	65	40
Yeovil Town	42	14	11	17	83	85	39
Bath City	42	15	8	19	56	78	38
Exeter City Res	42	10	10	22	52	89	30
Merthyr Tydfil	42	9	11	22	72	95	29
Barry Town	42	6	11	25	39	84	23
Kidderminster Harr	42	7	10	25	60	83	20
Llanelly	42	5	8	29	39	123	18

### Western League Div 1 – 1956-1957

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poole Town	36	26	4	6	115	48	56
Trowbridge Town	36	21	5	10	83	55	47
Salisbury	36	20	5	11	98	60	45
Torquay Utd Res	36	18	8	10	91	55	44
Portland United	36	18	8	10	84	64	44
Bridgwater Town	36	17	7	12	58	54	41
Dorchester Town	36	16	7	13	83	70	39
Chippenham Town	36	16	7	13	77	67	39
Yeovil Town Res	36	18	2	16	79	73	38
Glastonbury	36	16	3	17	82	102	35
Bristol Rovers Colts	36	14	6	16	67	90	34
Weymouth Res	36	16	1	19	87	94	33
Barnstaple Town	36	14	4	18	76	70	32
Bideford	36	12	8	16	70	71	32
Taunton	36	11	9	16	59	71	31
Chippenham Utd	36	12	6	18	80	97	30
Bristol City Colts	36	13	4	19	58	74	30
Frome Town	36	10	2	24	46	91	22
Wells City	36	4	4	28	46	133	12

### Yeovil Premier League 1956-1957

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Castle Cary	20	17	1	2	112	32	35
East Coker	20	15	2	3	81	31	32
RASC	20	12	3	5	60	33	27
Yeovil Harlequins	20	9	5	6	61	44	23
Yeovil Town Colts	20	8	7	5	43	45	23
Westland Sports	20	9	4	7	39	36	22
South Petherton	20	8	2	10	46	53	18
Yeovil St Johns	20	7	4	9	49	73	18
Milborne Port	20	5	0	15	36	73	10
Somerton Town	20	4	1	15	40	76	9
Crewkerne Town	20	2	1	17	44	107	5



## CHAPTER THREE

# An era of discontent

### *Welcome Jimmy Baldwin...*

Jimmy Baldwin's career at Huish got off to a strange start, losing heavily at Gravesend on the opening day but then crushing Barry and Tonbridge within the week at home, Don Travis, Riseborough and McKay all amongst the goals. It neatly set the pattern of the season, with the attack scoring in every game until the end of October, but letting in sixes and sevens. Before the Kettering game the gatemens were not letting in anyone, having gone on strike when their increase in wages was turned down by the board, only deciding to work when promised that their demands would be reviewed. Yeovil shrugged off the 7-3 defeat at Cheltenham and in October they were fourth behind Weymouth and Poole Town until three defeats dropped them down and did not bode well for the FA Cup which had given them a straightforward draw at home to Bideford. Mick Nagy and John McKay had worked hard to get together an all star line up for their benefit game, with several names such as Bert Trautmann mentioned, and although Eddie Baily and Johnny Hartburn played, the 4,000 were disappointed when flu ruled out a number of others.

Elsewhere at the club the reserves were also struggling as a number of professionals had become unavailable through injury or had left the club, and the avowed intent of a strong side was again in ruins as half the side were amateurs. Their woes were forgotten after the Bideford game as Yeovil once again entered the First Round of the Cup, drawing a trip to Guildford City a week after the same trip in the league. The first trip ended in a 2-2 draw, as did the Cup tie, Town having taken a special excursion train for the occasion. The replay was won with a last minute winner from Don Travis which sent 6,000 fans wild. Amongst the Cup ties the powers that be had decreed that Yeovil must replay last year's Professional Cup final, which was held over and had been largely forgotten about. It was drawn and shared, but with other matches the fans were forced to dig deep as five home matches on the trot stretched the pockets. Bath City were given the thankless task of journeying to Huish, having beaten Exeter City.

The good days returned albeit briefly, for the second round tie, nearly 12,000 turning up to watch a vintage performance from Jimmy Baldwin, paying over £1,000 for the privilege. His goal sewed up a money spinning third round tie at Fulham, where 3,000 Glovers cheered on their heroes. The Division Two leaders were always strong but they were

stunned, as were the crowd, when a Harry Robshaw 40 yard "goal" was disallowed, someone having strayed offside. Amateur keeper Peter Lawrence was superb as was Baldwin who blotted out Johnny Haynes for long periods. The money was handy of course but it meant that both the first team and the reserves had forsaken league positions in the search for Cup receipts and with the reserves only kept off the bottom by the winless Chippenham United, drastic measures had to be taken. Stan Earl was signed from Swindon Town, the experienced full-back giving Baldwin options along with Len Gaynor, a much travelled 32 year old inside-forward. It needed much more, for with at least nine professionals unavailable, the reserves had suffered two 8-0 losses and with crowds dwindling to little more than a few angry souls, it was deemed hardly worth manning the turnstiles. The sight of goalkeeper Ron Fowler playing up front was too much for some who gave their season tickets back in disgust.

The first team season ended with over a dozen games to go, when Weymouth won a League Cup replay at Huish, but the club had to look to its laurels, as the Southern League was expanding with the likes of Kings Lynn, Wisbech Town, Corby Town and Boston United all coming in and looking for good professionals. The top half in each section would form the new Premier Division. In mid-April two links from the distant past were severed with the deaths of Roland Guppy and Fred Bond, the latter aged 85. Both were former Casuals, Fred from the start, he also having given service as secretary.

All eyes were on the reserves' frantic struggle to avoid relegation, and the board decided to strengthen them to the detriment of the first team, not for the first time, but it worked as Don Travis scored six goals in five games, and with Portland United also struggling, Town beat Dorchester Town at home to stay up. Ironically Portland were spared by another club resigning, but it had been a dismal time.

Jimmy Baldwin's baptism of fire, thrown in at the last minute, had been a traumatic one, and one which he had mixed feelings about. "I feel that from one point of view it was successful, yet from another disappointing", he remarked cryptically later, possibly referring to the Cup run which had saved them from financial calamity. Sadly Miklos Nagy's benefit was not a success and despite his long service he rejected terms and left for Bedford Town and a job with Vauxhall Motors. Torrance moved back north to join Dodgin at Barrow and Thomson headed back to Scotland as the

## Season 1957-1958

Aug	24th	Gravesend & N	A	Southern League	2-5	Riseborough, McKay
	26th	Barry Town	H	" "	6-1	Travis 3, Torrance, McKay, Riseborough
	31st	Tonbridge AFC	H	" "	5-0	Travis, Riseborough, McKay 3
Sept	2nd	Bath City	A	South LC Q1 1 L	1-2	Torrance
	7th	Weston-S-Mare	H	Som Pro Cup 1	5-1	McKay, Riseborough, Gray, Travis, Torrance
	12th	Bath City	H	South LC Q1 2L	4-2	Gray, Elder pen, Travis, og
	14th	Kettering Town	H	Southern League	1-2	Riseborough
	18th	Barry Town	A	" "	1-0	Travis
	21st	Merthyr Tydfil	H	" "	2-1	Alexander, Travis
	26th	Exeter City Res	H	" "	2-2	McKay, Travis
	28th	Cheltenham Town	A	" "	3-7	Alexander, Gray, Long
Oct	2nd	Dartford	A	" "	1-0	Travis
	5th	Hereford United	H	" "	1-0	Alexander
	10th	Kidderminster Harr	A	" "	1-6	Alexander
	12th	Gloucester City	A	" "	2-0	Gray, Travis
	19th	Lovells Athletic	H	" "	1-2	Alexander
	24th	Poole Town	H	" "	2-0	Nagy, Topping
	26th	Worcester City	A	" "	0-4	
Nov	2nd	Bideford	H	FA Cup 4th Qual	3-1	Alexander, Travis, Elder pen
	9th	Guildford City	A	Southern League	2-2	Travis, Gemmell
	16th	Guildford City	A	FA Cup 1st Rd	2-2	Travis, Alexander
	21st	Guildford City	H	Replay	1-0	Travis
	23rd	Exeter City Res	A	Southern League	3-3	Alexander 2, Gemmell
	26th	Bristol City	H	Somerset Pro	1-1	Gemmell
				1956-57 Cup Final Replay		
	30th	Dartford	H	Southern League	0-1	
Dec	7th	Bath City	H	FA Cup 2nd Rd	2-0	Baldwin, og
	14th	Hastings United	H	Southern League	2-0	Torrance, Travis
	21st	Gravesend & N	H	" "	6-2	Elder, Travis 2, Torrance, McKay, Alexander
	25th	Bath City	A	" "	1-1	McKay
	26th	Bath City	H	" "	2-1	McKay, og
	28th	Tonbridge AFC	A	" "	3-5	McKay, Torrance, Alexander
Jan	4th	Fulham	A	FA Cup 3rd Rd	0-4	
	11th	Kidderminster Harr	H	Southern League	3-2	Riseborough 2, Alexander
	18th	Kettering Town	A	" "	0-6	
	21st	Exeter City Res	H	South LC 1st Rd	1-0	Torrance
	25th	Chelmsford City	H	Southern League	1-1	Elder pen
Feb	1st	Merthyr Tydfil	A	" "	1-3	Stenner
	4th	Boston United	H	Yeo Chall Cup	2-2	Gaynor, Riseborough
	8th	Cheltenham Town	H	Southern League	2-2	Gaynor, Torrance
	11th	Bristol City	H	Som Pro Cup 1	5-2	Travis 2, Torrance, Riseborough, Elder pen
	15th	Hereford United	A	Southern League	0-3	
	22nd	Gloucester City	H	" "	1-0	Travis pen
	26th	Weymouth	A	South LC 2nd Rd	2-2	Travis, og
	27th	Weymouth	H	Replay	1-2	Travis
March	1st	Lovells Athletic	A	Southern League	1-2	Edwards
	8th	Worcester City	H	" "	1-1	Travis
	11th	Barrow	H	Friendly	1-4	Riseborough
	15th	Poole Town	A	Southern League	1-0	Torrance
	22nd	Guildford City	H	" "	3-0	Thomson, Gaynor, Torrance
	24th	Boston United	A	Friendly	1-3	Torrance
	29th	Bedford Town	A	Southern League	1-2	Alexander
April	5th	Weymouth	A	" "	0-4	
	7th	Headington United	A	" "	1-1	Cooper

## Season 1957-1958 – continued

	12th	Bedford Town	H	Southern League	1-3	Riseborough
	16th	Chelmsford City	A	" "	0-3	
	19th	Weymouth	H	" "	1-1	Torrance
	22nd	Minehead	A	Somerset Pro Cup Semi-final	3-4	McKay, Gemmell, Torrance
	26th	Hastings United	A	Southern League	1-4	Alexander
May	3rd	Headington United	H	" "	2-1	Travis 2

expected clear out took place, with the board deciding to look for a full-time trainer-coach. Fitness had not been one of the squad's strong points, and Doug Hunt, the 43 year old former Spurs, Barnsley, Sheffield Wednesday and Leyton Orient centre-forward was drafted in to work alongside Stan Abbott.

## First Team Appearances 1957-58

Elliott 49, Robshaw 47, Nagy 46, Travis, Torrance 40, Riseborough 37, Alexander, Thomson 36, Elder 34, McKay 31, Sinclair 30, Baldwin 23, Gray, Gemmell 20, Earl 17, Gaynor, Cooper 12, Topping 11, Fowler 10, Long, Skinner, Edwards 9, Lambden 8, Fisher 7, Lawrence 6, Stenner, Noakes 4, Regan 3, Seager, Vallard 1

## First Team Goalscorers 1957-58

Travis 26, Alexander, Torrance 14, McKay 11, Riseborough 9, Elder 5, Gemmell, Gray, og 4, Gaynor 2, Baldwin, Long, Nagy, Topping, Stenner, Edwards, Thomson, Cooper 1

## Reserve Appearances 1957-58

Edwards 33, Seager 32, Topping 30, Noakes 25, Cooper 23, Gemmell 22, Regan 19, Fowler, Vallard 18, Baldwin 17, Fisher, Riseborough 15, Stevens 11, Thomson, Skinner, Alexander 10, Francis 9, Elder, Travis, Torrance, Long, Gaynor, Wilkins 8, Elliott, Chant 7, Sinclair, Lawrence, Robshaw, McKay 6, Gray, Lambden 5, Nagy, Murley 4, Stenner, Colman 3, Earl, Mills, Ferrier 2, Wey, Gard, Burgess, Pennington, Jarvis, Torrence 1

## Reserve Goalscorers 1957-58

Edwards 15, Long 10, Travis 9, Cooper 8, Stevens, Gemmell 5, Fisher, Noakes 4, Riseborough, Torrance 3, Alexander 2, Elder, Ferrier, Topping, Regan, Gaynor, McKay, Lambden, Chant, Coleman, og 1

## Southern League 1957-1958

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gravesend & N	42	27	5	10	106	71	59
Bedford Town	42	25	7	10	112	64	57
Chelmsford City	42	24	9	9	93	57	57
Weymouth	42	25	5	12	90	61	55
Worcester City	42	23	7	12	95	59	52
Cheltenham Town	42	21	10	11	115	66	52
Hereford United	42	21	6	15	79	56	48
Kettering Town	42	18	9	15	99	76	45
Headington United	42	18	7	17	90	83	43
Poole Town	42	17	9	16	82	81	43
Hastings United	42	13	15	14	78	77	41
Gloucester City	42	17	7	18	70	70	41
Yeovil Town	42	16	9	17	70	84	41
Dartford	42	14	9	19	66	92	37
Lovells Athletic	42	15	6	21	60	83	36
Bath City	42	13	9	20	65	64	35
Guildford City	42	12	10	20	58	92	34
Tonbridge AFC	42	13	7	22	77	100	33
Exeter City Res	42	12	8	22	60	94	32
Barry Town	42	11	9	22	72	101	31
Kidderminster Harr	42	10	10	22	60	101	30
Merthyr Tydfil	42	9	3	30	69	137	21



## Reserves – Season 1957-1958

Aug	24th	Frome Town	H	Western Div 1	2-3	Cooper, Ferrier (pen)
	29th	Portland United	H	West LC 1 1st L	6-2	Alexander, Long 4, Edwards
	31st	Bideford	A	Western Div 1	1-5	Stephens
Sept	4th	Portland United	A	West LC 1 2nd L	1-1	Long
	14th	Frome Town	A	Western Div 1	0-1	
	16th	Bideford	H	" "	6-1	Riseborough 2, Long 2, Noakes, Alexander
	21st	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	2-1	Long, Torrance
	25th	Poole Town	A	Western LC 2	1-1	og
	28th	Salisbury	H	Western Div 1	1-0	Torrance
Oct	5th	Salisbury	A	" "	1-5	Chant
	9th	Poole Town	H	West LC 2 Rep	3-0	Cooper, Torrance, Gemmell
	12th	Cinderford Town	H	Western Div 1	3-1	Long 2, Gemmell
	19th	Weymouth	A	" "	2-2	Edwards 2
	26th	Chippenham Town	H	" "	2-1	Travis, Gemmell (pen)
Nov	2nd	Chippenham Town	A	" "	3-7	Cooper 2, Edwards
	9th	Bristol Rovers Colts	H	" "	1-2	Regan
	16th	Bristol City Colts	A	" "	0-1	
	23rd	Barnstaple Town	H	" "	0-2	
	30th	Minehead	A	" "	1-4	Coleman
Dec	14th	Trowbridge Town	A	" "	0-3	
	21st	Chippenham Unt	A	" "	8-3	Edwards 2, Noakes 3, Stevens 2, Cooper (pen)
	25th	Taunton	H	" "	1-2	Edwards
	26th	Taunton	A	" "	1-1	Cooper
	28th	Bristol City Colts	H	" "	2-5	Cooper, Topping
Jan	4th	Torquay Unt Res	H	" "	0-5	
	11th	Barnstaple Town	A	" "	0-8	
	18th	Chippenham Utd	H	" "	4-0	Stevens, Riseborough, Elder, Edwards
	25th	Bristol Rovers Colts	H	" "	0-8	
Feb	1st	Minehead	H	" "	4-2	Fisher 3, Travis
	15th	Weymouth	H	" "	2-4	Fisher, Travis
Mar	1st	Minehead	H	West LC 3rd Rd	1-2	Lambden
	8th	Bridgwater Town	A	Western Div 1	0-3	
	15th	Glastonbury	H	" "	4-1	Cooper, Stevens, Edwards 2
	22nd	Glastonbury	A	" "	1-2	Edwards
	29th	Trowbridge Town	H	" "	2-2	McKay (pen), Gaynor
April	4th	Portland United	A	" "	3-1	Travis 3
	5th	Bridgwater Town	H	" "	1-0	Travis
	7th	Portland United	H	" "	1-1	Gemmell
	12th	Cinderford Town	A	" "	2-1	Gemmell, Travis
	26th	Dorchester Town	H	" "	1-3	Edwards
May	1st	Dorchester Town	A	" "	1-3	Edwards

Improved Football League wages were meaning that it had become more difficult to attract players to the Southern League, and Baldwin's quest for eight new professionals in the summer of 1958 to make up the 22 was proving painstaking. There was money to spend as, despite the poor showing gates had actually gone up, with wages and expenses slightly down. Baldwin signed a gaggle of players, including Dave Jones, a keeper from Swansea Town, Terry McConnon, a centre-forward who had played for such diverse teams as Blackburn Rovers and Lovells Athletic, and Derrick Blackburn, from Swansea Town.

Another ex-Swan, Don Phillips was joined by Baldwin's best signing, 22 year old Len Harris, an old fashioned centre-half from Crystal Palace. Johnny McKay was the only forward to keep his place from the previous season, and the supporters showed faith in what the manager was trying to do with over 5,000 turning out for the opening home game.

## Western League Div 1 – 1957-1958

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Salisbury	36	18	11	7	55	30	47
Bridgwater Town	36	20	5	11	78	53	45
Dorchester Town	36	19	6	11	87	57	44
Barnstaple Town	36	17	7	12	83	48	41
Trowbridge Town	36	15	11	10	80	61	41
Bristol Rov Colts	36	16	8	12	80	74	40
Torquay Utd Res	36	15	9	12	70	56	39
Bristol City Colts	36	16	7	13	70	59	39
Minehead	36	16	5	15	68	76	37
Frome Town	36	16	5	15	66	77	37
Cinderford Town	36	17	2	17	72	70	36
Taunton	36	11	13	12	48	55	35
Bideford	36	14	5	17	62	55	33
Weymouth Res	36	13	7	16	89	85	33
Chippenham Town	36	13	7	16	71	74	33
Glastonbury	36	12	7	17	50	79	31
Yeovil Town Res	36	13	4	19	66	92	30
Portland United	36	12	3	21	58	80	27
Chippenham Utd	36	5	6	25	51	123	16

Yeovil League Premier Division  
1957-1958

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Petherton	22	17	0	5	86	43	34
Castle Cary	22	15	3	4	104	61	33
RASC	22	14	1	7	79	38	29
Crewkerne Town	21	13	1	7	70	51	27
Henstridge	21	13	0	8	92	52	26
St Johns Gym	22	12	2	8	69	46	26
East Coker	21	12	1	8	77	53	25
Yeovil Town Colts	22	9	2	11	65	59	18
Yeovil Harlequins	22	9	2	11	45	69	12
Marnhull	21	6	0	15	53	91	12
Westland Sports	22	3	3	16	36	86	9
Martock United	22	1	1	20	28	158	3
Martock Utd	22	1	1	20	28	158	3

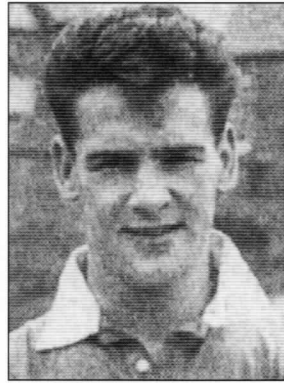
There were six debuts and with McKay and young John Dennis on either wing the new side got off to a splendid start, going top above Weymouth in mid-September. The attack went into overdrive as the curious fixture list kicked in with alternative league and inter-zone matches, the latter having been introduced to bulk up the shortage of fixtures due to the re-structuring when the Kentish sides were prevented from joining. A run of three big wins was ended by a run of four without and was punctuated by the double fracture of Len Gaynor's leg at Poole Town, which would put him out for over a year. Baldwin's predecessor Ike Clarke had remained in the town and was coaching in schools as well as at Chard Town. He was able to turn down an approach from Sir Stanley Rous to coach the national side in Sudan, but preferred to stay with his family, later taking the manager's job at Sittingbourne.

Crowds were standing up well as both sides challenged for honours, many anticipating yet another juicy Cup run. The final qualifying round brought Bideford yet again, this time at Huish, but on the day the draw was made the town of Yeovil bade farewell to one of its greatest sons. Johnny Hayward, scorer of over 500 goals in over 20 years, passed away in Yeovil General Hospital, aged 71. The idol of Pen Mill and Huish, Johnny rejected numerous offers to move into the League, preferring to raise his seven children in Yeovil, two of whom later played for the club. Johnny, or Fred as he was properly known, was born in Wellington

## Gallery pictures from 1957-58 Season



Billy Elliott



Eddie Gray



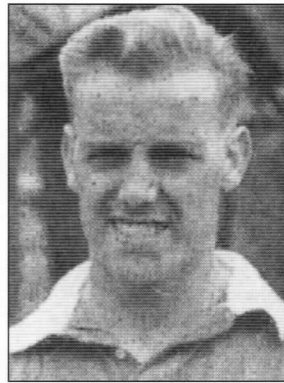
Jimmy Regan



Len Gaynor



Cyril Riseborough



Bert Thomson



Eric Skinner



Jimmy Baldwin



Matt Gemmell



Len Cooper



Don Travis



Harry Sinclair



Ron Fowler

Street, almost next to Huish and spent over 30 years with Balke and Fox Ltd before retiring. Huish doffed their caps for two minutes silence before the Kings Lynn game.

Bideford were beaten with ease which sent Yeovil to Roots Hall, Southend in the first round. The Essex side were fifth in the Third Division and the game attracted a gate of 15,296, a good number from Somerset, and they saw a tense game with Jimmy Baldwin as man of the match with Len Harris. The replay on the following Thursday brought in 7,700 and another close encounter was won by 18 year old John Dennis, whose cross-shot sent the crowd 'mad with glee'. It was the club's first ever replay win over a League club and it paired them with Colchester United, again in Essex. The Glover's famous Cup draw luck had gone the other way, but with another fine performance the green and whites silenced the crowd of 11,000, Stan Earl scoring from the spot in a 1-1 draw.

Days of rain had turned Huish into a quagmire and the heavier United side adapted brilliantly to the mud and the slope to crush Yeovil 7-1, one of the biggest ever defeats at home. David Jones, brilliant in the first game was jeered along with his colleagues, as the fickle crowd reacted to the beating. A furious Baldwin re-iterated that the aim was then to finish in the top eleven to qualify for the Premier Division.

The first team soon shook off the Cup tie and began to put together a run which gathered momentum and spread to the reserves, who had become delightful to watch.

Christmas saw both sides record doubles, but the pitch had taken a battering and had got into the worst state in its life, mainly due to the covered terrace on the north side changing the water's natural flow. The first team beat Yiewsley, later to be known as Hillingdon Borough, twice on consecutive days, the reserves repeating the dose over Minehead, Terry McConnon scoring five in the first win. Another player to catch the headlines elsewhere was 20 year old Alan Skirton, Bath City's right winger who signed for Arsenal on January 21st whilst doing National Service in Wiltshire. Alan enjoyed a fine career on the field and is now an integral part of Yeovil Town, having returned to Bath City previously.

Ten days later both sides were involved in important games which attracted big crowds, the League Cup fourth round match at Weymouth and the Western League top of the table game at home to Dorchester Town providing plenty of headline material. The Weymouth tie produced three superb

#### Season 1958-1959

AAug	23rd	Cambridge City	A	Southern S-E	1-1	McKay
	30th	Tonbridge	H	" "	3-0	McKay, McConnon 2
Sept	3rd	Merthyr Tydfil	A	South LC 1 1st L	3-1	McConnon 3
	6th	Guidford City	A	Southern S-E	2-1	McConnon, Emmonds
	11th	Merthyr Tydfil	H	South LC 1 2nd L	2-0	Travis, McKay
	13th	Gravesend & N	H	Southern S-E	1-0	Earl pen
	17th	Weymouth	A	South Inter-zone	0-0	
	20th	Hastings United	A	Southern S-E	2-2	McConnon, McKay
	23rd	Trowbridge Town	H	South Inter-zone	5-3	McConnon 3, Dennis, Earl pen
	27th	Exeter City Res	H	Southern S-E	6-1	Phillips, McConnon 2, McKay, Dennis, Emmonds
	30th	Bath City	H	Som Prem Cup	6-1	Emmonds, McKay 2, Phillips 2, McConnon
Oct	4th	Bedford Town	A	Southern S-E	1-3	McKay
	11th	Cambridge City	H	" "	1-3	Emmonds
	15th	Poole Town	A	Southern LC 2	1-1	McConnon
	18th	Dartford	A	Southern S-E	1-3	Edwards
	21st	Weymouth	H	South Inter-zone	4-1	Earl pen, Dennis 2, McConnon
	25th	King's Lynn	H	Southern S-E	1-0	McConnon
Nov	1st	Bideford	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	4-1	Phillips, McConnon, Emmonds, Dennis
	4th	Exeter City Res	A	South Inter-zone	2-4	McConnon, O'Donnell
	8th	Poole Town	H	Southern LC 3	3-1	McKay, McConnon, Emmonds
	15th	Souhend United	A	FA Cup 1st Rd	0-0	
	20th	Souhend United	H	Replay	1-0	Dennis
Nov	22nd	Chelmsford City	H	Southern S-E	1-2	Emmonds
	29th	Gravesend & N	A	" "	3-4	McConnon 2, Dennis
Dec	6th	Colchester United	A	FA Cup 2nd Rd	1-1	Earl pen
	11th	Colchester United	H	Replay	1-7	Dennis
	13th	Poole Town	A	South Inter-zone	4-2	Phillips, Emmonds 2, Dennis
	20th	Taunton Town	H	Som Prem Cup 1	7-1	Dennis, Blackburn, McKay, Emmonds, Edwards, Phillips 2

#### Season 1958-1959 - continued

	26th	Yiewsley	H	Southern S-E	4-1	Phillips, Blackburn, Emmonds, Earl pen
	27th	Yiewsley	A	" "	2-1	Dennis, Blackburn
Jan	3rd	Tonbridge	A	" "	3-1	McConnon, Dennis, Emmonds
	10th	Poole Town	H	" "	1-1	McConnon
	17th	Guildford City	H	" "	2-1	Emmonds, Elliott
	24th	Cambridge United	H	" "	4-2	Phillips, Emmonds 2, McConnon
	31st	Weymouth	A	Southern LC 4	1-1	McConnon
Feb	1st	Weymouth	H	Replay	2-2	McConnon, Emmonds
	5th	Weymouth	H	2nd Replay	1-0	Phillips
	7th	Hastings United	H	Southern S-E	2-1	Earl pen, Phillips
	10th	Poole Town	H	South Inter-Zone	0-0	
14th		Exeter City Res	A	Southern S-E	1-1	McConnon
	17th	Bournemouth & BA	H	Benefit	0-1	Abandoned Fog 80mins
	21st	Bedford Town	H	Southern S-E	2-1	Emmonds, Dennis
	24th	Exeter City Res	H	South Inter-Zone	2-0	McConnon 2
	28th	King's Lynn	A	Southern S-E	1-0	Emmonds
March	3rd	Clacton Town	H	" "	4-1	Earl, Dennis, Edwards 2
	7th	Frome Town	H	Som Prem Cup 2	6-1	McConnon 3, Emmonds 3
	12th	Bath City	A	Southern LC 5	0-2	
	14th	Clacton Town	A	Southern S-E	1-0	McConnon
	18th	Trowbridge Town	A	South Inter-Zone	3-3	McKay, Blackburn, McConnon
	19th	Torquay United	H	Benefit	4-0	Travis, O'Donnell, Edwards 2
	21st	Dartford	H	Southern S-E	2-2	McConnon, Earl
	27th	Weymouth	A	" "	1-1	Edwards
	28th	Chelmsford City	A	" "	0-2	
	30th	Weymouth	H	" "	2-1	Emmonds 2
April	4th	Trowbridge Town	A	" "	1-1	McConnon
	15th	Poole Town	A	" "	1-1	Blackburn
	18th	Trowbridge Town	H	" "	2-1	McConnon, Emmonds
	25th	Cambridge United	A	" "	1-2	Edwards
	29th	Bridgwater Town	A	Som Prem Cup	1-1	Blackburn
May	2nd	Bridgwater Town	H	Replay	1-2	Blackburn

games with Town eventually winning the second replay thanks to a Don Phillips goal. Both sides prospered during February as the Colchester game was well and truly forgotten, and it was March before either suffered defeat, chiefly due to a crippling injury list which included Don Phillips, Terry McConnon, Billy Elliott, Harry Robshaw, Don Travis, Dave Topping, Cyril Riseborough, Terry O'Leary and Len Gaynor. The Inter-zone cup was abandoned once the league matches were out of the way, with little chance of completing the knock-out stage all group winners were given a plaque and the competition was neatly swept under the carpet, never to be seen again. The real stuff continued with Bedford Town two points ahead with a game in hand and, with McConnon and Emmonds still scoring at will in all but the Bath City League Cup tie, interest still persisted until April when Weymouth were again met four times in the two leagues. The reserves fared better with two wins which put them top with Salisbury and after drawing the Western League Cup semi-final with Dorchester Town the coveted double seemed well within their grasp. Three emphatic wins and a fifteen goal spree set them up for the final three league games, but it needed just one, as a win at Frome Town gave Yeovil the title just four days after beating Dorchester to qualify for the final with a last kick winner. Sadly the first team winning just two of the last eight games gave the runners up spot away and when the Professional Cup replay with Bridgwater Town was also lost, the club was left to celebrate a Western League double as Chippenham Town

## Reserves – Season 1958-1959

Aug	23rd	Portland United	H	Western Div 1	3-1	Edwards, Travis, Oosthuizen
	30th	Bristol Rovers Colts	A	" "	0-4	
Sept	3rd	Weymouth Res	H	West LC 1 1st L	5-0	O'Donnell 2, Travis, Edwards, Warren
	6th	Gloucester C Res	H	Western Div 1	7-2	O'Donnell 2, Travis 2, Edwards 2, og
	10th	Weymouth Res	A	West LC 1 2nd L	1-2	Warren
	13th	Bridgwater Town	A	Western Div 1	1-2	Warren
	20th	Bristol Rovers Colts	H	" "	3-2	Warren, Blackburn 2
	27th	Cinderford Town	A	" "	2-0	Edwards 2
Oct	4th	Torquay Utd Res	H	" "	4-1	Travis 2, Warren, Edwards
	11th	Salisbury	A	" "	4-3	Travis 3, Warren
	18th	Salisbury	H	" "	4-2	O'Donnell, Phillips, Topping, Travis
	25th	Dorchester Town	A	" "	1-2	Travis
Nov	8th	Poole Town Res	A	" "	2-2	Riseborough, og
	15th	Barnstaple Town	H	" "	5-1	Leary, O'Donnell, Travis 2, Warren
	22nd	Portland United	A	" "	2-0	Warren pen, O'Leary
	25th	Glastonbury	H	Western LC 2	4-1	McConnon 2, Warren, O'Leary
	29th	Bristol City Colts	H	Western Div 1	6-2	O'Leary, Oosthuizen 2, Travis, O'Donnell,og
Dec	6th	Glastonbury	H	" "	3-1	Riseborough, O'Donnell 2
	13th	Cinderford Town	H	" "	5-0	Travis 2, Warren, Hindle, O'Leary
	26th	Minehead	A	" "	3-2	Oosthuizen, Travis, O'Leary
	27th	Minehead	H	" "	8-1	McConnon 5, Oosthuizen, Edwards 2
Jan	3rd	Bideford	H	" "	3-1	Travis 2, Edwards
	24th	Bideford	A	" "†	3-3	Travis, Oosthuizen, Warren
	31st	Dorchester Town	H	" "	4-2	O'Leary, Travis, Riseborough, Warren
Feb	7th	Gloucester City	A	" "	1-1	og
	14th	Chippenham Town	H	" "	4-3	Warren 3 (1pen), Travis
	21st	Bristol City Colts	A	" "	3-2	Warren, Travis, Woodley
	28th	Poole Town Res	H	" "	6-2	Warren 2, Travis, Chant, Woodley, K Francis
Mar	7th	Taunton	A	" "	1-2	Travis
	14th	Salisbury	H	Western LC 3	1-0	Riseborough
	21st	Barnstaple Town	A	" "	1-3	Warren
	27th	Weymouth	H	" "	2-0	Travis, Warren pen
	28th	Taunton	H	" "	2-0	Chant 2
	30th	Weymouth	A	" "	0-2	
April	4th	Dorchester Town	H	Western LC Semi-final	1-1	Warren
	8th	Torquay Utd Res	A	Western Div 2	4-0	Warren, Travis 2, McConnon
	11th	Frome Town	H	Western Div 1	9-0	Travis 3, Dennis 3, Emmonds, O'Donnell, Oosthuizen
	13th	Chippenham Town	A	" "	2-0	Emmonds Travis
	16th	Dorchester Town	A	Western League Cup Semi-Final Replay	1-0 aet	Travis
	22nd	Frome Town	A	Western Div 1	3-1	Travis 2, Blackburn
	25th	Bridgwater Town	H	" "	3-1	Phillips 2, Warren
	27th	Chippenham Town	A	Western League Cup Final 1st Leg	1-1	Edwards
	30th	Chippenham Town	H	Final 2nd Leg	1-0	Edwards
May	5th	Glastonbury	A	Western Div 1	1-3	Edwards

## Southern League South-Eastern Zone – 1958-1959

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bedford Town	32	21	6	5	90	41	48
Gravesend & N	32	21	2	9	79	54	44
Dartford	32	20	3	9	77	41	43
Yeovil Town	32	17	8	7	60	41	42
Weymouth	32	13	11	8	61	43	37
Chelmsford City	32	12	12	8	74	53	36
King's Lynn	32	14	5	13	70	63	33
Poole Town	32	12	8	12	60	65	32
Cambridge City	32	12	7	13	61	54	31
Hastings United	32	13	5	14	60	59	31
Tonbridge	32	14	3	15	51	59	31
Cambridge United	32	11	8	13	55	77	30
Trowbridge Town	32	12	4	16	53	75	28
Exeter City Res	32	7	12	13	47	71	26
Guildford City	32	7	6	19	45	67	20
Clacton Town	32	6	7	19	44	81	19
Yiewsley	32	3	7	22	36	78	13

Southern League Inter-zone  
1958-1959

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil Town	8	4	3	1	20	13	11
Weymouth	8	3	4	1	16	10	10
Poole Town	8	4	2	2	11	12	10
Exeter City Res	8	3	1	4	9	8	7
Trowbridge Town	8	0	2	6	10	21	2

## Western League Div 1 – 1958-1959

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil Town Res	36	26	3	7	115	54	55
Salisbury	36	24	3	9	91	53	51
Dorchester Town	36	23	2	11	110	61	48
Bridgwater Town	36	21	6	9	81	57	48
Barnstaple Town	36	20	5	11	85	68	45
Chippenham Town	36	20	3	13	104	66	43
Bideford	36	15	11	10	83	60	41
Torquay Utd Res	36	18	3	15	70	70	39
Weymouth Res	36	18	2	16	84	63	38
Cinderford Town	36	15	4	17	60	63	34
Bristol Rovers Colts	36	14	6	16	73	77	34
Glastonbury	36	15	3	18	63	81	33
Taunton	36	15	2	19	53	68	32
Bristol City Colts	36	12	7	17	75	88	31
Portland United	36	13	5	18	68	82	31
Poole Town Res	36	10	7	19	63	91	27
Gloucester City Res	36	9	5	22	64	91	23
Minehead	36	6	7	23	50	111	19
Frome Town	36	4	4	28	52	140	12

## Yeovil &amp; District League 1958-1959

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil Town Colts	18	13	1	4	76	32	27
Castle Cary	18	13	1	4	90	31	27
South Petherton	18	12	1	5	67	36	25
R A S C	18	12	0	6	64	48	24
St John's	18	9	3	6	54	37	21
Crewkerne	18	7	3	8	54	66	17
Henstridge	18	7	2	9	48	57	16
East Coker	18	4	1	13	38	75	9
Harlequins	18	3	2	13	31	80	8
R N A S	18	2	2	14	31	83	6



**Yeovil F.C. 1958-59 v Southend United**

Back Row (l to r): Stan Earl, Len Harris, Dave Jones Billy Elliott, Harry Robshaw, Terry McConnon. Front Row: Johnny Dennis, Don Traivs, Doug Hunt (trainer-coach), Jimmy Baldwin (player-manager), Ernie Emmonds, Johnny McKay.

were beaten 2-1 on aggregate. It had been a successful term with both sides being up with the leaders which made sure that interest never waned and with four FA Cup matches against League opposition the financial side was looked after. The Supporters' Club, no doubt looking to Jimmy Baldwin to take the club on, agreed to spend some £6,000 in the close season in rebuilding the Queen Street end. Once approved by the board, the old cover was removed and the terrace demolished to be replaced with higher terracing, the cover to be replaced a season later. Although the ground work was done, circumstances dictated that the old cover was never replaced and it remained that way for the next thirty years.

Not surprisingly eighteen professionals were retained, the one big shock being the release of Don Travis, who had skippered the reserves to their double triumph, top scoring in the process. It was a decision that did not go down too well in some quarters. To complete what was a fine season the Colts won a play-off with Castle Cary to take the Yeovil Premier League and Hospital Cup double.

#### **First Team Appearances 1958-59**

Harris 58, Earl 55, Emmonds, Dennis 54, McKay, Robshaw, Elliott 50, Baldwin, McConnon 47, Jones 35, Phillips 33, Evans 23, Edwards 20, Topping, Blackburn 11, Fisher, O'Donnell 7, Travis 6, Warren 5, Riseborough, Lambden 4, Oostuizen, Woodley, O'Leary 2, Gaynor, Carter 1

#### **First Team Scorers 1958-59**

McConnon 37, Emmonds 24, Dennis 14, Phillips, McKay 11, Earl 8, Blackburn 7, Edwards 6, Travis, O'Donnell, Elliott 1

#### **Reserve Scorers 1958-59**

Travis 35, Warren 21, Edwards 13, O'Donnell 10, McConnon 8, Oosthuizen, O'Leary 7, Riseborough, og 4, Phillips, Chant, Blackburn, Dennis 3, Emmonds, Woodley 2, Topping, Hindle, K Francis 1

### *Summer of 1959*

Jimmy Baldwin was seemingly content with his lot and the summer was one of the quietest ever known. The Supporters' Club announced good figures for the year, boosted by the popular jackpot scheme, although membership was down to 1,500 and gates were down by around 1,200 on average. It was a national trend, as many preferred to stay at home where televised sport was gaining over live entertainment. There were comings and goings, with Brian Edwards going to Bedford Town, Don Travis to Trowbridge and Cyril Riseborough retiring. Incoming were Peter Wilson, a full back from Barrow, Bob McIlvenny, an inside forward and Tony Pounder, a forward from Crewe Alexandra. There were worries expressed that complacency could have set in after such a fine season, but with the fixture list giving Yeovil two away games in Kent in three days, the new squad set off for their mini-tour, returning with one point and no goals. The balance was redressed by thrashing a poor Wellington Town in the third game, but the start that supporters dreaded came true, with five straight defeats and an inglorious exit from the League Cup at the hands of Trowbridge Town. The King's Lynn defeat brought howls of protest after many of the poor crowd left early, a number no doubt to rush off the letters of



## Season 1959-1960

Aug	22nd	Gravesend & N	A	Southern Premier	0-2		
	24th	Dartford	A	" "	0-0		
	29th	Wellington Town	H	" "	7-0	Dennis 3, Paton 2, McIlvenny, McKay	
Sept	2nd	Trowbridge Town	A	South LC 1 1st L	0-3		
	5th	Poole Town	A	Southern Premier	0-3		
	8th	Trowbridge Town	H	South LC 1 2nd L	1-2	og	
	12th	King's Lynn	H	Southern Premier	1-5	Dennis	
	17th	Boston United	A	" "	1-2	Phillips	
	19th	Hereford United	A	" "	2-1	McKay, Paton	
	26th	Hastings United	A	" "	1-0	McKay pen	
	28th	Boston United	H	" "	3-3	Blackburn, Phillips, Dennis	
Oct	3rd	Tonbridge	H	" "	0-0		
	8th	Bath City	A	Som Prem Cup 1	0-3		
	10th	Weymouth	H	Southern Premier	1-2	Blackburn	
	17th	Wisbech Town	A	" "	2-5	Phillips, Dennis	
	24th	Headington United	H	" "	2-4	Dennis, Paton	
	31st	Bath City	H	FA Cup 4th Qual	0-2		
	Nov	7th	Barry Town	H	Southern Premier	6-1	Paton 2, Emmonds, McLaughlin, Harris, og
14th		Worcester City	A	" "	3-1	Harris, Paton 2	
21st		Cheltenham Town	H	" "	2-3	Harris 2	
28th		Cambridge City	A	" "	1-1	Paton	
Dec		5th	Dartford	H	" "	3-0	Harris, Paton, Emmonds
	12th	Kettering Town	A	" "	0-2		
	19th	Gravesend & N	H	" "	3-1	Phillips, Dennis, Emmonds	
	26th	Nuneaton Borough	A	" "	3-2	Phillips 2, Dennis	
	28th	Nuneaton Borough	H	" "	0-3		
	Jan	2nd	Wellington Town	A	" "	2-3	Harris, Phillips
		9th	Bedford Town	H	" "	3-3	Phillips 2, Pacey
16th		Poole Town	H	" "	5-0	Pacey, Phillips 2, Coughlin, Dennis	
23rd		King's Lynn	A	" "	1-1	Paton	
27th		Aldershot	H	Friendly	0-2		
30th		Bedford Town	A	Southern Premier	3-5	Paton 2, Pacey	
Feb		6th	Hereford United	H	" "	2-2	Phillips, Dennis
		13th	Hastings United	H	" "	2-0	Phillips, Dennis
		20th	Tonbridge AFC	A	" "	3-2	Topping, McConnon 2
		27th	Weymouth	A	" "	1-2	Paton
	29th	Bournemouth & BA	H	Friendly	3-1	Blackburn, Paton, Coughlin	
March	5th	Wisbech Town	H	Southern Premier	2-1	Paton, Coughlin	
	12th	Headington United	A	" "	0-2		
	19th	Gillingham	H	Friendly	5-1	Coughlin 2 pens, Pacey, Phillips, Pounder	
	21st	Plymouth Argyle	H	Southern Premier	2-1	Coughlin 2	
	26th	Barry Town	A	" "	1-1	Paton	
	30th	Chelmsford City	H	" "	3-1	Dennis, Coughlin pen, Paton	
April	9th	Cheltenham Town	A	" "	0-1		
	15th	Bath City	H	" "	3-2	Pacey, Paton, Phillips	
	16th	Cambridge City	H	" "	1-0	Pacey	
	18th	Bath City	A	" "	1-2	Phillips	
	23rd	Chelmsford City	A	" "	1-3	Pacey	
	25th	Worcester City	H	" "	1-0	Dennis	
	30th	Kettering Town	H	" "	3-1	Phillips, Pacey, Dennis	

complaint to the Gazette and to Baldwin himself. A number of players were accused of giving up and not trying, something which the Yeovil public would never tolerate, and the manager was at pains to clear up "one or two little misunderstandings", a somewhat sinister and ominous statement. With eleven pros injured and the defeats piling up



Danny Paton



Ron Lyske



Harry Robshaw



Ken Evans

Baldwin needed a little luck, and he got it when a McKay penalty at Hastings gave them a win, and when the crowd rushed on to the pitch to acclaim a thrilling 3-3 draw with Boston United, it seemed the change was on, but it was premature. Town suffered a desperate October, losing three league games, conceding eleven goals in the process, and going out of the County Cup and the FA Cup at the hands of rivals Bath City. The all conquering City were untroubled apart from a penalty which was missed, and the 9,400 crowd, some 3,000 of whom were from Bath, witnessed a side in decline. As if to emphasise the sadness around Huish, news broke of the death of Louis Page, the respected former manager, at the age of 60.

November and December brought some relief, although with the damage done there was nothing to fight for, but despite that, and with remarkable self-belief, the board prepared another application to the Football League for membership. A survey of non-League clubs had Yeovil in the top dozen in the country, behind top dogs Peterborough United who averaged 7,000, and Headington United with over 5,000, both of whom were preparing for League entry themselves.

In January Baldwin signed Dennis Pacey from Aldershot for £500, to add to the weak forward line. Tall and a good header of the ball, Pacey was then 31 and had some 285 League games under his belt along with 96 goals, and he



Dennis Coughlin

## Reserves – Season 1959-1960

Aug	22nd	Bath City Res	H	Western Div 1	4-1	Paton 2, Williams, Chant
	29th	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	2-2	Pounder, Emmonds
Sept	1st	Salisbury	H	Alan Young Cup 1st Leg	0-2	
	5th	Poole Town Res	H	Western Div 1	1-4	Pounder
	9th	Salisbury	A	Alan Young Cup 2nd Leg	1-5	og
	12th	Portland United	A	Western Div 1	5-1	Williams, Coughlin, Gaynor 2 pens, Woodley
	19th	Trowbridge T Res	H	" "	2-1	Warren, Williams
	26th	Gloucester City Res	H	" "	3-1	Pounder 2, McIlvenny
Oct	3rd	Bath City Res	A	" "	1-2	Roost
	10th	Bristol City Colts	A	" "	3-7	Williams, Emmonds, Pounder
	17th	Torquay Utd Res	H	" "	0-2	
	24th	Bideford	A	" "	1-1	Williams
Nov	7th	Chippenham Town	A	" "	0-6	
	14th	Bridgwater Town	H	" "	2-1	Topping, Woodley
	21st	Bridgwater Town	A	" "	1-3	McIlvenny
	28th	Glastonbury	H	Western LC 1	2-2	Woodley, McKay
Dec	5th	Barnstaple Town	A	Western Div 1	0-2	
	12th	Weymouth Res	H	" "	3-1	Coughlin 3
	19th	Taunton	A	" "	3-1	Warren 2, McIlvenny
	26th	Dorchester Town	H	" "	4-0	Warren 2, Woodley, McIlvenny
	28th	Dorchester Town	A	" "	0-3	
Jan	2nd	Salisbury	H	" "	2-0	McIlvenny, og
	9th	Gloucester City Res	A	" "	4-1	Chant, Williams, Woodley, Coughlin
	23rd	Taunton	H	" "	3-2	McKay, McConnon
	30th	Bideford	H	" "	4-1	Emmonds, Lyske, McConnon 2
Feb	6th	Poole Town Res	A	" "	1-2	Woodley
	13th	Glastonbury	A	West LC 1 Replay	3-2	Emmonds, Coughlin, Warren
	20th	Barnstaple Town	H	Western Div 1	2-1	Warren, Emmonds
	27th	Chippenham Town	H	" "	0-1	
March	5th	Glastonbury	A	" "	3-0	McConnon, Emmonds, og
	12th	Bideford	H	Western LC 2	0-1	
	26th	Portland United	H	Western Div 1	0-2	
	30th	Salisbury	A	" "	0-5	
April	7th	Glastonbury	H	" "	4-1	McConnon 2, Emmonds 2
	9th	Bristol City Colts	H	" "	5-4	McKay, Coughlin 3, Warren
	11th	Minehead	A	" "	3-5	Woodley, McIlvenny, McKay
	15th	Bristol Rovers Colts	A	" "	1-5	Emmonds
	16th	Weymouth Res	A	" "	0-2	
	18th	Bristol Rovers Colts	H	" "	4-2	Chant 2, Topping, Warren
	23rd	Minehead	H	" "	3-3	Emmonds 2, og
	27th	Trowbridge T Res	A	" "	0-2	

proved to be Baldwin's last signing as in February the board announced that his contract would not be renewed in May.

Pacey's debut was a farce, as during the train trip to Bedford the kit was mislaid by a guard, leaving the players to turn out in an assortment of footwear, little of which was suitable. Unsurprisingly they were soon 4-0 down, but they recovered to go down fighting 5-3. A week later the club and the town lost one of its finest and most respected benefactors when Stanley Johnson died aged 82. He had bought Huish in

1933, putting it into trust and had helped out countless organisations, leaving a fitting memorial in Johnson Park, used today by the cricket and rugby teams in the town.

Sadly the supporters had long since lost interest in their droves and the Hastings United home match attracted just 1,800, and prestige friendlies against Bournemouth and Aldershot, designed to bring in some much needed revenue, lost money.

The manager's job had been advertised, as usual, and the position was given to 32 year old Basil Hayward, a striker who had converted to a defender in latter years. Hayward had played in the 1954 FA Cup semi-final for Port Vale, his home team, and had amassed close on 400 appearances before moving south for a season with Portsmouth. Jimmy Baldwin, meanwhile, had almost at once been offered positions in the north and after receiving farewell gifts he moved to Blackburn. Another well known face leaving Huish was that of Johnny McKay after eight years and over 300 appearances in the green and white. His long service mantle was passed to Dave Topping, one of fifteen pros retained, a surprisingly high number considering the poor season. Both sides ended up in mid table, but Hayward would have a lot of work to do to entice the missing fans away from Grandstand.

Southern League Premier Division  
1959-1960

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bath City	42	32	3	7	116	50	67
Headington United	42	23	8	11	78	61	54
Weymouth	42	22	9	11	93	69	53
Cheltenham Town	42	21	6	15	82	68	48
Chelmsford City	42	19	7	16	90	70	45
Bedford Town	42	21	3	18	97	85	45
King's Lynn	42	17	11	14	89	78	45
Boston United	42	17	10	15	83	80	44
Wisbech Town	42	17	10	15	81	84	44
Yeovil Town	42	17	8	17	81	73	42
Hereford United	42	15	12	15	70	74	42
Tonbridge AFC	42	16	8	18	79	73	40
Hastings United	42	16	8	18	63	77	40
Wellington Town	42	13	11	18	63	78	37
Dartford	42	15	7	20	64	82	37
Gravesend & N	42	14	8	20	69	84	36
Worcester City	42	13	10	19	72	89	36
Nuneaton Borough	42	11	11	20	64	78	33
Barry Town	42	14	5	23	78	103	33
Poole Town	42	10	8	24	69	96	28
Kettering Town	42	9	10	23	60	90	28

## First Team Appearances 1959-60

Dennis 46, Robshaw, Paton 40, Blackburn 37, Phillips 36, Harris 28, Evans, Lyske 27, McLaughlin 24, Baldwin 26, McKay, Topping 20, Jones 19, Lambden, O'Donnell 17, Emmonds, Pacey 15, Pounder 11, McIlvenny 8, Coughlin, McConnon 7, Earl 6, Wilson 5, Roost 4, Warren 2

## First Team Scorers 1959-60

Paton 18, Phillips 16, Dennis 15, Pacey 7, Harris 6, Coughlin, McKay, Emmonds 3, Blackburn, McConnon, og 2, Topping, McIlvenny, McLaughlin 1

**Western League Division One  
1959-1960**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Torquay Utd Res	36	29	5	2	132	40	63
Salisbury	36	20	7	9	85	43	67
Chippenham Town	36	18	6	12	70	56	42
Bridgwater Town	36	18	5	13	79	62	41
Weymouth Res	36	18	4	14	72	58	40
Portland United	36	17	6	13	61	68	40
Bideford	36	15	8	13	61	62	38
Bath City Res	36	15	7	14	63	61	37
Yeovil Town Res	36	17	3	16	74	77	37
Poole Town Res	36	15	6	15	73	66	36
Dorchester Town	36	17	2	17	87	88	36
Minehead	36	12	11	13	68	72	35
Bristol Rovers Colts	36	13	8	15	79	80	34
Glastonbury	36	11	10	15	66	78	32
Barnstaple Town	36	13	5	18	50	65	31
Taunton	36	11	7	18	67	96	29
Gloucester City Res	36	9	4	23	49	92	22
Trowbridge Tn Res	36	5	6	25	36	91	16

**Yeovil Junior League Division 1  
1959-1960**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Petherton	24	17	6	1	98	32	40
RASC	24	18	2	4	90	32	38
Yeovil St John	24	18	1	5	74	31	37
Castle Cary	24	16	4	4	101	44	36
Yeovil Town Colts	24	13	4	7	70	41	30
Henstridge	24	13	3	8	88	55	29
Westland Sports	24	10	2	12	51	69	22
Yeovil Harlequins	24	8	3	13	47	61	19
Templecombe	24	7	3	14	38	81	17
Stoke-sub-Hamdon	24	6	3	15	32	77	15
RNAS	24	4	3	17	40	110	11
Sherborne WE	24	3	4	17	50	75	10
Westland AA	24	3	2	19	37	113	8

**Reserve Appearances 1959-60**

Warren 34, Williams 29, Wilson 26, Pounder, O'Donnell 25, Earl 24, Woodley 22, McIlvenny, Emmonds 21, Lambden, Coughlin 20, Lyske 18, Fowler, Harris 17, Topping 16, McKay 15, Evans 12, Jones, Chant 10, McConnon 9, K Francis 6, Callow, Gaynor 5, Roost 4, Blackburn 3, Gillingham 3, Carter, Davies 2, Baldwin, Dennis, Paton, McLaughlin, Pacey 1

**Reserve Goalscorers 1959-60**

Emmonds 11, Warren, Coughlin 9, Williams, McIlvenny, McConnon 6, Pounder 5, Chant, McKay, og 4, Paton, Gaynor, Topping 2, Roost, Lyske 1

## *Basil Hayward arrives at Huish....*

Yeovil Town's fourteenth attempt to get into the League ended with no votes as usual, unsurprising as Peterborough United got in to what was virtually a closed shop, in place of Gateshead. The personnel at Huish changed slowly through the close season, with John Dennis going to Tonbridge and John McKay moving to Trowbridge, although sadly before the

new term began he was advised to retire as a heart disorder had been found. St John's Gym FC, one of the oldest junior clubs in the town was also on the move, out to the Larkhill Greyhound Stadium ready for August.

The AGM brought grim reading for the shareholders, as the club was more than ever indebted to the Supporter's Club for keeping them afloat. Gate receipts plunged by over £5,500 and despite some £11,000 coming in from various supporter sources, a net loss of £1,500 was made. The average income from 'Gates' mounted to £270 whilst the Supporters Club was handing over £150 per week, but the weekly expenditure was running at almost £450 made up as follows.

Wages	£283
Bonus	£24
Property repairs	£5
Rates	£12
Rent	£5
Gas, electric and water	£5
Bank charges	£3

**Audit and sundry expences**

Laundry	£4
Referees, Linesmen and Gatemen	£14
Police fees	£3
Postage and Telephone	£6
League fee and games	£1
Insurance	£7
Printing and Stationary	
Travelling Expences	£55
Wit	£7
Medical	£3

Membership was static at 1,200, many of whom were still grafting behind the scenes, unfeted and unseen, in the quest to provide sufficient back-up for the parent club to move on to League status. The board of directors, however still did not allow a supporter on to the board itself, a decision that rankled with some and disgusted many.

One decision forced upon the club for the 1960-61 season was to increase the admission price to 2/-, in line with the rest of the Southern League. Hayward made a number of signings which proved successful, but none more than that of Dave Taylor, a raw 20 year old inside forward whose 23 League games had been spread over three seasons. Rochester born, he turned pro at Gillingham after progressing from the juniors and in June 1959 moved to Pompey, where he played just twice before his trip up to Yeovil. Already married, Taylor settled in Yeovil and embarked on a stunning first season. He was joined by Jim Kelly, a centre-forward from Swindon and Mike Lyons, a 28 year old full back also from Swindon Town who had been a pro for ten years playing for several west country clubs.

Basil Hayward had decided that he would captain the side from the back, and he would have in front of him Ernie Ashe, a young outside left and Bill Albury, Gillingham's midfielder who he paid £1,000 for, the signing coming with a rallying cry from chairman Bill Farthing to all supporters to get behind the club in voice and numbers. Dave Taylor made an immediate impact with six goals in the two trial games, securing his place, and although two of the first three league games were lost, Taylor was soon finding the net, striking up a good understanding with Kelly and Tony Pounder. The Clacton Town away game was a spiteful affair, the Essex side including Andy Easton who seemed to move every few months and would score against Yeovil almost at will. They recovered well and ran into some fearsome goalscoring form during September with Gravesend and Boston United

## Season 1960-1961

Aug	20th	Cambridge City	H	Southern Premier	2-0	Pounder, Taylor
	27th	Weymouth	A	" "	1-2	Paton
	31st	Trowbridge Town	A	South LC 1 1st L	3-1	Ashe, Taylor 2
Sept	3rd	Clacton Town	A	Southern Premier	1-4	Taylor
	8th	Trowbridge Town	H	South LC 1 2nd L	4-0	Kelly 2, Pounder, Taylor
	10th	Chelmsford City	H	Southern Premier	1-1	Albury
	15th	Bath City	A	" "	2-2	Taylor 2
	17th	Hastings United	A	" "	2-1	Taylor 2
	20th	Bath City	H	" "	0-0	
	24th	Gravesend & N	H	" "	5-2	Taylor 2, Albury (pen), Hayward, Paton
Oct	1st	Tonbridge AFC	A	" "	2-4	Kelly, og
	8th	Boston United	H	" "	8-1	Kelly 2, Ashe 2, Albury (pen), Pounder, Paton, McLaughlin
	15th	Bedford Town	A	Southern Premier	3-2	Taylor 2, og
	22nd	Trowbridge Town	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	4-0	Kelly, Taylor 2, Paton
	27th	Bath City	H	Som Prem Cup 1	0-0	
	29th	King's Lynn	A	Southern Premier	4-1	Paton 2, Taylor, Kelly
Nov	5th	Walsall	A	FA Cup 1st Rd	1-0	Taylor
	12th	Dartford	A	Southern Premier	4-2	Taylor 2, Paton 2
	16th	Weymouth	H	South LC 2nd Rd	7-1	Kelly, Albury 2, Ashe 2, Phillips, Taylor
	19th	Wellington Town	H	Southern Premier	2-0	Kelly, Taylor
	26th	Bournemouth & BA	A	FA Cup 2nd Rd	1-3	Kelly
Dec	1st	Bath City	A	Som PC 1 Rep	2-1	Paton, og
	3rd	Worcester City	H	Southern Premier	2-1	Paton 2
	10th	Romford	A	" "	3-0	Kelly, Taylor 2
	17th	Cambridge City	A	" "	1-0	Taylor
	26th	Cheltenham Town	H	" "	5-3	Paton 2, Kelly, Taylor, Albury pen
	28th	Cheltenham Town	A	" "	1-0	Taylor
	31st	Weymouth	H	" "	0-1	
Jan	7th	Wisbech Town	A	" "	4-1	Kelly, Paton, McLaughlin, Taylor
	12th	Merthyr Tydfil	H	South LC 3rd Rd	3-0	Ashe, Albury 2 (1pen)
	14th	Clacton Town	H	Southern Premier	4-1	Kelly 2, Albury (pen), Ashe
	21st	Chelmsford City	A	" "	0-2	
	28th	Wisbech Town	H	" "	9-0	Taylor 4, Kelly 2, Pounder, Ashe, Hayward (pen)
Feb	1st	Weymouth	A	Friendly	2-1	Taylor, Hayward pen
	4th	Hastings United	H	Southern Premier	7-0	Kelly 2, Taylor 3, Paton, Hayward (pen)
	11th	Glastonbury	H	Somerset Premier Cup Semi-final	2-1	Kelly, Taylor
	15th	Hereford United	H	Southern Premier	1-0	Kelly
	18th	Tonbridge AFC	H	" "	2-2	Pounder, Taylor
	25th	Boston United	A	" "	2-2	Taylor 2
	28th	Hereford United	H	South LC 4th Rd	2-1	Hayward, og
March	4th	Bedford Town	H	Southern Premier	10-0	Taylor 4, Coughlin 3, Pounder, Hayward 2 pens
	11th	Oxford United	A	" "	2-2	Ashe, Paton
	15th	Folkestone Town	A	" "	0-3	
	16th	Guildford City	H	South LC S-F	5-1	Hayward 2, Taylor, Ashe, Paton
	18th	King's Lynn	H	Southern Premier	1-2	Taylor
	23rd	Hereford United	A	" "	2-3	Paton, Taylor pen
	31st	Guildford City	H	" "	0-1	
April	1st	Folkestone Town	H	" "	3-1	Hayward, Paton, Taylor
	3rd	Guildford City	A	" "	2-0	Taylor 2
	5th	Weymouth	A	Benefit	1-0	Coughlin
	8th	Chelmsford City	H	Southern League Cup Final 1st Leg	3-0	Coughlin, Paton, Taylor

## Season 1960-1961 - continued

15th	Chelmsford City	A	2nd Leg aet	0-3		
	19th	Minehead	A	Somerset Premier Cup Final 1st Leg	2-5	Ashe, Taylor
	22nd	Worcester City	A	Southern Premier	0-1	
	24th	Gravesend & N	A	" "	3-1	Taylor 2, Pounder
	26th	Oxford United	H	" "	3-3	Taylor 2, Phillips
	28th	Chelmsford City	H	Southern League Cup Final Replay	2-0	Taylor 2
	29th	Romford	H	Southern League	3-0	Coughlin, Taylor, Paton
May	1st	Wellington Town	A	" "	2-2	Taylor 2
	3rd	Minehead	H	Somerset Premier Cup Final 2nd Leg	2-1	Paton 2
	6th	Dartford	H	Southern Premier	0-0	

suffering heavy defeats. The FA Cup came round at the right time for Hayward, who had the luxury of a settled side which was unchanged for thirteen games as they went into the tie with Trowbridge Town. A 4-0 win put them into the First Round proper once again, but the draw luck was gone and they were given a trip to Fellows Park to meet Walsall, the Third Division side having been unbeaten at home. The team travelled overnight, staying in Birmingham, with the supporters train following at 7.55am on the Saturday. The win was a triumph for Hayward, for with Pounder injured and a passenger, the team still hit the bar twice and had two goals disallowed before Dave Taylor's goal clinched a memorable win. Ecstatic Glovers fans sang 'Drink up thee cider' in saluting their new heroes.

Back in the town Cup fever had struck again, but the next match was also away, albeit down the road in Bournemouth. The supporters showed their appreciation in numbers, for after beating Dartford 4-0 over 5,000 saw Weymouth crushed 7-1 in the League Cup, despite heavy rain, which prompted the press to suggest that Hayward's men might emulate the magnificent treble that Ike Clarke achieved.

The game at Bournemouth proved a disappointment, but it also proved to be a blessing in disguise, for the 15,000 crowd gave a handy pay packet, but it left the way clear for a full scale tilt at the titles for both first team and reserves, the latter being joint top of the Western League with Salisbury and Torquay United.

Hayward's superb forward line enjoyed a fine Christmas, with a double over Cheltenham which put them five points behind Oxford United, who had changed their name from Headington United in preparation for League status. Yeovil had two games in hand, and the two were to clash twice in the second half of the season. The run finally ended after a record breaking ten consecutive league wins, on New Year's Eve at home to Weymouth, but it was a minor blip, as progress was made in League Cup and league, Tony Pounder's wing play destroying Wisbech Town and Hastings United to the tune of sixteen goals.



Basil Hayward

## Reserves – Season 1960-1961

Aug	20th	Bath City Res	A	Western League	2-1	Coughlin, Pacey
	27th	Chippenham Town	H	" "	0-1	
	31st	Minehead	A	" "	1-2	Coughlin
Sept	3rd	Trowbridge Town Res	H	" "	1-0	Phillips
	5th	Taunton	A	" "	2-1	Phillips, Woodley
	10th	Bristol Rov Res	A	" "	0-0	
	15th	Exeter City Colts	H	" "	0-1	
	17th	Torquay Utd Res	H	" "	1-1	Pacey
	24th	Salisbury	A	" "	2-1	Pacey, Coughlin
Oct	1st	Dorchester Town	H	Western LC1	0-4	
	8th	Dorchester Town	A	Western League	3-4	Pacey, Coughlin 2
	15th	Barnstaple Town	H	" "	1-0	Moore
	22nd	Bristol City Colts	H	" "	3-1	Pacey, Coughlin, Sams
	29th	Bristol Rovers Colts	H	" "	2-0	Pacey, Phillips
Nov	5th	Glastonbury	H	" "	3-1	Pacey 2, Coughlin
	12th	Poole Town	H	" "	3-2	Pacey, Coughlin 2 (1 pen)
	19th	Bideford	A	" "	2-4	O'Donnell, Coughlin (pen)
	26th	Weymouth	H	" "	2-1	Coughlin, Pacey
Dec	3rd	Chippenham Town	A	" "	4-0	Sams 2, Pacey, Coughlin
	10th	Salisbury	H	" "	1-4	Coughlin Pen
	17th	Dorchester Town	H	" "	2-1	Phillips 2
	24th	Portland United	H	" "	3-1	Hayward 2, Coughlin aban 52 mins
	26th	Portland United	A	" "	1-1	Woodley
	31st	Weston-s-Mare	A	" "	2-2	Coughlin, Phillips
Jan	7th	Weston-s-Mare	H	" "	3-1	Pacey, Sams, Coughlin
	14th	Exeter City Res	A	" "	0-3	
	21st	Taunton	H	" "	7-1	Woodley, Coughlin 3, Pacey 2, Phillips
	28th	Poole Town	A	" "	1-3	Phillips
Feb	4th	Barnstaple Town	A	" "	1-1	Coughlin
	11th	Bridgwater Town	A	" "	5-2	Coughlin 4, Sams
	25th	Minehead	H	" "	4-1	Phillips, Pacey, Woodley, Coughlin
Mar	4th	Glastonbury	A	" "	0-4	
	11th	Bridgwater town	H	" "	0-1	
	18th	Trowbridge Town	A	" "	0-3	
	25th	Bideford	H	" "	2-4	Woodley, Hayward
	28th	Bideford	H	" "	1-3	Chant
	31st	Weymouth	A	" "	2-4	Phillips, Moore
April	3rd	Bath City Res	H	" "	1-3	Chant
	12th	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	0-5	
	15th	Bristol City Colts	A	" "	0-2	
	21st	Portland United	H	" "	3-0	Kelly, Phillips, Woodley
May	7th	Welton Rovers	H	" "	6-2	Phillips 2, Coughlin 2, Woodley 2

The first hurdle was cleared when beating Glastonbury in the County Cup semi-final, and that was followed with a win over Hereford United in the League Cup just days before Taylor, Coughlin and Pounder stuck ten past a hapless Bedford Town.

Showing perfect timing, Supporters' Club Chairman Mr E P Blake announced that the club are "fed up with talking about the sloping pitch, and we will pay for it to be levelled". The other priorities shortlisted earlier, covering both ends and buying a premises in the town for a social club, were shelved as offers to tender went out. A fortnight later the scheme was hastily put on hold when the prices quoted were far in excess of what was believed. It must have been a frightening amount, for the slope survived until the end at Huish, as did the uncovered ends as funds grew harder to come by in latter years.

In March the three honours were still within grasp and over 500 went to Oxford for the top of the table game, which was drawn 2-2, but sadly the dream ended there, as Hayward's side collapsed to three straight defeats in two weeks after going top, for two days.

Prior to Easter the board fell back on using some of its dubious tactics from the early fifties, warning that if attendances do not improve then the side would be broken up at the end of the season as they would not be able to keep up payments. Despite the good run in all competitions, gates had fallen to under 3,000, and there were already only two professionals in the Western League side.

The run-in began with the two leg League Cup final against Chelmsford City, a team that Yeovil had not beaten away for seventeen games. Coughlin, Paton and Taylor gave Town a 3-0 lead to take away, but City hit back in the second leg to force a replay, at Huish after the toss of a coin. Four days later Minehead opened a 5-2 lead in the Professional Cup final, which led to five matches in seven days. Then Chelmsford flew down for the replay which was won by Dave Taylor's brace, bringing the trophy to Huish for the first time since 1955, the sole survivor of that side being Dave Topping. A 2-1 win against Minehead could not rescue that cup and with the reserves having crumbled the League Cup was the reward for Basil Hayward's intelligent first season. Chelmsford City snatched runners up by winning their last two games, but the plaudits went to the new pin up boy of Huish, Dave Taylor, whose instinct brought him 60 goals, ably supported by Danny Paton and Jim Kelly, neither of whom would be at the club for another season. The last game against Dartford, saw fans' favourite Danny Paton being chaired off the field, as he had finished his National Service and was heading home to Hearts. Four years later Danny joined Oxford United where he made just two League appearances before going north once again.

Dennis Pacey and Don Phillips left the club along with stalwart Harry Robshaw, and the Colts announced that they were leaving the Yeovil League for senior football in the Dorset Combination. Re-instatement problems for Western League players had finally got in the way and reluctantly Town severed the connection after many happy years.

## Southern League Premier 1960-1961

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oxford United	42	27	10	5	104	43	64
Chelmsford City	42	23	11	8	91	54	57
Yeovil Town	42	23	9	10	109	54	55
Hereford United	42	21	10	11	83	67	52
Weymouth	42	21	9	12	78	63	51
Bath City	42	18	14	10	74	52	50
Cambridge City	42	16	12	14	101	71	44
Wellington Town	42	17	9	16	66	68	43
Bedford Town	42	18	7	17	94	97	43
Folkestone Town	42	18	7	17	75	86	43
King's Lynn	42	13	16	13	68	66	42
Worcester City	42	15	11	16	69	69	41
Clacton Town	42	15	11	16	82	83	41
Romford	42	13	15	14	66	69	41
Guildford City	42	14	11	17	65	66	39
Tonbridge AFC	42	16	6	20	79	85	38
Cheltenham Town	42	15	7	20	81	82	37
Gravesend & N	42	15	7	20	75	101	37
Dartford	42	13	11	18	57	90	37
Hastings United	42	8	9	25	60	99	25
Wisbech Town	42	9	6	27	58	112	24
Boston United	42	6	8	28	61	123	20





Dave Taylor, 60 goals in the first of many great seasons at Huish.

#### First Team Appearances 1960-61

Taylor 59, Jones, Ashe 58, Albury 56, Paton, Lyons 54, McLaughlin, Pounder 53, Blackburn 52, Kelly 41, Hayward 38, Harris 20, Coughlin 18, Muir 7, Topping, Lambden 6, Robshaw 5, Phillips, Pacey 4, O'Donnell 2, Fowler 1

#### First Team Scorers 1960-61

Taylor 60, Paton 23, Kelly 21, Ashe 11, Hayward, Albury 9, Pounder 7, Coughlin 5, Phillips, McLaughlin 2, 4 ogs

#### Reserve Scorers 1960-61

Coughlin 28, Pacey 15, Phillips 13, Woodley 8, Sams 4, Hayward 3, Moore 2, O'Donnell, Kelly, Chant 1

#### Western League 1960-1961

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Salisbury	40	31	4	5	135	42	66
Dorchester Town	40	26	6	8	115	63	58
Minehead	40	24	8	8	100	62	56
Torquay Utd Res	40	23	6	11	122	70	52
Bridgwater Town	40	18	12	10	88	71	48
Exeter City Res	40	21	5	14	99	68	47
Weymouth Res	40	19	9	12	91	79	47
Bristol City Colts	40	18	10	12	94	70	46
Welton Rovers	40	20	5	15	119	110	45
Portland United	40	16	10	14	93	87	42
Yeovil Town Res	40	18	5	17	73	73	41
Chippenham Town	40	18	5	17	79	81	41
Bristol Rov Colts	40	12	12	16	80	74	36
Bath City Res	40	11	11	18	75	79	33
Weston-S-Mare	40	13	7	20	76	98	33
Bideford	40	12	9	19	76	99	33
Glastonbury	40	13	4	23	66	114	30
Poole Town Res	40	8	9	23	57	87	25
Trowbridge Tn Res	40	9	7	24	62	122	25
Barnstaple Town	40	8	4	28	55	111	20
Taunton Tn	40	5	6	29	59	111	16



Bill Albury signed for £1000 from Gillingham played nearly 400 times for Yeovil Town.

#### Yeovil Junior League Division One 1960-1961

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
RASC	26	24	1	1	131	26	49
Henstridge	26	20	1	5	124	53	41
Castle Cary	26	18	3	5	124	50	39
South Petherton	26	17	0	9	111	61	34
Westland Sports	26	15	3	8	88	68	33
Yeovil Town Colts	26	13	2	11	89	63	28
Norton-sub-Ham	26	12	3	11	51	61	27
Wincanton	26	12	1	13	70	65	25
Yeovil Harlequins	26	10	3	13	50	56	23
Street Res	26	8	2	16	46	119	18
Westland AA	26	6	2	18	55	101	14
St John's Res	26	7	0	19	50	95	14
Sherborne WE	26	5	2	19	38	135	12
Templecombe	26	2	3	21	37	121	7

Undoubtedly the last thing that the club and the manager wanted during the close season was an internal row, but sadly that is what they got during June and July. The Supporters' Club AGM had stuck by their remit by which they ran the Jackpot scheme, whereby all funds from it were funnelled into the ground development fund, which was earmarked for covering both ends and levelling the slope. The football club was having none of it, stating that unless the money was spent on players and their accommodation, there would be little point in enhancing the ground as there would be few supporters to use it.

The supporters, angered by comments that they should be helping and not hindering the club, responded by pointing out just how much they had handed across over the years and an unhealthy stand off begun. Eventually the supporters offered a loan, which the club turned down, stating that they wanted the money with no strings attached. The £3,000 which had already been given to the club was seemingly not enough and accusations began to fly as the relationship reached an all time low. The club did have a point with regards to development, as there had only been two crowds above 4,000 in the past season and they were all comfortably under cover, but again the supporters retorted by saying that



The side which took on Notts County in the FA Cup in Nov. 1961. Back Row (l to r): Harris, Lyons, Blackburn, Jones, Foley, Pounder. Front Row: Ashe, Albury, McLaughlin, Taylor, Coughlin.

if the club was serious about the Football League then the ground should be ready for it.

Weeks passed before the board asked the supporters to call an EGM, the only way that they could change their strategy, with the supporters replying that as none of their members had shown any inclination to change, then there was no point.

Quite rightly Basil Hayward was happy with his squad, although he had been forced to replace Paton and Kelly, signing Terry Foley, a 22 year old centre-forward with 35 appearances and 11 League goals to his name with Chesterfield and Pompey. He added Malcolm Hirst, a soldier based at Bulford who was on Barnsley's books and had one League game in 1956 to his credit.

Sadly the club began to use emotional blackmail in an attempt to gain more support, stating that there was no money for more players, emphasising it by putting up the admission cost to 2/6d. but Hayward seemed happy, "I hope the club do well and I have every confidence in the lads' ability. All they need is a fair run of the ball."

Frustrated by the impasse which had prevailed, the Football Club announced that they were taking over the running of the Jackpot scheme until differences were reconciled, which did nothing to heal what was a very strained relationship between the board and the Supporters' Club. With both camps stubbornly digging in it was compared to the greed which occasionally surfaced just after the War, and when the club suggested a fee of £2,000 for selling rights to be paid at £125 per month, the Supporters asked where the money would come from should there be little or no football for any reason. "The Supporters' Club will not be dictated to. We have always prided ourselves on our loyalty to this club and will continue to help, but on our terms."

On the pitch Dave Taylor missed the first two defeats of the 1961-62 season but bounced back in style with five against an ailing Merthyr Tydfil. Hayward's first choice forward line clicked into gear, with Tony Pounder and Ernie Ashe on the wings feeding Dennis Coughlin, Taylor and Terry Foley and after disposing of Gloucester City in the League Cup there were narrow defeats at Bexleyheath and Chelmsford. Hayward could not resist venting his anger at the stay away fans in the programme for the Cambridge City game, his comments inflamed an already twitchy band of

supporters. "It would now appear that our support on Saturdays is down to the loyal hard core. In view of the team's displays and consistent performances over the last twelve months, it appears to me that one is misled about the support and loyalty of Yeovil people, and the extra support which is needed seems to be confined to the Cup when all would then seem prepared to wear green and white and declare undying loyalty to Yeovil Town FC."

It had long been obvious that there simply was not the volume of people about any longer who were sufficiently interested to leave their families and televisions and pay 2/6d for a game of football which may or may not be of good value. Yeovil were fortunate that they had around 3,000 that were prepared to do that, but there appeared no end to the rift until, after a number of meetings, it was decided that the Supporters' Club would keep 25% of the Jackpot money, and the subject was then eased into the background.

As usual Yeovil began their FA Cup run at the 4th qualifying round stage and were pleased to draw Andover at Huish. Four of the five forwards scored in a comfortable win and, with progress also made in the League Cup and County Cup, the side was in a buoyant mood for the First Round which sent them to Notts County.

The Third Division side were confident of a win, but in the run up to the match they sacked their manager Frank Hill, a decision which led to many boycotting the game, thus depriving Yeovil of funds. A crowd of 11,375 saw Town give a magnificent display and they were still in the game up to the final five minutes when County, Tony Hateley and all, clinched the win with a fourth goal.

Dave Taylor was well on the way to being the leading scorer in the league and through November and December he continued to plunder defences, even finding time to slot in two for the reserves on a Wednesday night against Portland United. Having agreed to play the game mid-week to help out the home side, Hayward played seven first teamers in a stunningly bad piece of PR which the Dorset side were less than pleased with. In Taylor's only other reserve game he scored six against Barnstaple, making it eight in two games to add to the hatful for the first team. The exploits on the pitch had begun to attract scouts and both Coughlin and Ashe were targets for Pompey and Aston Villa, although nothing came of it to the relief of all who had seen the club climb to within five points of the lead. Disappointingly December all but killed off any hopes in the

#### Western League 1961-62

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol City Res	38	28	7	3	132	36	63
Salisbury City	38	27	2	9	105	41	56
Bideford	38	21	11	6	84	49	53
Torquay Utd Res	38	20	5	13	95	78	45
Poole Town Res	38	19	5	14	115	85	43
Dorchester Town	38	19	5	14	102	85	43
Bridgwater Town	38	17	8	13	89	69	42
Minehead	38	17	8	13	80	68	42
Chippenham Town	38	17	6	15	79	71	40
Portland United	38	16	8	14	92	85	40
Weston-S-Mare	38	14	11	13	63	68	39
Weymouth Res	38	16	6	16	85	71	38
Bath City Res	38	13	9	16	74	80	35
Bridport	38	11	8	19	72	93	30
Yeovil Town Res	38	13	3	22	74	99	29
Welton Rovers	38	11	7	20	61	104	29
Taunton	38	11	4	23	59	114	26
Bristol Rovers Colt	38	6	13	19	59	93	25
Barnstaple Town	38	8	7	23	52	120	23
Glastonbury	38	7	5	26	44	107	19

## Season 1961-1962

Aug	19th	Guildford City	A	Southern Premier	0-3	
	23rd	Oxford United	A	Champs Match	0-2	
	26th	Merthyr Tydfil	H	Southern Premier	8-2	Taylor 5, Coughlin, Albury Foley
	31st	Gloucester City	A	South LC 1 1st L	2-1	Taylor, Coughlin
Sept	2nd	Folkestone Town	A	Southern Premier	3-0	Albury, Coughlin, Foley
	6th	Gloucester City	H	South LC 1 2nd L	5-0	Taylor 3, Foley 2
	9th	Weymouth	H	Southern Premier	4-1	Taylor, Coughlin, Ashe, Albury
	12th	Chelmsford City	H	" "	2-2	Coughlin, Albury
	16th	Bexleyheath	A	" "	1-2	Foley
	18th	Chelmsford City	A	" "	2-3	Taylor 2
	23rd	Wellington Town	H	" "	2-0	Foley, Coughlin pen
	26th	Cambridge City	H	" "	1-1	Taylor
	30th	King's Lynn	A	" "	2-1	Foley, Coughlin
Oct	4th	Clacton Town	H	" "	3-1	Ashe 2, Coughlin
	7th	Hereford United	H	" "	2-1	Foley 2
	11th	Bath City	H	South LC 2nd Rd	3-1	Taylor 2, Foley
	14th	Worcester City	A	Southern Premier	1-2	Foley
	21st	Andover	H	FA Cup 4th Qual	4-0	Coughlin, Foley, Taylor, Ashe
	25th	Bridgwater Town	H	Som Prem Cup 1	3-0	Taylor 2, Hayward
	28th	Bath City	A	Southern Premier	1-3	Foley
Nov	4th	Notts County	A	FA Cup 1st Rd	2-4	Foley, Taylor
	11th	Cheltenham Town	A	Southern Premier	1-4	Foley
	18th	Cambridge United	H	" "	5-1	Taylor 3, Foley, Ashe
	25th	Bedford Town	A	" "	2-1	Taylor, Ashe
Dec	2nd	Tonbridge AFC	H	" "	4-1	Taylor 2, Coughlin, Muir
	9th	Oxford United	A	" "	1-2	Pounder
	16th	Guildford City	H	" "	1-2	Muir
	23rd	Merthyr Tydfil	A	" "	3-3	Taylor 2, Foley
	26th	Weymouth	A	" "	0-2	
Jan	13th	Glastonbury	H	Som Prem Cup 2	7-2	Coughlin 2, Foley 2, Taylor, Pounder, Albury
	20th	Cambridge City	A	Southern Premier	1-1	Coughlin
	24th	Poole Town	A	South LC 3rd Rd	1-0	Foley
	27th	Kettering Town	H	Southern Premier	3-1	Coughlin, Ashe, Taylor
	31st	Bournemouth & BA	H	Friendly	1-0	Ashe
Feb	3rd	Bexleyheath	H	Southern Premier	6-1	Coughlin 3, Taylor 2, Ashe
	10th	Wellington Town	A	" "	3-3	Taylor 3
	17th	King's Lynn	H	" "	3-1	Foley, Taylor, Coughlin
	21st	Weymouth	H	South LC 4th Rd	2-1	Foley, Albury
	24th	Hereford United	A	Southern Premier	2-1	Coughlin, Ashe
March	3rd	Worcester City	H	" "	4-1	Coughlin 2, Taylor 2
	7th	Gravesend & N	H	" "	1-1	Coughlin
	12th	Tonbridge AFC	A	" "	4-1	Coughlin 2, Pounder, Ashe
	15th	Cambridge United	A	South LC 5th Rd	1-3	Coughlin
	17th	Bath City	H	Southern Premier	2-0	Coughlin, Foley
	24th	Gravesend & N	A	" "	2-1	Coughlin, Hirst
	28th	Folkestone Town	H	" "	4-0	Coughlin 2, Hirst, Foley
	31st	Cheltenham Town	H	" "	1-0	Taylor
April	5th	Cambridge United	A	" "	0-0	
	11th	Kettering Town	A	" "	1-1	Coughlin
	14th	Bedford Town	H	" "	4-0	Taylor 2, Ashe, Phillips
	20th	Romford	A	" "	0-1	
	21st	Clacton Town	A	" "	0-3	
	23rd	Romford	H	" "	3-1	Coughlin, Foley, Jones
	28th	Oxford United	H	" "	4-3	Coughlin 3, Foley
	30th	Bristol City Res	A	Somerset Prem Cup Final 1st Leg	2-1	Taylor, Foley
May	2nd	Bristol City Res	H	Somerset Prem Final 2nd Leg	3-0	Hedges, Leather, Foley

## Reserves – Season 1961-1962

Aug	19th	Weston-s-Mare	H	Western League	5-3	Moore 2, Gray, Morris 2
	26th	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	2-3	Morris, Gray
	29th	Taunton	A	" "	0-4	
Sept	2nd	Welton Rovers	H	" "	5-0	Moore 2, Ham 2, Gray
	7th	Poole Town Res	H	" "	2-5	Gray, Hirst
	9th	Bristol Rov Colts	A	" "	1-1	Hirst
	13th	Portland United	A	" "	1-5	Hayward
	16th	Glastonbury	H	" "	3-1	Leather, Gray, Muir pen
	23rd	Bristol City Res	A	" "	0-6	
	28th	Portland United	H	Western LC 1	2-3	Hayward 2
	30th	Bridgwater Town	H	Western League	0-3	
Oct	7th	Welton Rovers	A	" "	1-0	Hirst
	14th	Bridport	H	" "	0-2	
	21st	Glastonbury	A	" "	1-1	Glanville
	28th	Bath City	H	" "	0-3	
Nov	4th	Bristol City Res	H	" "	1-8	Morris
	11th	Bristol Rov Colts	H	" "	3-2	Davis 2, Glanville
	18th	Bideford	A	" "	0-2	
	22nd	Portland United	H	" "	4-0	Taylor 2, Foley, Coughlin
Dec	2nd	Barnstaple Town	A	" "	2-1	Leather, Chant
	9th	Taunton	H	" "	5-1	Davis, Leather pen, Mattock 2, Glanville
	16th	Dorchester Town	A	" "	2-3	Hirst, Leather pen
	26th	Torquay Utd Res	H	" "	0-4	
	30th	Barnstaple Town	H	" "	10-0	Taylor 6, Foley 2, Coughlin, Mattock
Jan	13th	Bridgwater Town	A	" "	1-3	og
	20th	Bideford	H	" "	2-3	Phillips 2
	27th	Salisbury	A	" "	1-6	Phillips
Feb	3rd	Poole Town	A	" "	3-4	Hirst 3
	10th	Dorchester Town	H	" "	3-1	Phillips, Watts, Leather pen
	17th	Weston-s-Mare	A	" "	4-1	Hirst 2, Davis 2
	24th	Weymouth	H	" "	5-1	Hirst, Davis 4
March	3rd	Bridport	A	" "	2-2	Leather pen, Phillips
	10th	Minehead	H	" "	0-1	
	17th	Bath City Res	A	" "	1-3	Davis
	31st	Minehead	A	" "	1-3	Webber
April	7th	Chippenham Town	H	" "	3-2	Muir, White, Topping pen
	21st	Salisbury	H	" "	0-2	
	23rd	Weymouth	A	" "	0-5	
	28th	Chippenham Town	A	" "	0-3	

league with three defeats, although the entertainment value could not be faulted as the Boxing Day game with Frank O'Farrell's Weymouth was the only time the attack failed to score from August to April.

January was good for a number of reasons, not least with the handing back of the Jackpot competition to the Supporters' Club. The Football Club had launched a new lottery which was hoped would bring in £150 a week alongside the Jackpot to bring in the funds to consolidate the squad. Hayward's men had begun an unbeaten run and had gone on in both cups through February, a new spirit having surfaced at Huish. The supporters announced that they would pay for the floodlights to be upgraded to Football League standard when it was announced that an expanded League was imminent with five divisions of 20 clubs, precisely the same scheme which the League had thrown out several times before, but with a number of northern clubs ailing, as well as some non-League clubs, Yeovil once again smelled a place in the elite.

They would be well served on the pitch as amongst the

new local recruits was 16 year old Chris Mattock, a winger who along with Colin Webber had attracted West Bromwich Albion to Huish. The fixture list and the bad weather had combined, along with the early form which had killed off any title hopes, to cause the gates to fade away once again, and when a friendly with Bournemouth was watched by less than 2,000, Hayward's idea of a string of friendlies was shelved and when the unbeaten run continued but gates dropped below 2,000, panic set in.

Dennis Coughlin took over the role of goal provider during March scoring in eight consecutive matches, but the season was all but dead when Cambridge United beat Yeovil in the League Cup semi-final, leaving a Professional Cup final with Bristol City to play for after Coughlin's hat-trick had beaten champions Oxford United to restore some pride. The unbeaten run had ended at Easter against Romford, but despite the goals and the wins, Hayward could not attract the crowds back to Huish and end of season figures showed an alarming drop of 20,000 in all. Sadly Malcolm Hirst ended the term in plaster having broken his leg.

Such was the new found enthusiasm for the fund raising, the board announced that they were to go ahead with radical plans to transform Huish as soon as permission was granted. The old idea of covering both ends was discarded, but a more adventurous one involving replacing the 60 year old main stand which had been at Pen Mill was in the pipe line, along with new dressing rooms and offices.

1961-62 would go down in history for a variety of reasons, beginning with conflict but ending in relative harmony. Basil Hayward's side was an exciting one but it was in the same league as Oxford United who were destined for higher things, but Yeovil still had the nucleus to challenge and they still had Dave Taylor who had reached 100 goals for the club in just two seasons.

The Board of Directors had stumbled on a money making idea through the lottery which meant that they were not so reliant on the Supporters' Club or the crowds which had levelled out at around 3,000 and with Huish about to be transformed another crack at the championship was thought to be on the cards, if not in the immediate future.

#### First Team Appearances 1961-62

Coughlin, Jones, Harris 54, Albury, Foley 53, Ashe 51, McLaughlin, Taylor 50, Blackburn 49, Pounder 41, Lyons 26, Muir 17, Leather, Lambden 13, Hirst, Phillips 5, Webber 3, Hedges 2, Hayward 1

#### First Team Scorers 1961-62

Taylor 41, Coughlin 34, Foley 27, Ashe 11, Albury 6, Pounder 3, Hirst, Muir 2, Phillips, Jones, Leather, Hedges, Hayward 1

#### Reserve Appearances 1961-62

Webber, Topping 33, Lambden 27, Leather, Callow 24, Muir 21, Mattock 18, Davis, Hirst, Sams 17, Phillips, Johns 15, Morris, Watts 14, Fowler, Moore 13, Lyons, Conway 12, Glanville, Hamm 11, Chant 8, Gray 7, Hurley 6, Bywater 5, Gillingham 4, Jones, Harris, Hayward 3, Pounder, Coughlin, Foley, Taylor, Ashe, White, Williams 2, Crabb, Bryant, Dowding 1

#### Reserve Scorers 1961-62

Davis, Hirst 10, Taylor 8, Leather 6, Phillips, Gray 5, Morris, Moore 4, Hayward, Foley, Glanville, Mattock 3, Muir, Coughlin, Hamm 2, Topping, Webber, Chant, Watts, White, og

#### Southern League Premier 1961-1962

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oxford United	42	28	5	9	118	46	61
Bath City	42	25	7	10	102	70	57
Guildford City	42	24	8	10	79	49	56
Yeovil Town	42	23	8	11	97	59	54
Chelmsford City	42	19	12	11	74	60	50
Weymouth	42	20	7	15	80	64	47
Kettering Town	42	21	5	16	90	84	47
Hereford United	42	21	2	19	81	68	44
Cambridge City	42	18	8	16	70	71	44
Bexleyheath & W	42	19	5	18	69	75	43
Romford	42	15	9	18	63	70	39
Wellington Town	42	14	10	18	75	78	38
Gravesend & N	42	17	4	21	59	91	38
Bedford Town	42	16	5	21	73	79	37
Merthyr Tydfil	42	13	11	18	62	80	37
Clacton Town	42	13	10	18	74	90	36
Cambridge United	42	12	12	17	73	77	36
Worcester City	42	14	7	20	50	64	35
Tonbridge AFC	42	10	14	18	71	92	34
King's Lynn	42	12	8	22	59	74	32
Folkestone Town	42	12	6	24	64	103	30
Cheltenham Town	42	9	7	25	47	83	25



## CHAPTER FOUR

# The Changing Face of Huish

The new lottery was an undoubted success and it transformed a potentially catastrophic balance into a healthy one, a net profit of nearly £3,000 showing despite gates falling by £2,000 in all. The board had committed the club to replacing the crumbling old stand by one with dressing rooms, a board room and refreshment areas, and the lottery only confirmed the plans, which sadly would go ahead without Bill Farthing. Bill died in June after serving the club since the start as a Limited Company in 1923 and had been chairman since 1952 as well as chairman and later President of the league. Suitable remembrances were held for him at the start of the season.

Brian Rideout, a full back who had played just once for Bristol Rovers signed along with Alan Herritty, a 20 year old full back from Newport County who had been a Welsh Schoolboy International and had played around 30 League games. With experienced ex-Walsall keeper Gordon Chilvers and Brian Adlam a 22 year old who had played as an amateur, they were the only newcomers as Hayward deemed the squad complete.

Elsewhere former clubman Harold Devoto had re-formed West Chinnock FC and had taken the old nets from Huish as a donation, the club having replaced the wooden goalposts with metal ones. During the summer more information emerged regarding the ambitious and exciting new main stand, which was to be 35' high with originally 1500 seats. This was soon revised to 2000 as the plans were improved, the first phase costing upwards of £20,000. The old Pen Mill stand was described as having become a liability, a sad way to talk of such a grand old lady who had been rebuilt at Huish and survived two wars. When it did go and the dressing rooms were up and running the old ones at the Queen Street end were to be demolished and a hall with a car-park built in its place. Ivan Rendall resigned as secretary as his personal business career took off and he was elected onto the board in time for the start of the season. In all just one player made his debut at the first game, a defeat at home by Kettering Town on 18th August 1962, but big wins against a poor Clacton Town and Trowbridge Town in the League Cup masked what was to follow. Taylor and Coughlin had both scored freely in those games but September saw a number of defeats, Bath winning at Huish for the first time since 1948. By October 6th Yeovil were bottom with two wins from ten games, their worst start for ten years and with scorn falling on him from many sides, Basil Hayward stood firm, stating that his side was the best in the league, and that they were "just lacking confidence". It was a bold statement possibly borne out by the fact that Coughlin and Taylor led

the league scoring charts, but until Terry Foley began hitting the net, they were the only ones who were.

Two league draws and a win in a friendly over Chelsea Reserves sandwiched a one sided County game against Street, and with goals a plenty there was a certain amount of optimism as the FA Cup came around, the 4-0 win against Trowbridge was not unexpected. The draw for the next round gave them Dartford at home in the first round proper, but a week before the team lost in the League Cup at Cheltenham under what Hayward said were "the worst floodlights I have seen, and we shall never play under them again...". There was more bad news when it was announced that any clubs who had signed a transfer-listed League player during the previous five years without paying the fee must pay it to the club in question, or be exempt from applying for membership to the Football League. Chelmsford City were the worst hit, with some £45,000 hanging over them, but Yeovil had just Ernie Ashe to worry about, having signed him from Leicester City.

Gates had not risen, not surprisingly, but in the press and the programme the public were once again berated for not coming in their droves, television again being blamed for the demise. They came in some numbers for the Dartford game, nearly 6,000 saw a stunning fightback from 2-0 down after thirty minutes, Taylor, Coughlin and Foley giving the Huish crowd plenty to cheer about in a memorable match. It was a morale booster, for the team were still near the bottom with only three wins in thirteen games and, to cash in, a friendly was arranged with Bournemouth where the supporters could buy tickets for the second round game, against Swindon Town. The Wiltshire side were a different proposition altogether and some fifty marshalls were recruited to cope with the crowd which was expected to be a 15,000 full house. Swindon came with sought after winger Don Rogers, a Paulton lad who played alongside Mike Summerbee and Ernie Hunt. Yeovil held their own but two bad defensive mistakes put them out of the game and out of the Cup. In the end a crowd of 12, 292, the biggest for fourteen years went home disappointed.

It left Yeovil to concentrate on a relegation battle which started well with wins over leaders Cambridge City and Poole Town. Sadly only 1679 saw the latter game which, not for the first time, sent warning bells ringing all round the town, but worse was to follow. Three points over Christmas were tempered by an injury to Dave Jones, who broke his finger and thereby was not fit to play for only the second time in five years. It mattered little for the new year came in with chaotic snowstorms which obliterated most of the country and paralysed towns and villages. It was the



## Season 1962-1963

Aug	18th	Kettering Town	H	Southern Premier	2-3	Coughlin 2 (1pen)
	25th	Chelmsford City	A	" "	0-0	
	29th	Trowbridge Town	H	South LCQ 1 Leg	5-0	Taylor 2, McLaughlin, Foley, Coughlin
Sept	1st	Clacton Town	H	Southern Premier	6-2	Coughlin 4, Taylor, og
	3rd	Weston-S-Mare	A	Som Prof Cup 1	6-2	Coughlin 3, Foley 2, Taylor
	5th	Trowbridge Town	A	South LCQ 2 Leg	2-0	Coughlin, Taylor
	8th	Dartford	A	Southern Premier	0-1	
	12th	Cambridge United	H	" "	0-1	
	15th	Wellington Town	H	" "	4-0	Coughlin, Taylor, Albury, Foley
	20th	Cambridge United	A	" "	0-0	
	22nd	Guildford City	A	" "	1-4	Taylor
	26th	Bath City	H	" "	1-2	Taylor
	29th	Romford	H	" "	3-3	Taylor, Coughlin 2 pens
Oct	6th	Bexleyheath & W	A	" "	2-2	Taylor 2
	10th	Street	H	Som Prof Cup 2	9-1	Foley 3, Coughlin 2, Taylor 2, Pounder, Rideout
	13th	Chelsea Res	H	Friendly	2-1	Coughlin, Taylor
	20th	Trowbridge Town	H	FA Cup 4th Qual	4-0	Foley 3, Coughlin
	24th	Cheltenham Town	A	South LC 1st Rd	1-2	Foley
	27th	Gravesend & N	H	Southern Premier	3-1	Foley, Hedges, og
Nov	3rd	Dartford	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	3-2	Taylor, Coughlin, Foley
	10th	Worcester City	H	Southern Premier	1-1	Coughlin
	14th	Bournemouth & BA	H	Friendly	3-1	Foley 2, Coughlin
	24th	Swindon Town	H	FA Cup 2nd Rd	0-2	
Dec	1st	Cambridge City	A	Southern Premier	2-1	Coughlin, Taylor
	8th	Poole Town	H	" "	3-1	Albury, Foley 2
	15th	Kettering Town	A	" "	0-2	
	22nd	Chelmsford City	H	" "	2-1	Pounder, Taylor
	26th	Bedford Town	H	" "	1-1	Taylor
Feb	12th	Bournemouth & BA	H	Friendly	2-2	Hall 2
	16th	Romford	A	Southern Premier	2-3	Foley, Hall
	23rd	Merthyr Tydfil	H	" "	1-1	Foley
Mar	1st	Wisbech Town	H	" "	1-0	Hall
	2nd	Rugby Town	A	" "	0-1	
	6th	Dartford	H	" "	0-2	
	9th	Bath City	A	Som Prof Cup Semi-final	2-1	Coughlin 2 (1 pen)
	16th	Gravesend & N	A	" "	1-5	Hall
	18th	Guildford City	H	" "	2-1	Coughlin 2
	23rd	Hereford United	H	" "	1-1	Ashe
	27th	Rugby Town	H	" "	4-1	Hall, Herritty, Coughlin, og
	30th	Worcester City	A	" "	0-1	0-1
April	3rd	Clacton Town	A	" "	4-1	Foley, Hall 2, Taylor
	4th	Bedford Town	A	" "	1-1	Taylor
	12th	Weymouth	H	" "	1-0	Withey
	13th	Merthyr Tydfil	A	" "	1-2	Withey
	15th	Weymouth	A	" "	3-3	Withey, Hall 2
	20th	Cambridge City	H	" "	4-1	Hall 2 (1pen), Taylor, Ashe
	24th	Bexleyheath & W	H	" "	2-0	Taylor, Withey
	25th	Hereford United	A	" "	3-0	Taylor 2, Withey
	26th	Wisbech Town	A	" "	1-2	Withey
	27th	Poole Town	A	" "	1-0	Taylor
	30th	Bournemouth & BA	H	Benefit	0-5	
May	2nd	Bath City	A	Southern Premier	0-1	
	6th	Bristol City	A	Somerset Prof Cup Final 1st Leg	1-1	Ashe
	8th	Bristol City	H	Final 2nd Leg	2-0	Ashe, Pounder
	9th	Wellington Town	A	Southern Premier	0-1	

## Reserves – Season 1962-1963

Aug	18th	Welton Rovers	A	Western League	00	
	23rd	Exeter City Res	H	" "	1-0	Chant
	25th	Torquay Utd Res	H	" "	1-1	Leather pen
	29th	Bridport	A	" "	0-3	
Sept	1st	Andover	A	" "	1-3	Adlam
	6th	Poole Town	H	" "	1-0	o.g.
	8th	Dorchester Town	H	" "	0-2	
	12th	Minehead	A	" "	2-5	Withey 2
	15th	Torquay Utd	A	" "	1-0	Withey
	20th	Taunton	H	" "	4-1	Webber 2, Leather, Boulton
	22nd	Bristol City Res	H	" "	1-2	Withey
	27th	Barnstaple Town	H	" "	0-0	
	29th	Chippenham Town	A	" "	0-5	
Oct	6th	Bath City Res	H	" "	2-1	Davis, Withey
	13th	Taunton	A	" "	2-3	Davis, Withey
	20th	Exeter City Res	A	" "	0-0	
	27th	Bridgwater Town	A	" "	1-3	Davis
Nov	10th	Salisbury	A	" "	2-1	Withey 2
	17th	Weston-s-Mare	H	" "	3-1	Hamm, Davis, Withey
	24th	Bath City Res	A	" "	2-2	Withey, Davis
Dec	1st	Glasbury	H	" "	4-3	Withey 2, Webber, Watts
	8th	Dorchester Town	A	" "	2-1	Davis 2
	15th	Bristol Rovers Colts	H	" "	1-1	Davis
	22nd	Poole Town Res	A	" "	3-3	Withey, Rideout, Hedges
	26th	Barnstaple Town	A	" "	2-2	White, Withey
Jan	19th	Portland United	A	" "	0-1	
Feb	9th	Bideford	A	" "	0-1	
	16th	Chippenham Town	H	" "	1-1	Hedges
	23rd	Bristol Rover Colts	A	" "	2-1	Davis, og
March	2nd	Weymouth	H	" "	2-1	Topping, Blackburn
	7th	Minehead	H	" "	2-1	Webber, White
	9th	Andover	H	" "	3-2	White 2, og
	14th	Portland United	H	" "	5-2	Withey 4, og
	16th	Bridport	H	" "	5-0	Hirst 3, Hedges, Withey
	21st	Salisbury	H	" "	3-2	Webber, Hirst 2
	23rd	Weston-s-Mare	A	" "	2-1	Foley, Hirst
	30th	Bideford	H	" "	3-5	Boulton 2, Withey
April	6th	Weymouth	A	" "	1-0	Withey
	13th	Bridgwater Town	H	" "	0-2	
	18th	Welton Rovers	H	" "	1-3	White
	27th	Bristol City Res	A	" "	1-2	Rideout
May	7th	Glastonbury	A	" "	0-4	

heaviest fall for eighty years and along with the hard frosts which followed, there were fifteen feet high drifts which buried buses for days. Combe St Nicholas did not see a bus for a fortnight as the public fought to keep control. Soon a coal and coke shortage hit also and in the arctic conditions all sport was cancelled, even skittle matches went down as players could not reach the alleys.

By mid January Huish was still in the grip with a foot of solid compacted snow on the pitch and terraces, and Basil Hayward appealed through the press for supporters to clear the ground – which did not go down too well with some who believed that the players should be earning their wages by doing same. It sparked off a brief interchange of comments which emphasised that the manager did not have the wholehearted support of the public at that time. The reserves managed to play a game at windswept Portland United, complete with plimsolls, sweaters and gloves, but the break went on through to mid-February before a thaw set in sufficiently for another friendly with Bournemouth to take place. There had been no less than thirteen separate snow falls on Huish, which had rendered it

unplayable for nearly eight weeks, the longest time since the War. It had also killed off much of the interest in the season which was already struggling, and at just the wrong time with contracts for the stand having been exchanged. During the freeze the club took over the Green and White competition, a decision which was made in harmony, it being absorbed into a 'Players Pool', run in conjunction with National Football Supporters' Clubs, and paying out £900 a week in prize money. They also signed Peter Hall, a forward from Bournemouth and Boscombe, who was to cover for the injured Dave Taylor. A number saw it as being a replacement for Dennis Coughlin who was being chased by Bournemouth, but again the club denied that he was going anywhere. Hall's record showed him having played sixteen League games for Port Vale after playing as an amateur for Stoke City. One League Cup game followed for the Cherries before his move to Yeovil.

The struggle continued through March until a win in the Professional Cup over Bath City and then five points from three home games all but ensured safety. Three points in two more away games at the start of April were another bonus, but, as everyone feared, Dennis Coughlin left Huish soon after, predictably for Bournemouth, a fee of £2,500 being touted. In fact the figures later showed it to be somewhat less, but he had gone. It was also suggested that with Coughlin's trade being a plumber, the lucrative work which abounded after the freeze up meant that he was better off not going full time during the summer, hence the delay. Within days Hayward had signed Bob Davis on a free-transfer from Exeter City and had re-signed George Muir from Hibernian. They were all in line for the Easter matches, as was Peter Withey, the striker who had been playing for St John's Gym a year earlier, and he took full advantage by scoring in all three games. April ended bizarrely with four matches in four days, three of which were won, followed by yet another friendly with Bournemouth, the third of the season and one which was to benefit Coughlin. Few were interested in the Professional Cup final with Bristol City, as 600 saw the first leg and 1500 turned up for the return at Huish, won by goals from Ernie Ashe and Tony Pounder.

It put silverware on the table but did little to appease the public who were sick of the constant carping about attendances. Letters to the press indicated that there were three main reasons for the apathy, namely poor facilities at Huish, which in fairness were being rectified, a lack of name players – a situation which Hayward had said he would not go along with unlike a number of clubs who threw money at fading League stars, and very ordinary performances, which nobody could deny. The Wisbech match in March was watched by the lowest crowd since the War and gates since the Swindon game had indeed gone under 2,000, but Hayward maintained all along that his team were excellent as individuals, many of whom were being coveted elsewhere. Few were prepared to agree with him, but incredibly, and happily, he was to be proved right.

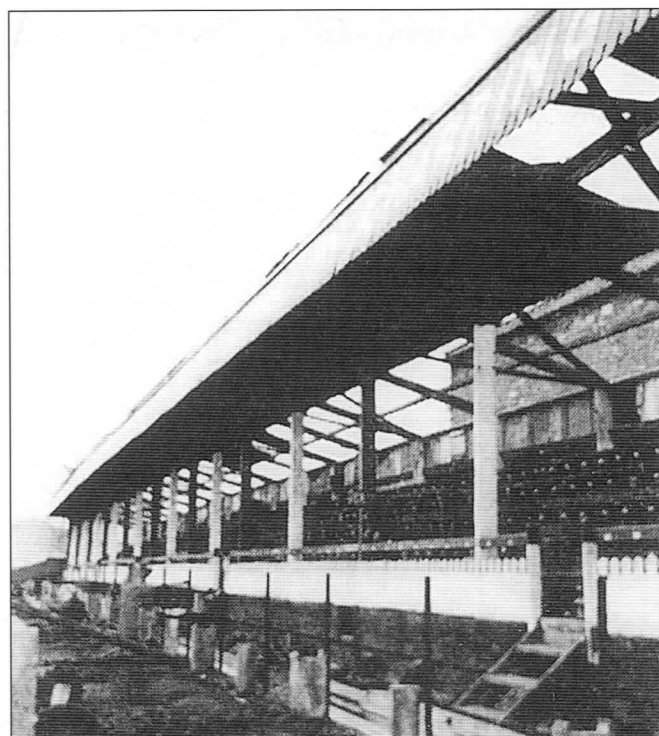
The season ended with a large hole where the stand used to be, as work had begun in early April to knock it down Yeovil playing 9 of their 12 league games away from home. Season ticket holders were offered rebates, but sportingly few took up the offer, despite there being standing room only for the last few games.

#### First Team Appearances 1962-63

Albury, Ashe 50, Harris 48, Pounder, Herrity 46, Lambden, Foley 41, Taylor 40, Jones 38, Coughlin 35, McLaughlin 34, Hall 23, Rideout 21, Chilvers, Withey 13, Muir 6, Watts, Adlam 4, R Davies, Hedges 3, Blackburn 2

#### First Team Scorers 1962-63

Taylor 26, Coughlin 25, Foley 18, Hall 10, Withey 6, Pounder, Ashe 4, Albury 2, Hedges, Rideout, McLaughlin, Herrity 1



**Above:** The last days of the old Pen Mill Stand as demolition started at Huish.

#### Southern League Premier 1962-1963

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cambridge City	40	25	6	9	99	64	56
Cambridge United	40	23	7	10	74	50	53
Weymouth	40	20	11	9	82	43	51
Guildford City	40	20	11	9	70	50	51
Kettering Town	40	22	7	11	66	49	51
Wellington Town	40	19	9	12	71	49	47
Dartford	40	19	9	12	61	54	47
Chelmsford City	40	18	10	12	63	50	46
Bedford Town	40	18	8	14	61	45	44
Bath City	40	18	6	16	58	56	43
Yeovil Town	40	15	10	15	64	54	40
Romford	40	14	11	15	73	68	39
Bexleyheath & W	40	13	11	16	55	63	37
Hereford United	40	14	7	19	56	66	35
Merthyr Tydfil	40	15	4	21	54	71	34
Rugby Town	40	14	5	21	65	76	33
Wisbech Town	40	15	3	22	64	84	33
Worcester City	40	12	9	19	47	65	33
Poole Town	40	10	12	18	54	66	32
Gravesend & N	40	10	3	27	62	91	23
Clacton Town	40	3	7	30	50	135	13

#### Reserve Appearances 1962-63

Topping 38, Watts 36, Boulton 34, Hedges 32, Withey 31, Young 30, Webber 29, Leather 26, Chilvers 25, Rideout 22, Chant 18, Davies, White 17, Mattock 12, Hamm 11, Blackburn, Hirst 10, Fowler 9, Adlam 8, Jones 7, Callow 6, Moore 5, O'Leary 4, Lambden, Pounder 3, Herritty, McLaughlin, Foley 2, Hayward, Davis 1

#### Reserve Scorers 1962-63

Withey 21, Davis 9, Hirst 6, Webber, White 5, og 4, Hedges, Boulton 3, Leather, Rideout 2, Chant, Adlam, Hann, Watts, Topping, Blackburn, Foley 1

## Western League 1962-1963

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol City Colts	42	31	5	6	120	56	67
Bideford	42	29	7	6	115	51	65
Minehead	42	25	6	11	102	62	56
Andover	42	25	5	12	106	59	55
Bridgwater Town	42	23	8	11	77	48	54
Salisbury City	42	21	9	12	89	56	51
Portland United	42	23	5	14	80	66	51
Weymouth Res	42	20	5	17	104	78	45
Yeovil Town Res	42	18	9	15	67	72	45
Barnstaple Town	42	19	6	17	81	75	44
Dorchester Town	42	17	9	16	92	79	43
Chippenham Town	42	15	12	15	92	60	42
Poole Town	42	17	7	18	82	77	41
Exeter City Res	42	15	10	17	55	74	40
Bath City Res	42	14	6	22	82	96	34
Weston-s-Mare	42	11	9	22	72	108	31
Welton Rovers	42	11	8	23	71	107	30
Glastonbury	42	13	4	25	56	114	30
Torquay Utd Res	42	10	8	24	48	78	28
Bridport	42	9	9	25	66	111	26
Taunton	42	11	4	27	56	112	26
Bristol Rovers Colts	42	6	8	28	56	120	20

## Dorset Combination 1962-1963

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Parley Sports	28	23	2	3	91	36	48
Swanage Town	28	19	1	8	88	45	39
Whiteheads	28	19	1	8	67	42	39
Longfleet St Mary	28	14	5	9	58	38	33
Dorchester T Res	28	14	4	10	75	51	32
Poole Town A	28	13	3	12	58	69	29
Weymouth A	28	11	6	11	61	49	28
Hamworthy Utd	28	12	4	12	48	49	28
Portland Utd Res	28	11	5	12	52	59	27
Blandford United	28	11	1	6	53	70	23
Bluebirds	28	9	3	16	50	70	21
Bridport	28	9	2	17	39	55	20
Wareham Rangers	28	8	3	17	53	84	19
Herston	28	6	5	17	52	82	17
Yeovil Town Colts	28	8	1	19	50	86	17

## The old girl of Pen Mill is gone but success returns

During the summer the new grandstand rose from the ashes of the old one, but slowly enough for the eternal critics to doubt whether it would be anywhere near ready for the new season. Seven weeks from the start it was a skeleton, but with much of the remaining work in block form and the drains and sewers in place, the contractors were quietly confident. The stand was used for the first time on 24th August 1963 when 1014 watched the reserves beat Andover. The first two Southern League fixtures were arranged to be played away, as a precaution, but although there was still work to be done, the new season ticket holders, many of whom had taken advantage of the staggered payment scheme, were installed.

Earlier Basil Hayward had made a significant signing, continuing the close relationship with Portsmouth by signing eighteen year old winger Ken Pound. He was to prove an inspired choice, and indeed one of the only ones, as Hayward insisted that he was happy with his squad. A

## Season 1963-1964

Aug	24th	Cambridge City	A	Southern Premier	1-4	Hall
	26th	Bath City	A	" "	0-1	
	31st	Hinckley Athletic	H	" "	8-1	Taylor 5, Moffat 2, Foley
Sept	4th	Trowbridge Town	H	South LC 1 1st L	5-1	Taylor 2, Moffat, Foley 2
	7th	Weymouth	A	Southern Premier	1-1	Taylor
	9th	Frome Town	A	Som Prem Cup 1	5-0	Foley 3, Moffat, Taylor
	11th	Trowbridge Town	A	South LC 1 2nd L	2-1	Taylor, Ashe
	14th	Hereford United	H	Southern Premier	4-1	Foley 2, Taylor, Pounder
	18th	Bath City	H	" "	1-0	og
	21st	Bedford Town	A	" "	4-1	Taylor 2, Moffat, og
	28th	Dartford	H	" "	6-0	Foley 2, Muir 2, Hall, Taylor
Oct	2nd	Bath City	H	South LC 2nd Rd	1-1	Hall
	5th	Hastings United	A	Southern Premier	1-1	Taylor
	9th	Cambridge United	H	" "	3-1	Hall, Taylor, Foley
	12th	Wellington Town	A	" "	2-0	Taylor, Pounder
	19th	Cowes	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	1-0	Moffat
	26th	Welton Rovers	H	Som Premier Cup 1	9-0	Foley 3, Taylor 2, Hall 2, Muir, Moffat
Nov	2nd	Merthyr Tydfil	H	Southern Premier	3-0	Moffat 2, Foley
	7th	Bath City	A	South LC 3rd Rd	3-2	Taylor, Pound, Hall
	9th	Worcester City	H	Southern Premier	1-0	Hall pen ABAN 62 MINS
	16th	Southend United	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	1-0	Foley
	23rd	Chelmsford City	A	Southern Premier	2-1	Foley, Taylor
	30th	Wisbech Town	H	" "	2-0	Taylor 2
Dec	7th	Crystal Palace	H	FA Cup 2nd Rd	3-1	Taylor 2, Pound
	14th	Cambridge City	H	Southern Premier	3-2	Taylor, Pound, Foley
	18th	Cheltenham Town	H	South LC 4th Rd	5-0	Taylor 3, Foley, Hall
	21st	Hinckley Athletic	A	Southern Premier	4-1	Taylor, Hall, Foley, og
	26th	Romford	A	" "	0-2	
	28th	Romford	H	" "	1-1	Taylor
Jan	4th	Bury	H	FA Cup 3rd Rd	0-2	
	11th	Bexley United	H	Southern Premier	6-1	Taylor 4, Hall, Foley
	15th	Guildford City	H	" "	1-1	Pound
	18th	Hereford United	A	" "	0-2	
	29th	Weymouth	H	South LC 5th Rd	2-3	Ashe, Taylor
Feb	1st	Bedford Town	H	Southern Premier	1-0	Taylor
	8th	Dartford	A	" "	0-2	
	15th	Hastings United	H	" "	2-0	Taylor, Albury
	19th	Kettering Town	A	" "	4-1	Foley 2, Hall, Harris
	22nd	Wellington Town	H	" "	4-0	Taylor, Albury, Foley Hall
	29th	Cambridge United	A	" "	1-0	Foley
March	2nd	Worcester City	A	" "	1-0	Hall
	7th	Kettering Town	H	" "	4-1	Hall 3, Taylor
	14th	Merthyr Tydfil	A	" "	1-2	Pound
	18th	Bexley United	A	" "	0-2	
	21st	Worcester City	H	" "	7-2	Taylor 3, Pound 2, Muir, Albury
	23rd	Margate	A	" "	2-1	Foley, Hall
	28th	Guildford City	A	" "	0-0	
	30th	Rugby Town	A	" "	2-1	Taylor, Albury
April	4th	Chelmsford City	H	Southern Premier	2-0	Taylor, Hall
	6th	Weston-S-Mare	A	Som Pro Cup 2	2-1	Taylor, Hirst
	8th	Rugby Town	H	Southern Premier	1-0	Foley
	11th	Wisbech Town	A	" "	1-0	Davies
	18th	Margate	H	" "	3-0	Taylor 2, Foley
	20th	Bristol City Res	A	Somerset Premier Cup Final 1st Leg	1-1	Hirst
	22nd	Nuneaton Borough	H	Southern Premier	1-0	Foley
	25th	Nuneaton Borough	A	" "	0-1	
	29th	Weymouth	H	" "	3-1	Pound 2, Foley
	30th	Bristol City Res	H	Somerset Premier Cup Final 2nd Leg	1-3	Albury



**Yeovil Town F.C. 1963-64**

*Back Row (l to r): Alan Herrity, Len Harris, Dave Jones, Roy Lambden, Peter Hall, Ernie Ashe, Ken Pound (inset). Front Row: Tony Pounder, George Muir, Bill Albury, Adam Moffat, Terry Foley, Dave Taylor.*

number of prominent people within the club were outspoken as the new kick-off approached. Chairman Stan Pinder, referring to the stand said "It is not just going to be a monument to ninety minutes of football, but a social centre where other sports are welcome, even those with the oval ball at Johnson Park...". Basil Hayward was also moved to rally the cause, and possibly his own.. "Since I took over three years ago I have striven to do what I thought was right for the players and the club. I have tremendous faith and confidence in the side, and I sink or swim with them..."

New Supporters' Club secretary Bryan Moore had the unenviable task of succeeding the popular Len Dennett, and he said "We hope to maintain a good standard of football, increase gates and see membership grow. We would like to see it up to 2,500 again to enable us to improve on the £4,000 which was handed over to the club..."

Certainly the AGM was held with an air of achievement as the superb stand rose, and figures showed that there was much to crow about. Despite the weather the lottery money had sent profits soaring to over £11,000, with £16,000 having been taken on it alone. Wages and expenditure was up £3,000, but for once it mattered little, indeed Hayward was assured that money would be available to pay transfer fees, should they be relevant. A fee was not needed for Adam Moffat, who came on trial from East Fife, and he eventually gained a spot having scored four in the first two reserve games. With the corresponding first team matches having been lost, he was promoted and the season took off in spectacular fashion. With Peter Hall and Dave Taylor on the left, Tony Pounder and Moffat on the right and Terry Foley down the middle goals flowed from all quarters, Taylor knocking in eleven in six games to shoot to the top of the Southern League scoring table. The early rounds of the

League and Professional Cups were disposed with and an unbeaten run began to develop. Moffat soon succumbed to injury letting in Ernie Ashe and the team embarked on a stunning run through September, the highlight being a brutal league win over Bath City, led by the enigmatic Malcolm Allison. After ten games Yeovil were four points behind Romford and one behind Bath City and were looking forward to a Cup trip to the Isle of Wight to take on Cowes Sports from the Hampshire League. Having gone by train from Town station there was a boat trip followed by a ten minute walk to the ground where they were greeted on the pitch in hostile fashion. An ugly game ensued, won by a Moffat goal, he having returned briefly to the side, but the slick first time passing with Hall and Pounder seeing plenty of the ball in the first half developed into a brawl in the second, which they were glad to come away from. The 3,000 gate was the biggest since 1938 at the ground. The following week saw a Somerset Professional Cup game with Welton Rovers, the County FA having insisted that the match be played on Saturday before the end of October, despite the final being six months away! It meant the cancellation of an important match with Kettering, but they took out their frustration on Welton, winning 9-0, the whole forward line getting involved.

While this had been going on the authorities in the town had announced possible routes for the new relief road in Yeovil, one which showed it to be going through part of the Bruttons End. Some 55 feet was needed of the ground, which would be expected to be moved closer to the Queen Street end, entailing the demolition of both ends. It would also mean the new stand would be wrongly sited, a chaotic situation which all hoped would be solved through the necessary protests.



## Reserves – Season 1963-1964

Aug	24th	Andover	H	Western League	6-2	Moffat 3, Boulton 2, Withey
	28th	Bridport	A	" "	1-1	Moffat
	31st	Portland United	A	" "	3-3	Lock 2, Pound
Sept	5th	Salisbury	H	" "	1-1	Ashe
	7th	Bridgwater Town	H	" "	0-1	
	14th	Weston-s-Mare	A	" "	2-1	Withey 2
	18th	Exeter City Res	A	" "	1-4	Pound
	21st	Weymouth	H	" "	3-0	Withey 2, Boulton
	26th	Exeter City Res	H	" "	1-1	Webber
	28th	Chippenham Town	A	" "	0-4	
Oct	5th	Bristol City Res	H	" "	1-1	Withey
	12th	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	1-0	Boulton
	19th	Bath City Res	H	" "	4-1	Withey 3 (1pen), Webber
Nov	2nd	Andover	A	" "	1-3	Withey pen
	9th	Welton Rovers	H	" "	2-2	Boulton 2
	16th	Salisbury	A	" "	2-8	Ashe, Boulton
	23rd	Barnstaple Town	H	" "	3-1	Boulton 2, Hirst
	30th	Glastonbury	A	" "	3-2	Ashe, Hirst, Withey
Dec	12th	Bridport	H	" "	3-2	Hirst 2, Boulton
	14th	Bristol City Res	A	" "	0-11	
	21st	Bideford	H	" "	0-4	
	26th	Portland United	H	" "	2-1	Withey, Boulton
	28th	Dorchester Town	A	" "	1-3	Withey
Jan	11th	Barnstaple Town	A	" "	0-1	
	18th	Dorchester Town	H	" "	0-5	
	25th	Frome Town	A	" "	1-0	Hann
Feb	1st	Weymouth Res	A	" "	4-0	Hirst, Boulter, Webber, og
	8th	Chippenham Town	H	" "	2-1	Withey, og
	15th	Bridgwater Town	A	" "	0-1	
	22nd	Minehead	A	" "	3-3	Hamm, Hirst, Boulton
	29th	Frome Town	H	" "	5-4	Hirst 3, Davis 2
March	7th	Taunton	A	" "	0-2	
	14th	Weston-s-Mare	H	" "	6-1	Hamm 3, Hirst 2, Withey
	19th	Torquay Utd Res	H	" "	2-1	Hirst, Hamm
	27th	Poole Town Res	A	" "	0-2	
	28th	Taunton	H	" "	0-0	
	30th	Poole Town Res	H	" "	3-1	Muir 2, Hamm
April	4th	Bideford	A	" "	1-7	Withey
	11th	Minehead	H	" "	2-1	Boulton, Mattock
	14th	Bath City Res	A	" "	0-2	
	25th	Glastonbury	H	" "	3-3	Davis, Withey 2
	29th	Welton Rovers	A	" "	0-6	

Putting the problems to one side the club prepared to meet their latest League club, Southend United, in the First Round. Initially the match was made all ticket with a 15,000 capacity, but matches in the Cup at other accessible places kept it down to a disappointing 7,631. Wins over Bath again and Merthyr meant that Hayward's troops were on a high, having not lost for seventeen games, and they were joint second with games in hand. Ken Pound came into the squad for the game which Yeovil dominated and should have won easier. A strangely muted crowd finally came to life when Terry Foley knocked in the winner, which brought a pitch invasion and a warning from the referee that he would abandon the match if it happened again. The Gazette described the game as having the atmosphere of a primary school match, but a poor Southend side were vanquished.

Again the draw was kind to the Glovers, as it brought Crystal Palace, sixth in Division Three and a vastly superior side to the previous one. Once more a crowd of 15,000 was anticipated and with two more league wins and a post-War unbeaten record under their belts, the side were in a buoyant

mood, Hayward declining to put them through additional training.

They would line up - Jones, Herrity, Harris, Albury, Lambden, Muir, Foley, Taylor, Pounder, Hall, Pound for the match against Palace, but it was under a massive and entirely unexpected cloud. Just two days after the win at home to Wisbech, Basil Hayward announced that he had accepted the manager's position at Bedford Town and wished to be released from his contract at Huish. The press announcement during the week leading up to the match overshadowed it, but some 12,000 still bought tickets.

The manager was quoted as saying that he would have stayed if the club had offered him more money, but he was not one to ask and when Bedford's offer upped his money by something like £15 a week, then his family security came into his thoughts. With no contract having been offered, a bad run could easily have seen him out of work, and so he took the safe option.

The board held an emergency meeting and agreed to release him, but only after the Cup run, and with that in mind his troops once again went to battle. A crowd of 10,900 watched as young Ken Pound came of age with a goal, and two from Taylor crushed the life out of Palace, who could do nothing but watch as Yeovil's players were chaired off the pitch at the end of a stunning display. The national press went overboard in praise of a magnificent and pulsating display which saw seven corners forced in the first fifteen minutes. Taylor's last minute clincher was greeted with wild scenes, and Mike Langley in the Express wrote..."Yeovil Town are the best non-League side I have ever seen, and I've seen plenty..." Roger Malone in the Daily Herald said ..."Yeovil emerged as one of the most astonishing Cup giant-killers of all time".

They were good times for the club and they had a month to enjoy the afterburn before Bob Stokoe's Bury came to town in the third round. It was almost a year since they were at a desperately low ebb with the ground frozen off, no funds coming through the turnstiles and a huge stand in the planning. Hayward had stuck to his principles and had been proved right, but the pressure, and possibly some of the back-biting, had got to him and Bedford struck at just the right moment. Sadly for them they would have to wait another month at least, as Hayward prepared for four league games and a League Cup tie before the big match.

Meanwhile Yeovil's board circulated all League clubs asking them to suggest prospective player-managers to take over after Christmas. The league had been pushed aside understandably, with Romford still top and Yeovil chasing, but the two met twice over the holiday, with the leaders coming out on top at Brooklands, breaking the proud unbeaten run in front of their own record, 8786 who created the biggest league attendance. It left Yeovil ten points behind with four games in hand, with Bath City and an emerging Chelmsford City as contenders.

A patient Huish support finally assembled on January 4th, and another 12,000 came expecting a place in the Fourth Round. Stokoe however had done his homework and had identified Ken Pound as the main threat. Aston Villa were believed to think along similar lines and a price of £10,000 was suggested in the press, but it was at the other end that the game was won and lost. The normally reliable Dave Jones committed two blunders from which there was no recovery and what could so easily have been a victory became a defeat.

In truth it came at about the right moment, for any more postponements may well have seen Romford out of sight, but they were about to blow up and, with Bath also slipping up, Yeovil were all of a sudden back in with a strong chance. A patient Hayward finally went to Bedford, as eleven men were interviewed for his job. A number of prominent ex-





**Above:** Dave Taylor scores the first goal against Crystal Palace in the F.A. Cup Second Round on 7th December 1963.

players were bandied around but the job went to 31 year old Glyn Davies, skipper of Derby County with 217 appearances behind him after beginning at Swansea Town.

It was disclosed that the candidates had the chance to negotiate their own salaries, and Davies won. With a savage irony, Basil Hayward's last game in charge was against Bedford Town, and Dave Taylor's goal was a strange going away present to add to the pencil set, watch and case that he was presented with at the end.

Davies racked up six straight wins to increase the pressure on Romford who were fading fast, but he was almost immediately under fire for his tactics which infuriated the supporters, the much reviled offside trap having been brought into operation by the Welshman. It was predicted that gates would plummet if the tactic was continued, and when the run came to a halt with two away defeats in four days, there were more harsh words, although excellent performances at Margate, Guildford and Rugby put them back on trail.

Romford by then had gone and, with Bath and Chelmsford also slipping up Yeovil emerged as favourites.

The match against Worcester saw reserve keeper Gordon Chilvers in superb form and, with Taylor and Pound scoring five between them, all was rosy, except the attendance, a paltry 1800, and that for the champions elect. Dave Topping was rightly given a second testimonial against Derby County, and he shared it with Dave Jones, Roy Lambden and Len Harris, who between them had clocked up over 900 appearances for Yeovil. With four league games left, Davies' inherited troops needed just three points as, with Bath losing at Margate and Merthyr and Yeovil beating Chelmsford in a fierce game at Huish, it was there for the taking. The Championship was finally clinched at 8.38pm on Wednesday 22nd April 1964 when Terry Foley's goal beat Nuneaton Borough with two games left. The shield was to be returned to Huish for the first time in nine years after the side had

taken seventeen points from eighteen. Hayward's side had been vilified and abused by certain sections, as had he himself and his successor, but with Bill Albury a tireless skipper and Dave Taylor's 48 goals supported by Foley with 30 and Hall with 18, Yeovil Town were crowned champions against neighbours Weymouth in front of their magnificent new grandstand.

The final moments were missed by Taylor, who had been suspended following a sending off at Margate, but they were witnessed by Swansea Town once again, who were checking out the outstanding talents of Ken Pound. He turned on the style in front of a joyous 3,563, but it was to be for the last time.

#### **First Team Appearances 1963-64**

Harris, Herrity, Lambden 57, Jones, Albury 56, Foley, Hall 53, Taylor, Muir 52, Pounder 47, Pound 38, Ashe 21, Moffat 12, G Davies 8, Hirst 2, R Davis, Watts, Chilvers, Webber 1

#### **First Team scorers 1963-64**

Taylor 48, Foley 30, Hall 18, Pound, Moffat 9, Albury 5, Muir 4, Ashe, Pounder, Hirst 2, Harris, Davies 1, ogs 3

#### **Reserve Appearances 1963-64**

Boulton, Watts, R Davis 38, Chilvers, Hirst, Withey 37, Webber 32, Young 31, Topping 29, Hamm, A Davis 23, Burfield 22, Ashe 16, Small 12, Pound 11, Higley 7, Pounder 6, Moffat 5, Parsons 4, Mattock 3, Lock, White, Crabb 2, Fowler, Cleal, Murley, Muir, Mitchell 1

#### **Reserve Scorers 1963-64**

Withey 18, Hirst 13, Boulton 10, Hamm 7, Webber, Moffat 4, Ashe, A Davies 3, Locke, Muir 2, Pound, Mattock, og 1

**Southern League 1963-1964**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil Town	42	29	5	8	93	36	63
Chelmsford City	42	26	7	9	99	55	59
Bath City	42	24	9	9	88	51	57
Guildford City	42	21	9	12	90	55	51
Romford	42	20	9	13	71	58	49
Hastings United	42	20	8	14	75	61	48
Weymouth	42	20	7	15	65	63	47
Bedford Town	42	19	9	14	71	68	47
Cambridge United	42	17	9	16	92	77	43
Cambridge City	42	17	9	16	76	70	43
Wisbech Town	42	17	8	17	64	68	42
Bexley United	42	16	10	16	70	77	42
Dartford	42	16	8	18	56	71	40
Worcester City	42	12	15	15	70	74	39
Nuneaton Borough	42	15	8	19	58	61	38
Rugby Town	42	15	8	19	68	86	38
Margate	42	12	13	17	68	81	37
Wellington Town	42	12	9	21	73	85	33
Merthyr Tydfil	42	12	8	22	69	108	32
Hereford United	42	12	7	23	58	86	31
Kettering Town	42	10	5	27	49	89	25
Hinckley Athletic	42	7	6	29	51	104	20

**Western League 1963-1964**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bideford	42	30	6	6	113	36	66
Bristol City Res	42	24	15	3	122	43	63
Bridgwater Town	42	25	10	7	82	32	60
Welton Rovers	42	24	6	12	84	54	54
Dorchester Town	42	19	14	9	94	56	52
Salisbury City	42	21	8	13	80	61	50
Barnstaple Town	42	20	9	13	92	69	49
Minehead	42	20	8	14	96	85	48
Weymouth Res	42	16	12	14	94	74	44
Andover	42	17	10	15	89	78	44
Torquay Utd Res	42	18	7	17	81	73	43
Yeovil Town Res	42	17	9	16	73	99	43
Chippenham Town	42	15	8	19	75	62	38
Bath City Res	42	12	12	18	77	92	36
Frome Town	42	11	11	20	69	97	33
Weston-s-Mare	42	11	11	20	58	86	33
Glastonbury	42	11	9	22	70	91	31
Exeter City Res	42	8	15	19	73	100	31
Poole Town Res	42	11	6	25	56	98	28
Bridport	42	7	14	21	40	100	28
Portland United	42	10	5	27	63	127	25
Taunton	42	8	9	25	37	105	25

**Dorset Combination 1963-1964**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Parley Sports	28	21	4	3	112	30	46
Longfleet St Mary	28	16	8	4	61	32	40
Hamworthy United	28	15	8	5	65	45	38
Dorchester Tn Res	28	16	4	8	83	48	36
Weymouth A	28	12	9	7	81	59	33
Whiteheads	28	14	5	9	86	67	33
Poole Town A	28	13	5	10	70	63	31
Portland Utd Res	28	12	5	11	77	68	29
Bluebirds	28	11	2	15	45	73	24
Sherborne Town	28	8	5	15	55	72	21
Herston	28	9	3	16	74	104	21
Wareham Rangers	28	10	1	17	54	83	21
Yeovil Town Colts	28	7	3	18	48	98	17
Swanage Town	28	6	4	18	60	86	16
Bridport	28	6	2	20	42	85	14



Basil Hayward put together the side that ultimately won the Southern League under Glyn Davies.

### 'After the Lord Mayor's Show season 1964-65'

Davies had inherited a resilient squad which had presented him with a championship and, after retaining virtually the same players, the club was reasonably confident for the 1964-65 campaign. As predicted Yeovil lost the precocious talents of Ken Pound, who went to Swansea Town in June, and he was replaced by Colin Brookes, a 22 year old wing half from Southport who had had a strange career to that point. Having made his Football League debut at 16 for Barnsley he played around 50 times before leaving for West Brom and then Peterborough, neither of whom gave him a game. A year later he had a season at Southport playing another 20 odd games before moving south to Huish. Also arriving were Ted Read, a full back from Southampton, who replaced Bob Davis, and Tony Hughes, another young striker from Swansea Town who had much success in the Welsh League.

One innovation was the start of a youth team, which entered the FA Youth Cup for the first time, and was drawn against Newton Abbot Spurs, but the important stuff began with the first team enjoying their best start in the league for fifteen years. The defence of the Championship began with sixteen goals in four games, including wins in the county cup and the League Challenge, against Burton Albion. Trowbridge were beaten in the League Cup but injuries had taken their toll, with Dave Taylor out for weeks, and Pounder, Hall and Lambden out as well. September went well as the undefeated league run continued, but there were problems on the horizon. The lottery which had been a superb source of income, was fading fast as punters lost interest and the profit had all but disappeared, signalling the start of what to be a desperate financial struggle.

Yeovil Town needed another big FA Cup run to promote the club and to boost the coffers, but it did not come. The team had lost Taylor but had gained Malcolm Hirst again, after all his injury worries and when he came in for the Guildford City game and netted a hat-trick the crowd gave him a standing ovation as emotions ran high for the popular



The 1964 Championship squad. Back row: P.Withey, G. Muir, B. Albury, G. Davies, E. Ashe, C. Webber. Middle Row: D. Hunt (trainer), T. Pounder, B. Hall, T. Foley, D. Jones, G. Chilvers, L. Harris, R. Lambden, A. Herity, S. Abbott (trainer) Front Row: D. Harrison, L. Pearce, R. White, S. Vincent, T. Loney (Directors), E.R. Wheeldow (President), S. Pinder (Chairman), I. Rendall, P. Hardy, G.E. Templeman, E. Barber (Directors) Seated on Ground: M. Hirst, D. Taylor, P. Watts, D. Topping.

**Season 1964-1965**

Aug	22nd	Chelmsford City	H	Southern Premier	5-1	Hall 2, Albury pen, Brookes, Pounder
	24th	Welton Rovers	A	Som Prem Cup 1	5-4	Taylor 4, Hall
	26th	Burton Albion	H	South Lge Chall (1963-1964)	4-1	Taylor, Hall, Brookes, Foley
	29th	Cambridge City	A	Southern Premier	2-2	Albury pen, Hall
Sept	2nd	Trowbridge Town	A	South LC1 1 Leg	0-2	
	5th	Bedford Town	A	Southern Premier	2-2	Hughes, Davies
	9th	Trowbridge Town	H	South LC1 2 Leg	5-1	Davies 2, Pounder, Muir, Brookes
	12th	Wellington Town	A	Southern Premier	1-0	Hirst
	16th	Bedford Town	H	" "	1-1	Albury
	23rd	Guildford City	H	" "	3-0	Hirst 3
	26th	Dartford	A	" "	0-0	
	30th	Romford	A	" "	1-1	Albury pen
Oct	3rd	Bridgwater Town	A	Som Prem Cup 2	2-2	Taylor, og
	10th	Hastings United	H	Southern Premier	2-2	Brookes, Hirst
	17th	Salisbury	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	1-2	Albury pen
	24th	King's Lynn	H	Southern Premier	2-2	og, Albury
	31st	Bath City	A	" "	0-0	
Nov	7th	Margate	H	" "	4-1	Hirst, Withey, Taylor, Pounder
	14th	Folkestone Town	A	" "	2-2	Hirst, Muir
	21st	Bridgwater Town	H	Som Prof Cup 3	2-1	Davies G, Albury pen
	28th	Cambridge United	A	Southern Premier	1-3	Hirst
Dec	2nd	Worcester City	H	South LC 3rd Rd	8-2	Hirst 4, Taylor 2, Albury, Foley
	5th	Cheltenham Town	H	Southern Premier	1-1	Hirst
	9th	Wisbech Town	H	" "	3-1	Muir, Foley 2
	12th	Chelmsford City	A	" "	0-2	
	19th	Cambridge City	H	" "	2-0	Withey 2
	26th	Weymouth	H	" "	0-1	
Jan	2nd	Guildford City	A	" "	0-0	
	9th	Tonbridge AFC	H	" "	1-0	Hall
	16th	Wellington Town	H	" "	1-1	Albury pen
	27th	Bristol City	H	Som Premier Cup Semi-final	1-0	Taylor
	30th	Tonbridge AFC	A	Southern Premier	1-2	Hall
Feb	6th	Dartford	H	" "	5-1	Hirst 3, Taylor, Ashe
	10th	Hillingdon Borough	A	South LC 4th Rd	0-0	

**Season 1964-1965 – continued**

	13th	Wisbech Town	A	Southern Premier	1-0	Pounder
	17th	Hillingdon Borough	H	South LC 4 Rep	1-2	Muir
	20th	Hastings United	A	Southern Premier	0-1	
	27th	Romford	H	" "	3-2	Taylor, Ashe, Foley
Mar	6th	King's Lynn	A	" "	2-1	Taylor, Hall
	13th	Bath City	H	" "	4-3	Hirst, Albury, Taylor, Muir
	16th	Weymouth	A	" "	0-3	
	20th	Margate	A	" "	1-3	Albury pen
	22nd	International X1	H	Stand Opening	3-0	Hirst, Taylor, Ashe
	27th	Folkestone Town	H	Southern Premier	3-2	Albury pen, Foley, Hirst
	31st	Bexley United	A	" "	0-0	
April	3rd	Worcester City	A	" "	0-3	
	5th	Nuneaton Borough	A	" "	0-2	
	7th	Worcester City	H	" "	5-2	Taylor 3, Foley, Albury
	12th	Cambridge United	H	" "	5-2	Albury, Hirst 3, Ashe
	14th	Minehead	A	Somerset Premier Cup Final 1st Leg	1-3	Muir
	17th	Cheltenham Town	A	Southern Premier	2-2	Taylor 2
	19th	Rugby Town	H	" "	6-0	Foley 2, Albury 2 pens, Hirst, Ashe
	20th	Rugby Town	A	" "	0-2	
	24th	Nuneaton Borough	H	" "	1-0	Albury
	26th	Bexley United	H	" "	3-1	Hirst, og, Ashe
	28th	Plymouth Argyle	H	Friendly	3-2	Paton, Pounder pen, Ashe
	30th	Minehead	H	Somerset Premier Cup Final 2nd Leg	3-0	Albury, Taylor, og

player. Five days before Yeovil had drawn with Bedford Town, who included a young 17 year old keeper by the name of Derek Bellotti. Some 34 years later, the same Bellotti was turning out in the Western League for Ilfracombe, in the same squad as his son Ross, also a keeper.

The Cup draw sent Town to Salisbury, and the omens were not good, for although they were still unbeaten, many matches had been drawn, and with City having put seven past Bath Reserves the week before, an upset was on the cards. It came, and with it two other problems. Striker Taylor was injured again and the small crowd brought receipts of



## Reserves – Season 1964-1965

Aug	22nd	Andover	A	Western League	0-3	
	27th	Minehead	H	" "	3-3	Read 2, Hamm
	29th	Chippenham Town	H	" "	2-0	Withey 2
Sept	2nd	Portland United	A	" "	1-1	Watts
	5th	Glastonbury	H	" "	1-4	Webber
	9th	Weston-s-Mare	A	" "	1-2	Boulton
	12th	Bristol City Res	H	" "	1-2	Webber
	16th	Dorchester Town	A	" "	0-2	
	19th	Weymouth Res	A	" "	1-3	Burfield
	26th	Torquay Utd Res	H	" "	3-1	Davies 2, Webber
Oct	3rd	Bridgwater Town	A	" "	0-1	
	10th	Exeter City Res	A	" "	1-3	Withey
	17th	Frome Town	H	" "	2-1	Boulton, Withey
	24th	Bath City Res	A	" "	4-1	Mitchell, Boulton, Webber 2
	29th	Andover	H	" "	3-2	Boulton 2, og
	31st	Dorchester Town	H	" "	0-3	
Nov	7th	Bideford	A	" "	2-8	Webber, Hughes
	14th	Bridport	H	" "	3-2	Boulton 2, Webber
	28th	Portland United	H	" "	5-1	Hughes, Hamm, Foley, Webber, Taylor
Dec	5th	Taunton	A	" "	4-1	Withey 3, Hamm
	12th	Bath City Res	H	" "	3-2	Ashe, Withey, Boulton
	26th	Salisbury	A	" "	0-4	
Jan	2nd	Barnstaple Town	H	" "	2-0	Hughes, Hamm
	16th	Bristol City Res	A	" "	0-7	
	23rd	Weston-s-Mare	H	" "	1-1	Hughes
	30th	Welton Rovers	H	" "	2-3	Hughes 2 (1pen)
Feb	6th	Barnstaple Town	A	" "	1-5	Hamm
	13th	Taunton	H	" "	1-2	Hamm
	20th	Exeter City Res	H	" "	2-0	Hughes, Foley
	27th	Bridport	A	" "	3-2	Withey 3
Mar	11th	Salisbury	H	" "	1-1	Hughes
	13th	Minehead	A	" "	0-4	
	20th	Bridgwater Town	H	" "	2-1	Watts, Brookes
	25th	Bideford	H	" "	1-2	Foley
	27th	Welton Rovers	A	" "	0-7	
April	3rd	Chippenham Town	A	" "	1-4	Hughes
	7th	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	0-2	
	10th	Frome Town	A	" "	3-1	Hughes 3
	16th	Poole Town Res	H	" "	1-0	Hughes
	17th	Poole Town Res	A	" "	1-3	Hughes
	22nd	Weymouth Res	H	" "	1-1	Boulton
	28th	Glastonbury	A	" "	2-3	Hamm, Boulton

just £189 to Yeovil, who were suddenly plunged into a financial crisis as well as a playing crisis. Although there were three more draws and a win to follow, the squad had missed over 50 games between them through injury and with goals in pitifully short supply the unbeaten record finally went at Cambridge United. The club were fifth, but only four points behind Weymouth and they took out their frustrations on Worcester City, with Hirst hitting another four in an 8-2 thrashing, but December and January proved to be a nightmare. Some 5,000 saw the Boxing Day derby against Weymouth, the champions elect, and the lack of Taylor and goals had caught up with Yeovil. Despite the injuries he was still in great demand and Bedford Town offered £2,000 for his services, turning to another Yeovil hero, former player Danny Paton, signing him from Oxford United. Peter Hall returned to the side for the home game with Tonbridge, but it was bitter sweet. Terry Foley suffered a punch which broke his jaw and the trouble escalated with supporters and players fighting on the pitch after the game.

Taylor came back with three goals in three games at the end of February, but by then they were out of the running of the

league and Cup and were facing an end of season battle to keep the crowds interested. Off the pitch manager Glyn Davies headed a plan to inaugurate the Western Counties Floodlight League, with several League sides interested. It was suggested that seasoned pros often lose interest in Western League games after ten minutes or so in front of sparse crowds and an eight team league under lights would give players incentives, as well as bring in extra revenue. It was quickly given the all clear in February in time for Yeovil to formally resign from the Western League along with Bath City and Poole Town, although it would only be for one season, a situation which would cause no end of animosity at board room level.

The papers around that time occasionally reported on former Yeovil players' whereabouts, and Jimmy Hindle was tracked down to the Bournemouth area, having retired from football but re-invented himself as "Big Jim Hindle", wrestling in and around the town. They also told of the plight of Worcester's players, who having travelled for the game at Huish, were stranded at Shepton Mallet on the way home after it had been called off. Snowstorms meant they were forced to sleep on chairs in a cafe, completing a less than perfect day. In March the club had two reasons to celebrate, with the new stand being officially opened by Chelsea and FA Chairman Joe Mears, who said "The new stand is second to none in this part of the world and many a League club would be proud to own it..." 2,700 braved the drizzle to watch an International X1, led by Jimmy Hill, which included Danny Blanchflower, Malcolm Allison and Bill McGarry amongst others.

On April 28th, Yeovil played what was believed to be their last ever Western League game, at Glastonbury, some 46 years after the first. It was the only logical choice of action as the public had long since voted with their feet and the reserves were deemed as more of a liability than a source of income, as they once were.

The season ended with a trophy happily, as a 3-1 deficit against Minehead was turned around with a 3-0 win, in the final of the Professional Cup, but it was small fry after twelve months earlier. The facts and figures were alarming, for attendances had dropped by a third to the lowest aggregate since the War, almost entirely due to the Salisbury game and with fund raising also becoming harder, there were problems ahead.

Few people could have predicted just how much the club would suffer in the not too distant future.

In May the papers began linking manager Davies with the vacant Swansea job, a fact that was strenuously denied, but what was true was the departure of Peter Hall to Bedford Town, along with Hughes and Brookes who were both released.

**First Team Appearances 1964-1965**

Albury 55, Muir 53, Harris 50, Herrity, Pounder 47, Hirst 46, Jones 45, Foley 40, Taylor 38, Lambden 34, Brookes 30, Ashe 29, Hall 22, Davies G 15, Chilvers 11, Hughes, Withey 8, Davies A 3, Young, Harding, Paton 1.

**First Team Goalscorers 1964-1965**

Hirst 24, Taylor 19, Albury 18, Foley, Hall 8, Muir 6, Ashe 5, Pounder, Brookes, G Davies, og 4, Withey 3, Hughes 1

**Reserve Appearances 1964-65**

Watts 39, Young 35, Highes 33, Chilvers, Boulton 32, Burfield 31, Hamm 28, Webber 26, Withey 25, Higley 21, Brookes 19, Wilkins 18, Read 16, Hirst, Mitchell, Ashe 9, A Davies 8, Lambden, Topping 7, Hall, Hanson, Harris 5, Lewer 4, Pounder, Fowler, Jones, Mattock, Foley 3, Hurley, Gooding, Lovett 2, Nutley, Taylor, G Davies, Parsons, Clarke 1.

**Reserve Goalscorers 1964-65**

Hughes 13, Withy 10, Webber, Boulton 8, Hamm 7, Foley 3, Read, Watts, A Davies, og 2, Hall, Taylor, Brookes, Ashe, Mitchell 1

**Southern League Premier 1964-1965**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Weymouth	42	24	8	10	99	50	56
Guildford City	42	21	12	9	73	49	54
Worcester City	42	22	6	14	100	62	50
Yeovil Town	42	18	14	10	76	55	50
Chelmsford City	42	21	8	13	86	77	50
Margate	42	20	9	13	88	79	49
Dartford	42	17	11	14	74	64	45
Nuneaton Borough	42	19	7	16	57	55	45
Cambridge United	42	16	11	15	78	66	43
Bedford Town	42	17	9	16	66	70	43
Cambridge City	42	16	9	17	72	69	41
Cheltenham Town	42	15	11	16	72	78	41
Folkestone Town	42	17	7	18	72	79	41
Romford	42	17	7	18	61	70	41
King's Lynn	42	13	13	16	56	79	39
Tonbridge	42	10	16	16	66	75	36
Wellington Town	42	13	10	19	63	78	36
Rugby Town	42	15	6	21	71	98	36
Wisbech Town	42	14	6	22	75	91	34
Bexley United	42	14	5	23	67	74	33
Hastings United	42	9	14	19	58	86	32
Bath City	42	13	3	26	60	86	29

**Western League 1964-1965**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Welton Rovers	42	35	3	4	148	36	73
Bideford	42	32	6	4	120	29	70
Minehead	42	27	7	8	88	42	61
Dorchester Town	42	26	4	12	89	53	56
Weston-s-Mare	42	22	9	11	89	58	53
Weymouth Res	42	24	4	14	96	46	52
Bridgwater Tn Res	42	20	9	13	74	59	49
Torquay Utd Res	42	21	5	16	74	59	47
Bristol City Res	42	21	4	17	96	82	46
Salisbury City	42	17	9	16	80	67	43
Frome Town	42	17	8	17	66	71	42
Exeter City Res	42	18	5	19	92	84	41
Chippenham Town	42	16	8	18	75	82	40
Glastonbury	42	15	6	21	69	109	36
Yeovil Town Res	42	15	5	22	65	99	35
Andover	42	13	8	21	74	66	34
Bath City Res	42	12	6	24	54	98	30
Bridport	42	11	7	24	60	99	29
Taunton	42	10	8	24	54	104	28
Barnstaple Town	42	11	5	26	51	89	27
Portland United	42	6	8	28	40	122	20
Poole Town Res	42	5	2	35	49	149	12

**Davies goes to Swansea**

As had been predicted through the summer, but denied in equal measure, Swansea Town took Glyn Davies on June 30th 1965 for their new manager, after less than eighteen months at Huish. The two clubs had agreed a fee in the region of £1,250 and he was gone to the Vetch. Davies had taken over a side destined for the championship and, despite hostility generated by his tactics, had secured the title and for



Glyn Davies left to take over at Swansea Town in the summer.

some time had looked as though it could be defended. Injuries to key players and a shortage of a top line centre-forward had put paid to that, but his tenure could hardly be described as a failure, coming as it did amidst much heart-searching with regard to the financial future of the club.

Davies' successor was Joe McDonald, a Scot who had been at Kent League side Ramsgate as a player-manager. Then 36, he had enjoyed a career which began at Falkirk and included two International caps, before Sunderland paid £7,500 for his services. Four seasons and 137 League games later he moved to Nottingham Forest, where he made another 109 appearances and won a Cup winners medal in 1958. He would hopefully bring continued stability to the club, from his full back position, but it would be without Stan Abbott, the club trainer, who retired during the summer after some 46 years with Yeovil Town. The pre-season arrangements had slowly over the years drawn away from public trial games or light-hearted matches against the nearest neighbours and had taken on slightly more meaningful aspects, with McDonald arranging matches for August against Newport County, Swansea Town and Exeter City.

His squad was virtually unchanged from those retained but it began poorly, with defeats at Chelmsford and Corby Town, the only new boy, Chris Harding from Portsmouth, scoring four in the first four games. McDonald tried to install in the players a policy of shoot on sight, and it seemed to work as results picked up with a vengeance through September. Tony Pounder's 250th appearance at Wellington meant that he was the seventh post-War player to reach that goal, and later, in the replayed Cup tie with Portland, Len Harris went to the top of the list above Johnny McKay.

The Cup match came at the right time for Town, who had gained a standing ovation for their efforts at Romford and had begun to attract crowds to the Floodlit League. Portland United's Grove Corner ground had seen nothing like it, as over 3000 crammed in to watch the local derby which turned into a pitched battle. One man was sent off and goalkeeper Dave Jones was carried off, Dave Taylor taking his jersey, as the two clubs scrapped it out, both on and off the pitch. Pounder's opener was equalised in the second minute of injury time to send the islanders wild. When the dust had settled the replay was an anti-climax but it had been watched by over 6,000, a welcome bonus bearing in mind the draw had sent them to Brentford, who were struggling to bring in the crowds.

Although things were going well in the league, not everyone was satisfied, and George Muir, having been forced to play his football in the Dorset Combination, described it as "disgusting", demanding a transfer into the bargain.

Dave Taylor returned to his scoring best in December, knocking in seven goals, but Weymouth continued to hold the strings as they took three points at Christmas, the match at Huish being Bill Albury's 300th for the club. The Floodlight League which had been heralded as a great idea by all, had fast become a millstone, with the League clubs going against the rules and fielding weak teams, which incensed the paying public who were still charged first team



## Season 1965-1966

Aug	21st	Chelmsford City	A	Southern Premier	1-2	Albury
	24th	Corby Town	A	" "	1-4	Harding
	28th	King's Lynn	H	" "	3-1	Harding, Randall, Hirst
Sept	1st	Poole Town	H	South LC 1 1st L	4-0	Harding 2, Muir 2
	4th	Hereford United	A	Southern Premier	0-1	
	8th	Poole Town	A	South LC 1 2nd L	2-0	Harding, Taylor
	9th	Glastonbury	H	Som Prem Cup 1	4-2	Albury, Muir, Ashe, og
	11th	Worcester City	H	Southern Premier	5-1	Ashe 2, Foley 2 Randall
	15th	Corby Town	H	" "	1-1	Lambden
	18th	Wellington Town	A	" "	3-3	Foley, Taylor, Ashe
	25th	Nuneaton Borough	H	" "	1-0	Albury
Oct	2nd	Romford	A	" "	5-1	Randall 2, Harris, Ashe, Taylor
	6th	Weymouth	H	West Co Fl Lge	3-0	Albury, Taylor, Foley
	9th	Poole Town	H	Southern Premier	2-0	Ashe, Taylor
	16th	Portland United	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	1-1	Pounder
	20th	Portland United	H	Replay	3-0	Hirst, Albury, Foley
	23rd	Folkestone Town	H	Southern Premier	1-2	Pounder
	27th	Bath City	A	Som Prem Cup 2	1-3	Muir
	30th	Cambridge United	A	Southern Premier	1-1	Taylor
Nov	6th	Hereford United	H	" "	0-0	
	13th	Brentford	A	FA Cup 1st Rd	1-2	Harding
	15th	Swansea Town	H	Friendly	2-3	
	17th	Poole Town	A	West Co Fl Lge	1-2	Albury
	20th	Bedford Town	H	Southern Premier	3-2	Albury 2, Harris
	24th	Portsmouth	H	Friendly	3-5	
	27th	Wimbledon	A	Southern Premier	0-0	
Dec	1st	Wellington Town	H	South LC 3rd Rd	3-1	Pounder 2, Taylor
	4th	Margate	H	Southern Premier	2-1	Pounder, og
	11th	Guildford City	A	" "	4-4	Taylor 2, Hirst, Harding
	15th	Exeter City Res	H	West Co Fl Lge	6-2	Taylor 3, Harding, Foley
Read,	22nd	Bath City	A	Southern Premier	2-1	Taylor, Foley
	27th	Weymouth	A	" "	0-0	
	29th	Weymouth	H	" "	1-2	Foley
Jan	1st	Poole Town	A	" "	4-2	Harding 2, Muir, Pounder
	5th	Torquay Utd Res	H	West Co Fl Lge	3-1	Hirst 2, Harding
	8th	Cambridge United	H	Southern Premier	3-2	Muir 2, Albury
	12th	Torquay Utd Res	A	West Co Fl Lge	4-1	Albury, Foley, Hirst, Harding
	15th	Folkestone Town	A	Southern Premier	1-1	Muir
	22nd	Cheltenham Town	H	" "	8-0	Hirst 3, Foley 2, Taylor, Harding, Ashe
	26th	Cheltenham Town	A	" "	5-4	Hirst 4, Harding
	29th	Chelmsford City	H	" "	1-2	Ashe
Feb	2nd	Plymouth Argyle	A	West Co Fl Lge	1-1	Hirst
	5th	King's Lynn	A	Southern Premier	1-2	Pounder
	12th	Tonbridge AFC	H	" "r	6-1	Muir 2, Foley, Ashe, Read, Hirst
	16th	Plymouth Argyle	H	West Co Fl Lge	5-1	Muir 2, Harding, Hirst, Albury
	19th	Wellington Town	H	Southern Premier	3-1	Muir 2, Foley
	23rd	Worcester City	H	South LC 4th Rd	2-1	Muir, Harding
	26th	Worcester City	A	Southern Premier	2-3	Muir, og
Mar	2nd	Poole Town	H	West Co Fl Lge	4-2	Muir, Ashe, Harding, Hirst
	5th	Tonbridge AFC	A	Southern Premier	1-3	Foley
	9th	Hastings United	A	Southern League Cup Semi-final	2-2	Ashe, Taylor
	12th	Cambridge City	H	Southern Premier	2-2	Taylor, Albury
	16th	Hastings United	H	Southern League Cup Semi-final Rep	3-1	Muir 2, Taylor
	19th	Nuneaton Borough	A	Southern Premier	1-2	Albury

## Season 1965-1966 continued

	23rd	Cheltenham Town	A	West Co Fl Lge	4-0	Ashe 2, Harding, Hirst
	26th	Romford	H	Southern Premier	3-1	Foley 2, Albury
	28th	Gillingham	H	Friendly	1-1	
	30th	Cheltenham Town	H	West Co Fl Lge	5-1	Foley 2, Harding, Hirst, Muir
April	2nd	Guildford City	H	Southern League Cup Final 1st Leg	2-1	Muir, Harris
	5th	Cambridge City	A	Southern Premier	1-2	Ashe
	8th	Rugby Town	H	" "	5-2	Taylor, Harris, Ashe, Burfield, Harding
	9th	Guildford City	A	Southern League Cup Final 2nd Leg	0-0	
	11th	Rugby Town	A	Southern Premier	1-3	Taylor
	16th	Bedford Town	A	" "	1-3	Harding
	23rd	Wimbledon	H	" "	2-0	Harding, Muir
	25th	Weymouth	A	West Co Fl Lge	2-0	Harding
	27th	Guildford City	H	Southern Premier	1-1	Harding
	30th	Margate	A	" "	2-5	Hirst, Albury
May	4th	Dartford	A	" "	2-1	Harding, Ashe
	6th	Dartford	H	" "	1-1	Hirst
	7th	Exeter City	A	West Co Fl Lge	1-3	Ashe
	11th	Bath City	H	Southern Premier	5-0	Taylor 2, Muir, Foley, Hirst

prices for what were glorified reserve games. Gates had again gone down alarmingly, and this was put down to two perceived mistakes by the board, in firstly coming out of the Western League and then increasing admission to 3/-. It seemed that they could not win, as withdrawal was the logical move to make, apart from the more radical scrapping of the reserves altogether. Plymouth announced that their remaining games would be played by their apprentices, which seemed to sound the death knell.

At the club Bryan Moore had begun to explore the possibility of gimmicks to bring the crowds back, with drum majorettes and RAF police dog displays high on his list. Certainly anything would help, with the various competitions only bringing in a paltry £30 or so a week, a poor reward for such a valiant effort.

McDonald's side had carried on winning against all odds and into February, with the forward line firing on all cylinders, Malcolm Hirst was scoring at will as an able deputy for Taylor and George Muir, having got back into the first team, netted on six consecutive games as Yeovil attacked a highly unlikely treble. The Chelmsford City game had arrived with Yeovil and Weymouth joint top, but still under 3,000 came, which more or less confirmed to the club that no amount of cajoling or wailing would bring back the missing thousands. They did persist, and published an item spelling out just how precarious the position was. Fixed assets which included twelve houses and flats came to £83,000, nearly £48,000 of which was the grandstand, which still had £16,000 left to pay. It was costing the club £557 a week to run, which included £337 wages, £70 travelling and £150 administration costs, such as rates, water, electricity, bank charges, referee and linesman fees and gatemen. Taking an average gate receipt alone at around £250, even if the gates were doubled they still would not pay for the football. It brought home just how important the Social Club and the lotteries were. At the end the question was again asked about the reserves, with the possibility of either scrapping them, or bizarrely returning again to the Western League, who were losing clubs themselves.

The debate was ended, at least outside of board level, on March 18th when Yeovil Town announced that they were back in the Western League. It was all too much for chairman Stanley Pinder, who was far from alone in suggesting the

## Reserves – Season 1965-1966

Aug	21st	Parley Sports	H	Dorset Comb	6-0	Boulton 2, Wilkins, Lewer, Watts, Hamm
	28th	Sturminster Mar	A	" "	1-0	Newall
Sept	4th	Wareham	H	" "	4-1	Newall, Webber, Boulton, og
	11th	Sherborne Town	A	" "	1-0	Webber
	18th	Dorchester T Res	H	" "	9-1	Hirst 4, Webber 2, Hamm 2, Boulton
	25th	Portland Utd Res	A	" "	7-0	Boulton 3, Webber 2, Hirst, Wilkins
Oct	2nd	Herston	H	" "	8-1	Webber 3, Read, Lovett, Newall, Boulton, Wilkins
	9th	Hamworthy Utd	A	" "	5-0	Newall 3, Hirst, Webber
	16th	Hamworthy Utd	H	" "	9-1	Hirst, Webber, Hamm, Harding, Boulton 2
	23rd	Trinidad OB	A	" "	4-1	Boulton, Harding, Webber, og
Nov	6th	Bridport Res	A	" "	0-3	
	20th	Vickers	A	" "	3-2	Lewer 2, Webber
	27th	Vickers	H	" "	6-1	Mitchell 2, Hamm 2, Webber, Watts
Dec	4th	Longfleet St Mary	A	" "	4-1	Foley, Muir, Mitchell, Webber
	11th	Parley Sports	A	" "	1-4	Foley
	18th	Wareham	A	" "	6-1	Randall, Mitchell 2, Webber, Lewer, Higley
Jan	8th	Weymouth Colts	A	" "	5-1	Watts 2, Mitchell 2, og
	29th	Herston	A	" "	6-0	Boulton 2, Hamm 2, Lewer, og
Feb	5th	Longfleet St Mary	H	" "	1-1	Webber pen
	19th	Dorchester T Res	A	" "	3-2	Boulton, Mitchell, Watts
Mar	5th	Bridport Res	H	" "	1-1	Hamm
	9th	RAC Bovington	H	Dors Comb LC 1	3-0	Hirst, Boulton, Hamm
	14th	Weymouth Colts	H	Dorset Comb	0-0	
	19th	RAC Bovington	H	" "	2-3	Webber 2
	26th	RAC Bovington	A	" "	2-0	Watts, og
April	9th	Swanage Town	A	" "	3-4	Boulton, Lovett, Burfield
	11th	Trinidad OB	H	" "	4-0	Mitchell 2, Lovett, Gibbs
	16th	Portland Utd Res	H	" "	0-1	
	18th	Sherborne Town	H	" "	3-3	Boulton, Lewer, Lovett
	23rd	Sturminster Marsh	H	" "	2-1	Lovett, Mitchell
	25th	Bridport Res	H	Dors Comb LC 2	7-2	Hamm 2, Boulton pen, Hirst 4
	30th	Swanage Town	H	Dorset Comb	8-0	Webber 4, Newell 2, Mitchell, Lovett
May	7th	Parley Sports	H	Dorset Combination League Cup Semi-final	2-2	Boulton pen, Webber
	12th	Parley Sports	A	Replay	1-1	Boulton
	15th	Parley Sports		2nd Replay (at Dorchester T)	6-0	Foley, Burfield, Albury pen, Harding 2, Boulton
	20th	Vickers		Dorset Combination League Cup Final	4-1	Lewer 2, Watts, Boulton

reserves be disbanded. At that time the Dorset Combination was not strong enough for professional players and they were often embarrassed by crowds of under 200 rattling around Huish.

Edmund Templeman took over as chairman, but his tenure got off to a bad start as two attempts by the Supporters' Club to present the club with a cheque were unsuccessful. They had attempted to stage the handover to show their members what had been achieved, but it had not happened, provoking Bryan Moore into stating that..." the members are very annoyed at what looks like the club not appreciating our efforts."

It was the first in what was to be a long and protracted battle between the clubs which was exacerbated when the retained list came out. Whilst all that was going on, a series of poor league results had consigned Yeovil to also rans, but they had managed to overcome Hastings United in a thrilling League Cup semi-final. It brought a two-leg final with Guildford City, and a rugged 2-1 win meant that the Glovers had a fair chance to bring silverware to the ground, which they did by drawing 0-0 in Surrey. Sadly the support did not materialise in any shape and the final league game against Dartford was watched by 1,187 people, easily the lowest since the War. The final two first team games in the Floodlit league finished off what on the field was a reasonable term, that league also being won. With the reserves taking the Combination League Cup, and the first team earlier picking up the Challenge Shield, there were four trophies on the table, but curiously there was a sense of loss rather than gain. Once again at the Football League AGM, Yeovil failed to gain any votes in their annual quest for membership, but by then they were well used to being ignored, as was the rest of non-League football.

## First Team appearances 1965-66

Albury 66, Harris, Ashe 63, Muir 59, Taylor, Herrity, Harding 54, Pounder 50, Read 49, Foley 48, Lambden 46, Chilvers, Hirst 39, Jones 30, Randall 18, McDonald 15, Burfield 9, Watts, Webber, Wilkins 1

## First Team Goalscorers 1965-66

Harding 25, Muir 23, Hirst 22, Taylor 21, Foley 19, Ashe 17, Albury 15, Pounder 7, Randall 5, Harris 4, og's 2, Read 2, Burfield, Lambden 1

## Reserve Goalscorers 1965-66

Webber 24, Boulton 22, Hirst 15, Mitchell 13, Hamm 12, Lewer, Newell 8, Watts 7, Lovett 6, og 5, Harding 4, Wilkins, Foley 3, Burfield 2, Gibbs, Read, Muir, Randall, Higley, Albury 1

## Southern League 1965-1966

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Weymouth	42	22	13	7	70	35	57
Chelmsford City	42	21	12	9	74	50	54
Hereford Utd	42	21	10	11	81	49	52
Bedford Town	42	23	6	13	80	57	52
Wimbledon	42	20	10	12	80	47	50
Cambridge City	42	19	11	12	67	52	49
Romford	42	21	7	14	87	72	49
Worcester City	42	20	8	14	69	54	48
Yeovil Town	42	17	11	14	91	70	45
Cambridge Utd	42	18	9	15	72	64	45
King's Lynn	42	18	7	17	75	72	43
Corby Town	42	16	9	17	66	73	41
Wellington Town	42	13	13	16	65	70	39
Nuneaton Borough	42	15	8	19	60	74	38
Folkestone Town	42	14	9	19	53	75	37
Guildford City	42	14	8	20	70	84	36
Poole Town	42	14	7	21	61	75	35
Cheltenham Town	42	13	9	20	69	99	35
Dartford	42	13	7	22	62	69	33
Rugby Town	42	11	10	21	67	95	32
Tonbridge	42	11	6	25	63	101	28
Margate	42	8	10	24	66	111	26

**Western Counties Floodlight  
League 1965-1966**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil Town	14	11	1	2	45	15	38
Exeter City	13	6	2	5	24	22	23
Plymouth Argyle	12	5	4	3	20	21	23
Weymouth	12	6	1	5	19	14	22
Poole Town	14	4	3	7	17	23	19
Torquay United	13	3	5	5	18	18	18
Bath City	13	2	3	8	9	21	11
Cheltenham Town	9	2	2	5	10	28	10

*Weymouth v Plymouth Arg not played,  
Cheltenham Town released from playing  
last five fixtures*

**Dorset Combination 1965-1966**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Parley Sports	30	27	2	1	111	23	56
Yeovil Town Res	30	21	4	5	114	33	46
Portland United Res	30	19	5	6	73	39	43
Sturminster Marsh	30	15	2	13	80	47	32
Sherborne Town	30	12	8	10	68	42	32
Trinidad OB	30	14	2	14	72	76	30
R A C Bovington	30	11	7	12	68	78	29
Swanage Town	30	12	4	14	65	89	28
Bridport Res	30	11	5	14	78	63	27
Hamworthy Utd	30	11	4	15	58	78	26
Dorchester T Res	30	11	3	16	60	98	25
Wareham	30	9	4	17	56	84	22
Herston	30	8	6	16	51	102	22
Weymouth Colts	30	8	5	17	57	83	21
Vickers	30	10	1	19	52	77	21
Longfleet St Mary	30	7	6	17	39	69	20

## Summer of '66

On July 21st 1966 Bryan Moore left the Supporters' Club secretary's position to become treasurer of the Football Club. He was to supervise the new lottery, collect the gate money and pay the players, amongst other duties, and his going left a space for new man Ken Little to take over. Chairman Templeman thanked all the fans through the paper for their increased interest in season tickets, on the back of England's World Cup success, emphasising that the club had gone into a very critical financial stage.

Joe McDonald had gone to work in updating his squad, and had recruited several young players, but the regular fans had not got over the shock of having seen Ernie Ashe released and allowed to go to Bath City. His 272 games meant a lot to the supporters who vented their anger on the board and the management through the papers. With Tony Pounder and Malcolm Hirst also gone, three popular players had been dispensed with in one go, which tested the patience of those who still came to Huish.

Possibly in a move to appease the masses, McDonald attempted to re-sign Dennis Coughlin, who had been in dispute with Bournemouth and Boscombe. The clubs agreed but Coughlin said no, which proved to be a good move as he had a further two years at Swansea and then Exeter playing fifty more League games.

Instead the club signed Graham Rees, a vastly experienced striker who made over 350 appearances for Exeter City in twelve seasons. He was a part-timer, combining football with

**Season 1966-1967**

Aug	20th	Poole Town	H	Southern Premier	1-1	Taylor
	24th	Weymouth	A	Champs match	1-2	Harris
	27th	Wimbledon	A	Southern Premier	0-2	
	31st	Poole Town	H	South LC 1 1 Leg	2-0	Rees, Albury
Sept	3rd	Hereford United	A	Southern Premier	1-1	Riding
	6th	Poole Town	A	South LC 1 2 Leg	3-0	Taylor, Riding, Harding
	9th	Worcester City	A	Southern Premier	1-2	Taylor
	14th	Taunton	H	Som Prem Cup 1	3-2	Taylor 2, Herrity
	17th	Wellington Town	H	Southern Premier	3-2	Taylor, Harding, Read
	21st	Weymouth	A	SW Co Flood Lge	0-1	
	24th	Romford	A	Southern Premier	1-3	Riding
Oct	1st	Worcester City	H	" "	2-3	Rees, Harding
	5th	Hillingdon Borough	H	" "	2-0	Taylor, Albury
	8th	Folkestone Town	A	" "	1-0	Taylor
	15th	Cheltenham Town	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	3-3	Taylor, Foley, Harding
	19th	Cheltenham Town	H	Replay	3-1	Muir, Rees, Foley
	22nd	Cambridge United	A	Southern Premier	2-1	Taylor, Foley
	24th	Weymouth	A	South LC 2nd Rd	2-1	Rees, Muir
	26th	Welton Rovers	H	Som Prem Cup 2	4-3	Taylor 3, Muir
	29th	Hereford United	H	Southern Premier	1-1	Riding
Nov	5th	Cheltenham Town	A	" "	3-1	Taylor 2, Riding
	9th	Bath City	H	SW Co Flood Lge	2-2	Riding, Read
	12th	King's Lynn	H	Southern Premier	4-0	Riding, Rees, Muir, Albury
	16th	Bath City	A	SW Co Flood Lge	1-4	Foley
	19th	Chelmsford City	A	Southern Premier	0-3	
	26th	Oxford United	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	1-3	Muir
Dec	3rd	Guildford City	A	Southern Premier	1-6	Taylor
	10th	Nuneaton Borough	H	" "	1-0	Rees
	17th	Poole Town	A	" "	1-1	Taylor
	19th	Bath City	H	South LC 3rd Rd	3-1	Rees, Riding, Albury
	23rd	Burton Albion	H	Southern Premier	3-0	Taylor, Riding, Harding
	28th	Burton Albion	A	" "	2-2	Taylor, Harding
	31st	Wimbledon	H	" "	3-0	Taylor 3
Jan	7th	Cambridge City	A	" "	1-5	Taylor
	11th	Weymouth	H	SW Co Flood Lge	2-0	Rees, Harris
	21st	Wellington Town	A	Southern Premier	1-4	Harris
	25th	Weymouth	H	" "	0-2	
Feb	4th	Romford	H	" "	4-1	Taylor 2, Harris, Foley
	8th	Chelmsford City	H	South LC 4th Rd	1-1	Muir
	11th	Barnet	A	Southern Premier	1-1	Taylor
	15th	Bedford Town	H	" "	4-1	Taylor 2, Harris, Harding
	18th	Weymouth	A	" "	0-1	
	22nd	Poole Town	A	SW Co Flood Lge	1-1	White
	25th	Folkestone Town	H	Southern Premier	1-1	Read
	27th	Chelmsford City	A	South LC 4 Rep	3-3 AET	Gulley 2, Taylor
Mar	1st	Bath City	H	Som Prem Cup 3	3-0	Gulley, Riding 2
	3rd	Hillingdon Borough	A	Southern Premier	0-4	
	6th	Chelmsford City	A	South LC 4 2 Rep	0-6	
	11th	Corby Town	A	Southern Premier	1-1	Taylor
	15th	Salisbury	H	SW Co Flood Lge	3-1	Gulley, Harding, Albury
	18th	Cambridge United	H	Southern Premier	4-1	Harding 2, Albury, Muir
	27th	Bath City	A	" "	3-3	Harding, Taylor, Foley
	29th	Bath City	H	" "	1-1	Foley
April	1st	Cheltenham Town	H	" "	1-1	Watts
	5th	Poole Town	H	SW Co Flood Lge	1-1	Riding
	8th	King's Lynn	A	Southern Premier	1-4	Taylor
	10th	Salisbury	A	SW Co Flood Lge	3-2	Taylor 2, Riding
	13th	Frome Town	A	Somerset Premier Cup Final 1st Leg	1-2	Foley
	15th	Chelmsford City	H	Southern Premier	3-2	Foley, Harris 2
	19th	Cambridge City	H	" "	2-2	Taylor, Rees
	22nd	Bedford Town	A	" "	1-1	Gulley
	26th	Barnet	H	" "	3-1	Harding, Albury, Vowles
	29th	Guildford City	H	Southern Premier	0-1	

## Season 1966-1967 continued

May	1st	Frome Town	H	Somerset Professional	
				Cup Final 2nd Leg	1-1 Muir
	6th	Nuneaton Borough	A	Southern Premier	0-4
	11th	Queen's Park Ran	H	Benefit match	2-2 Hall, Taylor
	13th	Corby Town	H	Southern Premier	1-1 Taylor

accountancy and was joined by Alan Riding, a 21 year old amateur also from Exeter City. Although prolific in the Western League he made just one League appearance. The third forward was George Gulley, a 19 year old who had over a century of goals in reserve team football at Newcastle United. Having been recommended by Len Shackleton he signed in July, a week before Phil Trevelyan, an 18 year old Taunton boy who had been released by Plymouth Argyle. Some 32 years later the 50 year old Trevelyan was still picking up medals in Taunton football, having much later enjoyed a long career with Taunton Town.

The new season commenced with the air of uncertainty hanging over the club. Figures out in August had shown that nearly £2,500 was lost last time out and that they had liabilities of £27,000 including a sizeable overdraft. The opening game against Poole Town showed that, despite the loss of Ashe, Pounder and Hirst, there were still plenty of experienced men left at Huish. Dave Jones, Alan Herrity, Len Harris, Roy Lambden, George Muir, Bill Albury, Terry Foley and Dave Taylor were all still in the side, indeed Graham Rees was the only newcomer. The rest played for the returning Western League side, but sadly that quickly turned into the nightmare which Stanley Pinder had predicted as five of the first six games were lost.

After just three matches the local press headlines were screaming for McDonald to find a decent forward in time for the FA Cup, which was two months away. Dave Taylor came out of his poor spell to clinch wins in the League Cup, Professional Cup and league, but the Poole tie had been watched by just 1,644, the lowest ever for a cup tie, although perversely 700 watched the reserves a week later.

There had been an argument brewing between the supporters and the Club for some time, when in September Ken Little held forth at the Shareholders' AGM, which threatened to get out of hand. Little criticised the club on four counts, stating there was no liaison, facilities at the Social Club were very poor, there was no effort going into the lottery and there was too much secrecy over the switch to the parent club of Bryan Moore. He felt that if everyone pulled their weight then they could sell 25,000 lottery tickets. He also said that the Social Club was badly equipped... "there is not even a dartboard" ...and warned that there would be no football next season unless something is done.

Supporters' Club chairman Edgar Blake disassociated the club with Ken Little's remarks, but the flaws had been exposed and were sure to get worse.

On the pitch it was business as usual, with George Muir reaching 200 matches at Worcester City, but results were poor and McDonald was under pressure, his 4-2-4 formation having been altered to 3-3-4 with little effect. Sadly the days of five forwards had disappeared, but Hereford United signed one of the best when they persuaded John Charles to join them. His presence added thousands to the attendances and the spin offs were a bonus, but Yeovil resisted calls by the public to follow suit, by sticking to their no-stars policy.

October came with Town in thirteenth place in the Southern League attendance charts and seventh bottom in the league itself. With the reserves last but one and both sides having managed four wins between them, the letters to the press began to flow again. Luckily Town were still exempt from the early

## Reserves – Season 1966-1967

Aug	20th	Glastonbury	A	Western League	1-2 Lovatt
	27th	Exeter City Res	H	" "	3-4 Boulton, Trevelyan, Gulley
Sept	3rd	Plymouth Arg Colts	A	" "	1-3 Hamm
	10th	Bristol City Colts	H	" "	2-0 Boulton, Trevelyan
	17th	Weymouth Res	A	" "	1-2 Webber
	24th	Bridgwater Town	H	" "	1-2 Boulton
Oct	1st	St Luke's College	A	" "	4-1 Boulton 2, A Davies, og
	8th	Dorchester Town	H	" "	2-2 Boulton, Riding
	12th	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	1-2 Trevelyan
	15th	Salisbury	A	" "	3-2 Riding 2, Trevelyan
	22nd	Andover	H	" "	2-3 Gulley, Riding
	29th	Barnstaple Town	A	" "	2-2 Gulley 2
Nov	5th	Minehead	H	" "	2-2 Trevelyan, og
	12th	Dorchester Town	A	" "	1-5 og
	19th	Torquay Utd Res	H	" "	2-3 Riding, Broome
	26th	Andover	A	" "	0-6
Dec	3rd	Barnstaple Town	H	" "	1-2 Watts
	10th	Bristol City Colts	A	" "	1-5 White
	22nd	Exeter City Res	A	" "	0-2
	26th	Weymouth Res	H	" "	1-0 Boulton
	31st	Taunton	A	" "	2-5 Boulton, Gulley
Jan	7th	Glastonbury	H	" "	2-2 Watts, Gulley
	14th	Weston-s-Mare	A	" "	1-3 Boulton
	21st	Frome Town	H	" "	2-1 Boulton, Watts
	28th	Minehead	A	" "	0-5
Feb	4th	Bideford	A	" "	0-1
	11th	Taunton	H	" "	3-2 Gulley 2, Davies
	18th	Bideford	H	" "	1-6 Watts
	25th	Bridport	A	" "	0-1
Mar	4th	Weston-s-Mare	H	" "	0-0
	11th	Salisbury	H	" "	0-5
	16th	Welton Rovers	H	" "	1-5 Riding
	18th	Bridgwater Town	A	" "	2-5 Swindell, Bailey
	25th	Plymouth Arg Colts	H	" "	2-1 Bailey, og
	27th	Bridport	H	" "	0-1
April	1st	Welton Rovers	A	" "	0-6
	4th	Frome Town	A	" "	0-1
	8th	Portland United	H	" "	0-3
	12th	Portland United	A	" "	3-7 John, Lambden, Trevelyan
	24th	St Luke's College	H	" "	2-1 John, Hamm

rounds of the FA Cup and they drew Cheltenham Town away in the last qualifying round. Although initially it looked as though only 100 or so would travel, some 600 eventually supported the club through a superb match of fluctuating fortunes. Chris Harding put Yeovil 3-2 up with four minutes left but the Gloucestershire side, including a certain Ron Radford who would find fame with Hereford years later, equalised to take the tie back to Huish. The replay was won 3-1 with a fine display by Gordon Chilvers.

The squad enjoyed a fine run through to the middle of November, climbing to seventh at one stage, and Len Harris celebrated his 400th match at Kings Lynn, but four defeats in a row sadly coincided with the Cup game at home to Oxford United, where, although playing the better football, Yeovil fell to late goals. It was again sad that having weathered the various storms and attempted to patch up differences, the board increased the admission cost by 1/- for the match, compounding it by doubling the price for OAP's, a decision which infuriated many shareholders, some of whom called for supporters to boycott the rest of the season. It seemed as though many had taken up the suggestion, as the next home match was watched by 1,500, the lowest of the season, but the poor run seemed to end through December as Dave Taylor

again hit a winning streak, but the crowds continued to fall. Pushing all problems to one side Yeovil rallied when, once again, the Football League intimated that they were to propose the expansion of the league with north and south Division Fours. This would create around eight places, and although Yeovil were far from being certainties to go up, the prospect of a new Northern Premier League and automatic promotion was an exciting one. There was also talk of a new non-League knock-out cup with a Wembley final, which had years earlier been vetoed as clubs were worried about being thrown out of the FA Cup. With the Amateur Cup dying along with shamateurism, the time was right.

The Southern League was as open as it had been for years and at the turn of the year Yeovil were up to fourth, Dave Taylor's superb hat-trick having dispensed with leaders Wimbledon on Boxing Day. It was as good as it got, for defeats at Cambridge City and Wellington killed any hope. The reserves had fared less well and the game with Glastonbury was watched by 196, again provoking calls to scrap the second team. Treasurer Bryan Moore reckoned the saving to be upwards of £1,000, and just to emphasise the fact that the public would not pay for poor quality, only 200 turned up to watch the inaugural match played by an ex-Yeovil side which included the likes of Harry Robshaw, Keith Francis, Don Travis, Terry McConnon and Cyril Hayward. Weymouth were well on the way to retaining the Southern League title when they won 2-0 at Huish, a result which proved to be the turning point for the unfortunate McDonald. After a board meeting it was agreed that he would be given four months notice, to give him chance to fix up another club. Having been told by letter McDonald rounded on the board, angry that nobody had told him face to face or had given the reasons. Somewhat sinisterly he added that he was "not surprised".

The club attempted to keep going amidst the chaos of yet another poor season, but it was not easy with McDonald clashing with the chairman and the club clashing with the Supporters' club committee. Added to that the fact that Bath, Poole and Weymouth had all agreed to come out of the Western League, then Yeovil were under pressure to do the same.

Soon after, a sub-committee was set up to examine the future policy of the club, with regard to the perilous financial plight. Former chairman Stanley Pinder reported that the new manager should have his secretarial duties taken away and that they be given to Bryan Moore and Ivan Rendall. Also it was suggested that a full-time Social Club manager be appointed and that the Western League side be scrapped.

A month later, at a meeting held without the absent Pinder, the board voted to stay in the League, a decision that was described by Pinder as "stagginger".

In March George Gulley was given his chance in the first team and took it well but it did not last for him as the attack, along with the season in general, folded up slowly and with little dignity. Although playing some fine football at times, it was rarely sustained and after another row, manager McDonald was sacked again, this time with immediate effect. It was an ignominious end to his reign and was mirrored when George Muir was suspended and fined a week's wages for swearing at a director. Once again supporters were furious at the decision, one describing it as "yet another chapter in a sordid serial. The public image of Yeovil Town Football Club has never been worse..."

Mercifully the season ended in front of just 1,400 against Corby Town, where Dave Taylor notched his 250th goal for the club. By then the new manager had taken over, with promises to sort them out.

Ron Saunders was appointed on April 19th 1967, having left Charlton Athletic, where he had been top scorer in the

last two seasons. 33 years old Saunders had played years before with Doug Hunt at Tonbridge and had enjoyed spells at Portsmouth, Watford and Gillingham, having started as a pro at Everton in 1951. Ron ended his League career with a total of 202 goals in 390 games.

His was a baptism of fire, as the retained list contained just two names, Dave Taylor and George Muir. Six others were offered reduced terms, including Herrity, Harris and Lambden, on weekly terms, and Terry Foley was later offered a place having impressed the manager with his effort.

#### First Team Appearances 1966-67

Harris 65, Taylor 64, Muir, Harding 62, Herrity 61, Read 60(1), Albury 56, Rees 52, Foley 48(3), Lambden 44, Chilvers 39, Riding 30(1), Jones 27(1), Gulley 19, Watts, Burfield 8, White 7, Smith, Vowles 4, McDonald 2(4), A Davies 2, Burge, Hamm 1

#### First Team Goalscorers 1966-67

Taylor 36, Riding 13, Harding 12, Foley, Rees 9, Muir 8, Albury, Harris 7, Gulley 5, Read 3, Vowles, Watts, White, Herrity 1

#### Reserve Appearances 1966-67

Trevelyan 37, Higley 35, Watts 33, Burge 32, Burfield, Boulton 30, Gulley 28(1), Hamm 23, Davies 22, White 19, Riding, Chilvers 18, Swendell 12, Fowler 10, Webber, Lovatt 9, Topping 8, Goulding 7, D Jones, Mills 6, Broome 5(1), Mitchell 5, Herrity 4, Wilkins, Newall, Young 3, McDonald, Muir, Read, Buckley, Hamm, John, Harris, Harding, Bailey 2, Foley, Hoyland, Cade, W Jones, Hoare, Gibbs, Lambden, Spurr 1

#### Reserve goalscorers 1966-67

Boulton 10, Gulley 8, Riding, Trevelyan 6, Watts, og's 4, Hamm, John, A Davies, Bailey 2, Broome, White, Swindell, Lambden, Webber, Lovatt 1

#### Southern League 1966-1967

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Romford	42	22	8	12	80	60	52
Nuneaton Borough	42	21	9	12	82	54	51
Weymouth	42	18	14	10	64	40	50
Wimbledon	42	19	11	12	88	60	49
Barnet	42	18	13	11	86	66	49
Guildford City	42	19	10	13	65	51	48
Wellington Town	42	20	7	15	70	67	47
Cambridge United	42	16	13	13	75	67	45
Chelmsford City	42	15	15	12	66	59	45
Hereford United	42	16	12	14	79	61	44
King's Lynn	42	15	14	13	78	72	44
Cambridge City	42	15	13	14	66	70	43
Cheltenham Town	42	16	11	15	60	71	43
Yeovil Town	42	14	14	14	66	72	42
Burton Albion	42	17	5	20	63	71	39
Corby Town	42	15	9	18	60	75	39
Poole Town	42	14	11	17	52	65	39
Hillingdon Borough	42	11	13	18	49	70	35
Bath City	42	11	12	19	51	74	34
Worcester City	42	11	8	23	59	78	30
Bedford Town	42	8	13	21	54	72	29
Folkestone Town	42	6	15	21	44	81	27





## CHAPTER FIVE

# A new successful era begins slowly under Ron Saunders

Ron Saunders immediately began rebuilding, with a wage budget of £250 pledging that he was going to work hard to put the club back on an even keel on the pitch, even if events off it were far less evenly balanced. Paul Smith and Micky Vowles, two 19 year olds from Charlton Athletic, were offered contracts after an encouraging trial. Vowles, an outside left played in Chelsea's Combination side before moving across town to Charlton, whereas Smith, a left back, had gone straight to the Valley from school. Bill Albury, meanwhile, much to the disgust of many fans, had joined Bedford Town after a small matter of 392 appearances and 62 goals, and with George Gulley going to Glastonbury, Chris Harding to Poole Town and Roy Lambden to Hereford United, there was much toing and froing. It continued with Allan Riding going to Minehead and Dave Jones retiring after injury, which left a gap filled by Bob Veal, an 18 year old' keeper from Bristol Rovers.

The pre-season training at Houndstone was a bonus, as were the youth team trials run by Saunders, in fact he was so impressed that he immediately formed a youth team and entered it into the Yeovil Youth League.

It was announced at that time that long serving groundsman, Bert Grist, was to retire in October, after 50 years on and off with Yeovil. He was a player until 1934, working at Westlands before returning to Huish via Chard Town in 1949. His place would be taken temporarily by Terry Foley and Micky Vowles.

Before the first matches, of the 1967-68 season Edmund Templeman once again rallied the troops, telling the press that the whole atmosphere within the club had changed for the better and there was a re-awakening of interest. Saunders also had plenty to say... "I've flogged my self to death for this club during the summer.", he said modestly.

His work seemed to have been a success, as the first two home matches brought in nearly 6,500 altogether, a 50% increase on the previous year. With Dave Taylor scoring well, albeit in a far less effective forward line, Ron Saunders' steely discipline and stern defensive formation saw Yeovil head the table after six games. However Templeman's talk of harmony was soon exposed as big changes occurred at the shareholders AGM in September. For two years, since the row over the Western League, there had been conflict between Stanley Pinder and Edmund Templeman, but voting went against Pinder amongst others, and he was ousted along with Ernie Barber. Ted Loney and Len Pearce did not

contest the issue, and this led the way to Bryan Moore to receive director status along with three other local men including Norman Burfield.

Saunders much changed squad included a whole host of new men from all quarters. Ken Jones replaced Dave Jones in goal, having played 250 times for Cardiff City, Scunthorpe United, Charlton Athletic and Exeter City and he signed at the same time as Chris Weller, a 27 year old forward who played over 100 times for Bournemouth and Bristol Rovers. Also joining were Ken Thompson, a wing half with experience at Exeter City and Trevor Allen, a young forward from Southampton's reserves.

Saunders pronounced himself happy with the squad and with gate takings well up and the latest lottery doing well, much of the club appeared to be running smoothly, but it was not to last long. Already deeply unhappy at the board's insistence on staying in the Floodlight League, he again called for them to abandon it, but they again refused but did agree to him having more professionals. By October there was room for two more as Graham Rees short stay ended with him going to Bridgwater and at the other end of the scale, Terry Foley finally moved to Cambridge City, having turned down a host of offers around the Southern League. His final tally of 286 appearances and 114 goals placed him well up in the list of Yeovil's all time greats and his benefit was well received and well earned.

The youth team hit WAA 18-1 to record the biggest ever win at Huish but the reserves were having another hard time, drawing seven of the first eleven matches and failing to win one. As the FA Cup approached Weymouth had gone top with Yeovil third, but the Southern League results began to slump as the Floodlight games arrived in November. By then Welton Rovers had been beaten to give a tie with Margate in the first round of the FA Cup and the manager had added to the squad again with another teenager, Jesse Bone joining from Aldershot. Signed as an amateur, Bone was given paid work as a groundsman and was given a contract along with Stewart Bramley, a winger who began at Scunthorpe where he played in the League until being released and moving to Plymouth Argyle, for whom he scored a hat-trick at Huish in the reserves. The most famous name to move to Huish was Charlie Mitten, 23 year old son of the man of the same name who played against Yeovil for Manchester United in the FA Cup. Having had experience at Old Trafford, Newcastle and Leeds United, Mitten junior brought experience in great



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had settled over the club. Despite the lack of goals the side were only a couple of wins away from leaders Wimbledon in a very open league where four points covered a dozen clubs, but the style of play was not appreciated by many, least of all Dave Taylor, whose goals had all but dried up along with everyone else's. Often away games were played with one lone attacker and when Taylor was dropped in January he demanded a transfer, stating that "The current system doesn't suit my game". Taylor was a legend, and rightly so, but some believed that he had lost interest and needed a change, but with 263 goals and nearly 400 matches behind him, and still only 27, he would be hard to replace.

A week later he solved a problem for Ron Saunders by breaking a collar bone in a reserve game.

February came with more controversy, as with Saunders away ill, the first team crashed 8-2 at Cheltenham, observers accusing the team of not trying plus two Yeovil players traded punches in a midfield fight. There was obvious unrest and when Trevor Allen was swapped for Ray Elliott from Poole Town, despite scoring 12 times in 37 matches, people were asking, why?

On 22nd February Ernie Wilkinson, a 21 year old defender was signed 'on loan' from Exeter city. However, 18 hours later they recalled him and he became Yeovil's shortest ever serving player!

There were still some of the old guard in the side, including Allan Herrity who clocked up his 300th game against Bournemouth but one of the new boys found himself in trouble. Not for the last time, 'keeper Ken Jones, having been baited by someone in the crowd, swore at his tormentor as he walked off at half time, an act which did not impress Ron Saunders nor the press, who saw it as another example of the lack of discipline which had crept into the team on the pitch. It triggered more letters, complaining of the ugly side of Yeovil's play and the frustrating defensive play which Saunders was persisting with.

A well loved name from the past cropped up in March, when it was announced that Ike Clarke had left his post as manager of Canterbury City, having managed them for ten years after leaving Sittingbourne.

It was not the last involvement Ike was to have, and at the age of 83 Yeovil's best loved manager was still watching football in his adopted Kent home.

Back at Huish the vexed issue of the Western League raised its ugly head again as a section of the board wanted to pull out at the end of the season. Their debates went on but everything paled completely into insignificance with devastating effect on March 19th 1968. Reserve keeper Bob Veal was killed in a motor accident on his way home from a training session, aged 19. The soon to be married Bristolian was well thought of and was assured a great future as an ideal successor to Ken Jones, and the club was stunned beyond believe.

It entirely overshadowed the last two months of the season which saw George Muir make his 300th appearance to become the seventh player since the War to reach that goal.

As expected, with Edmund Templeman still involved at the helm of both, Yeovil's board voted to stay in the Western League once again, as well as the Floodlight League. It meant the first team playing possibly around 70 competitive games, but the board argued that, with the youth team set up, they had the nucleus to carry on. They were destined to finish bottom for the second year running and when the retained list was published in April, few expected any reserve players to survive it. With the lowest number of goals scored since the War, many predicted a clear out involving many of the established side. In fact there were few surprises, with Ted

Read, Micky Vowles, Jesse Bone, Dave Knapman and John White being shown the door.

The retained list included Len Harris who reached his own personal milestone of 500 appearances against Guildford City at the end of the season, at which he was presented with a silver salver. Dave Taylor had by then recovered and was again retained, his total standing at 389 games and 263 goals, and the other two elderly statesmen, Alan Herrity and George Muir with over 600 games between them, looked forward to another term at Huish.

One player to catch the eye having joined the club in January was Cliff Myers, a 21 year old winger from Brentford, who was another to have tasted League action at Charlton Athletic, the manager's former club. What had already been a traumatic season for a number of reasons reached its lowest ebb in the very last game towards the end of May, when Ron Saunders was forced to remove keeper Ken Jones from the pitch in a floodlight league game at Poole as he conceded five goals in eleven minutes, apparently making no attempt to stop them. Yeovil's 1-0 lead became a 7-1 defeat. After an emergency meeting Jones was fined two weeks pay, the maximum allowed, although he was not sacked. His excuse that he was very tired having played in every first team game was accepted by the board.

#### Southern League 1967-1968

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelmsford City	42	25	7	10	85	50	57
Wimbledon	42	24	7	11	85	47	55
Cambridge Utd	42	20	13	9	73	42	53
Cheltenham Town	42	23	7	12	97	67	53
Guildford City	42	18	13	11	56	43	49
Romford	42	20	8	14	72	60	48
Barnet	42	20	8	14	81	71	48
Margate	42	19	8	15	80	71	46
Wellington Town	42	16	13	13	70	66	45
Hillingdon Borough	42	18	9	15	53	54	45
King's Lynn	42	18	8	16	66	57	44
Yeovil Town	42	16	12	14	45	43	44
Weymouth	42	17	8	17	65	61	42
Hereford United	42	17	7	18	58	62	41
Nuneaton Borough	42	13	14	15	62	64	40
Dover	42	17	6	19	54	56	40
Poole Town	42	13	10	19	55	74	36
Stevenage Town	42	13	9	20	57	75	35
Burton Albion	42	14	6	22	51	73	34
Corby Town	42	7	13	22	40	77	27
Cambridge City	42	10	6	26	50	82	26
Hastings United	42	4	8	30	33	94	16

#### First team Appearances 1967-68

Smith 64, K Jones, Thompson 63, Harris 60(1), Herrity 57, Muir 54(1), Weller 42(3), Burfield 39, Bramley 38(4), Allen 37, Vowles 36(1), Myers 34, Taylor 31, Mitten 29(2), Slee 21, Elliott 20, Read 15(1), Bone 8(1), White 5(3), Veal 3, Wilkins 2, Blannin 1(1), Foley, Knapman, Burge, James 1, Saunders (2),

#### First team Goalscorers 1967-68

Weller 16, Taylor, Allen 12, Bramley 8, Vowles, Thompson 6, Myers, Mitten, Muir 4, Elliott 3, Harris, og's 2, White, Bone 1,

#### Reserve Appearances 1967-68

White 36, Wilkins 30, Veal 29, Read 27, Burge 26, N Gibbs 25(1), Bone 22, James 20, John 17(1), Adcock 17, Miles 16, Hughes 14, Vowles 13, Knapman 12, Garrett, B Jones, Mitten 11, Tucker 9, Watts 8(1), Blannin 8, Stoodley 7(1), Foley 7,

Clarke 6(1), Rees 6, Cook 5(1), Barron 5, Newell 5, Norman 4, C Gibbs, Dennett 3(1), Say, Bramley 3, Allen, Taylor, Weller, Myers, Elliott 2, Young, Smith, Edwards, Dowle, C Travis, Fowler, Tarr, Broome, K Jones, Saunders, Thompson 1, Steer, Newell (1)

#### Reserve Goalscorers 1967-68

Garrett 5, Read 4, Allen, N Gibbs 3, Adcock, Blannin, Bramley, John, Saunders, White, Wilkins 2, Elliott, Myers, Weller, Burge, Foley, Stoodley, Miles, og 1

#### Western Counties League 1967-1968

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil Town	12	7	3	2	22	16	17
Poole Town	12	6	3	3	28	15	15
Bournemouth & BA	12	4	5	3	15	20	13
Salisbury	12	5	2	5	17	18	12
Bath City	12	4	2	6	20	17	10
Weymouth	12	3	3	6	8	18	9
Andover	12	3	2	7	13	19	8

#### Western League 1967-1968

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bridgwater Town	40	27	8	5	92	41	62
Salisbury City	40	28	3	9	105	35	59
Glastonbury	40	24	7	9	103	64	55
Bath City Res	40	21	9	10	81	63	51
Frome Town	40	22	6	12	98	72	50
Minehead	40	18	13	9	72	49	49
Dorchester Town	40	17	14	9	81	50	48
Welton Rovers	40	20	6	14	74	55	46
Plymouth A Colts	40	18	7	15	76	72	43
Bridport	40	18	5	17	68	58	41
Torquay Utd Res	40	17	7	16	58	55	41
Andover	40	17	5	18	61	66	39
Taunton	40	11	15	14	76	68	37
Bideford	40	13	9	18	52	63	35
St Lukes College	40	12	9	19	60	78	33
Portland United	40	10	12	18	39	80	32
Bristol City Colts	40	9	10	21	33	59	28
Weston -S-Mare	40	9	10	21	40	79	28
Barnstaple Town	40	8	6	26	48	91	22
Devizes Town	40	7	7	26	56	113	21
Yeovil Town Res	40	5	10	25	36	98	20

#### Yeovil Youth League 1967-1968

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
C M M	18	15	2	1	81	13	32
Yeovil Town Yth	18	14	1	3	118	26	29
Grass Royal	18	13	1	4	87	31	27
Milborne Port	18	12	1	5	74	38	25
W A A	18	8	3	7	59	62	19
East Coker	18	7	1	10	50	54	15
Henstridge	18	5	3	10	44	61	13
Sherborne Town	18	6	0	12	40	64	12
Kingston	18	2	1	15	30	76	5
Pen Mill Methodist	18	1	1	16	18	177	3

## Season 1968-69

During the season the club sold three of their houses, reducing the overdraft, but they still made a working loss of over £3,000. The financial side had become desperate, with the club haemorrhaging money and with manager Saunders forced to attempt to build a championship chasing side with virtually no funding. He did sign Tony France from Poole Town and Jim Flannagan from Leicester City, but with yet more internal strife within the board, little else was heard during the summer. In July Bill Fearn, treasurer of the Supporters' Club, was sacked after a report appeared on television giving details of balance sheets and resignations. Chairman Tony Coles also resigned citing many differences of opinion, and later after a series of sharp attacks, Ron Saunders walked out of the meeting. Altogether six committee members resigned for varying reasons leaving Mr Templemen to refute the fact that there was a rift between the two or that the club was in the hands of the receivers. It was just the beginning, for the Shareholders' meeting was equally fraught. The chairman survived a concerted effort to oust him, led by Stanley Pinder, but he and his brother in law Cyril Farthing were both re-elected along with a new man, Albert Lukins. All too swiftly, with both factions in disarray and at each others throats, the new season got under way. The manager had re-signed Billy Elliott as an amateur, after some ten years away, but it was not until the end of August that the board gave permission for him to increase the staff, and that after four draws and a defeat in August. With Taylor injured again, as well as Herrity, new boy Tony France damaged a cartilage after just four games and was written off. A freak accident at home with a glass dish sidelined George Muir with stitches, but soon Saunders' patchwork squad began to play as he wanted. Dave Taylor returned to the side, and to goalscoring form, in September and celebrated by playing his 400th game against Bridgwater Town in the county cup. Yeovil went through after a replay and had also made progress in the League Cup when the F A Cup came around once again. The club had not enjoyed a decent F A Cup run for some time and needed one more than ever in 1968, and a local derby with Bath City at Twerton Park was better than nothing. Sadly the good run and relative peace within the club was once again shattered in October when Saunders, by then completely sick of the floodlit competition, announced that he would be fielding a reserve side and would not be watching the game against Weymouth, an act which was swiftly altered by the board, who after a hasty meeting to discuss policy, ordered Saunders to field his strongest side, they being worried about the effect it would have on the gate. Their statement after yet another stormy meeting that "if the manager won't watch the match, how can we expect anyone else to?.." was based on logic, but the papers asked the question 'Who is running the team, Saunders or the board?'

Two weeks before the Bath City tie, the board stunned the public and the press by paying a record fee of £3,000 for 23 year old Bristol Rovers centre-forward Dick Plumb. Having started with Swindon Town he was transferred to Rovers in 1965 and made 39 League appearances. His signing made many sit up and take notice and certainly added a significant number to the gates. He made his debut against Romford alongside a rejuvenated Dave Taylor and the Bath victory was the third consecutive 2-0 win. Over 7,000 crammed in to see Yeovil win comfortably.

Although still attracting criticism for their over robust play, Saunders' side had begun to play stylish football and by November had shaken off the lethargic start and were third. With Taylor, Plumb and Charlie Mitten all playing well up front and the likes of Herritty, Harris and Thompson shoring up the defence, the playing side looked to be on the

## Season 1968-1969

Aug	10th	Rugby Town	H	Southern Premier	0-0
	13th	Poole Town	A	" "	2-2 Taylor, Weller
	17th	Kettering Town	A	" "	0-0
	21st	Barry Town	H	South LC 1 1 Leg	1-1 France
	24th	Hillingdon Borough	H	Southern Premier	2-4 Mitten Taylor pen
	28th	Barry Town	A	South LC 1 2 Leg	1-0 Weller
	31st	Chelmsford City	A	Southern Premier	2-1 Elliott, Mitten
Sept	2nd	Poole Town	H	" "	3-2 Taylor, Elliott, Mitten
	4th	Bridgwater Town	H	Som Prof Cup 1	1-1 Harris
	7th	Dover	H	Southern Premier	2-2 Taylor, Elliott
	14th	Rugby Town	A	" "	3-1 Taylor 2, Bramley
	17th	Bridgwater Town	A	Som P C 1 Rep	2-1 Elliott, Bramley
	21st	Barnet	H	Southern Premier	1-0 Elliott
	28th	Wimbledon	A	" "	0-1
Oct	2nd	Weymouth	H	West Co Fl Lge	2-0 Mitten, Harris
	5th	Burton Albion	A	Southern Premier	3-4 Taylor 2, Myers
	12th	Margate	H	" "	3-0 Taylor 3
	16th	Trowbridge Town	H	South LC 2nd Rd	3-0 Taylor, Weller, Mitten
	19th	Romford	H	Southern Premier	2-0 Taylor pen, Elliott
	26th	Cambridge United	H	" "	2-0 Taylor 2
Nov	2nd	Bath City	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	2-0 Taylor, Elliott
	9th	Chelmsford City	H	Southern Premier	1-0 Plumb
	16th	Weymouth	A	FA Cup 1st Rd	1-2 Harris
	23rd	Nuneaton Borough	A	Southern Premier	2-1 Elliott, Plumb
	27th	Bath City	H	West Co Fl Lge	3-3 Myers 2, Mitten
	30th	Dover	A	Southern Premier	1-1 Taylor
Dec	7th	Worcester City	H	" "	0-0
	10th	Hillingdon Borough	A	" "	1-2 Mitten
	14th	Wellington Town	A	" "	0-0
	21st	Glastonbury	H	Som Prof Cup 2	3-1 Elliott 2, Plumb
	26th	Cheltenham Town	A	" "	1-0 Taylor
	30th	Hereford United	A	South LC 3rd Rd	0-1
Jan	4th	Bedford Town	A	Southern Premier	0-1
	6th	Salisbury	A	West Co Fl Lge	2-1 Myers, Thompson
	11th	Burton Albion	H	Southern Premier	2-1 Taylor, Elliott
	18th	Guildford City	A	" "	0-1
	22nd	King's Lynn	H	" "r	4-0 Thompson, Plumb, Myers, Elliott
	25th	Wellington Town	H	" "	2-1 Plumb 2
	29th	Andover	A	West Co Fl Lge	3-2 Weller 3
Feb	1st	King's Lynn	A	Southern Premier	2-3 Plumb 2
	5th	Poole Town	H	West Co Fl Lge	2-0 Harris, Weller
	15th	Barnet	A	Southern Premier	0-2
	22nd	Margate	A	" "	2-2 Plumb, Elliott
Mar	1st	Hereford United	H	" "	0-0
	3rd	Bath City	A	West Co Fl Lge	1-6 Plumb pen
	8th	Romford	A	Southern Premier	0-2
	12th	Salisbury	H	West Co Fl Lge	5-0 Plumb 3, Elliott, Taylor
	15th	Cambridge United	A	Southern Premier	0-2
	19th	Cheltenham Town	H	" "	4-2 Weller 2, Taylor, Plumb
	22nd	Kettering Town	H	" "	1-1 Myers
	24th	Bath City	A	Somerset Pro Cup Semi-final	2-2 Weller, Taylor
	28th	Guildford City	H	Southern Premier	1-0 Weller
	31st	Bath City	H	Somerset Pro Semi-final Replay	3-3 Elliot, Weller, Plumb
April	4th	Weymouth	A	Southern Premier	0-3
	5th	Worcester City	A	" "	0-4
	7th	Weymouth	H	" "	1-0 Myers pen
	9th	Andover	H	West Co Fl Lge	0-0
	12th	Bedford Town	H	Southern Premier	1-1 Elliott
	16th	Bath City	H	Somerset Prol Cup S/F 2nd Replay	1-0 Weller
	19th	Hereford United	A	Southern Premier	0-0
	21st	Portsmouth	H	Benefit match	3-0
	23rd	Bournemouth & BA	A	West Co Fl Lge	5-3 Myers 4, Elliott

## Season 1968-1969 continued

	25th	Weymouth	A	Southern Premier	2-0 Mitten, Elliott
	28th	Frome Town	A	Somerset Pro Cup Final 1st Leg	3-1 Myers, Plumb, Elliott
	30th	Nuneaton Borough	H	Southern Premier	1-3 og
May	1st	Frome Town	H	Somerset Pro Cup Final 2nd Leg	0-2
	2nd	Bournemouth & BA	H	West Co Fl Lge	1-0 og
	3rd	Wimbledon	H	Southern Premier	0-0
	7th	Bristol Combined X1	H	Benefit	0-2

up. The Cup draw had sent them south for another derby, this time with Weymouth and a week earlier they had the boost of a fine win in the game with second placed Chelmsford City which saw the Glovers go top. With consummate timing the board had raised the admission by 6d during the week and failed to inform anybody, and a number of those arriving at Huish were faced with the increase which they were not prepared to accept. Despite that, over 3,000 saw Dick Plumb score with a shot from 20 yards.

It was a great boost for the Weymouth game, but in a subdued game watched by 5,528 fans, Yeovil bowed out and thereby forfeited the chance to play Swansea Town in Round Two.

For many, unusually, it was seen as a blessing in disguise as the championship was by then being talked about seriously, although it would be without George Muir. The long serving Scot had lost his place after some 322 games and 47 goals and ironically he joined Weymouth.

By mid-December fortunes had changed for the side, with Stewart Bramley still out with a serious eye injury and only one win in eight games, the hopes took a knock, Hillingdon Borough taking over at the top. By Christmas, Town were fourth, but sadly that was the least of their worries as the Board v Supporters' Club battle reared its ugly head once more. New director Albert Lukins managed to stir the whole thing up again by inquiring through the press "Why has the Supporters' Club only paid £300 towards the purchase of Dick Plumb? Relations between the two are like Berlin without the wall." He went on to ask where all the money is going, with the supporters only able to hand over a small amount. It provoked the volatile Ken Little to retaliate, complaining that Lukins had made them out to 'look like thieves'...

After much finger pointing the whole thing died down, with the Board appointing Dick Donovan as full time secretary. On the field Chris Weller was placed on the transfer list, along with Dave Taylor for the second time, as having been out of work he was looking to play somewhere he could return to playing and working. It was granted by Saunders who by January was being regularly linked with Oxford United. At that stage all of the leading clubs had taken points off each other and the league it was wide open with any of eight clubs, including Yeovil, in with a shout. It needed a strong challenge in the last three months but all hope evaporated on February 19th. Saunders was appointed manager at Oxford, for a reported £80 a week taking over from Arthur Turner. The club were bottom but one in the Second Division and it was believed that Saunders was the first manager to go from non-League to Division Two management.

Ron Saunders was rightly praised for pulling together the club's activities and adding a professional attitude, some would say too professional, but with the maximum effort and with flak flying from all sides he fashioned a side which



## Reserves – Season 1968-1969

Aug	13th	Taunton Town	A	Western League	2-3	E Elliott, Lovatt
	17th	Barnstaple Town	H	" "	2-3	R Elliott 2
	24th	Bridgwater Town	A	" "	0-4	
	31st	Welton Rovers	H	" "	2-6	Travis 2
Sept	5th	Dorchester Town	H	" "	1-6	Flannagan
	14th	Devizes Town	H	" "	1-2	W Elliott
	21st	Bristol City Colts	A	" "	1-5	Flannagan
	26th	St Luke's College	H	" "	6-1	France 2, Flannagan 2, Lovatt, W Elliott
	28th	Glastonbury	H	" "	0-2	
Oct	5th	Minehead	H	" "	3-3	Miles, Lovatt, Newall
	12th	Frome Town	A	" "	0-4	
	19th	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	0-7	
	26th	Portland United	A	" "	0-1	
Nov	1st	Bath City Res	H	" "	2-4	Lewer, Flannagan
	9th	Bath City Res	A	" "	1-8	Flannagan
	16th	Andover	A	" "	0-5	
	23rd	Bristol City Colts	H	" "	0-6	
	30th	Taunton Town	H	" "	0-5	
Dec	7th	Barnstaple Town	A	" "	1-2	Lewer
	14th	Bideford	H	" "	1-6	og
Jan	4th	Bridport	H	" "	1-1	Lewer
	11th	Welton Rovers	A	" "	1-3	Brain
	18th	Weston-s-Mare	H	" "	0-0	
	25th	Bideford	A	" "	0-2	
Feb	1st	Andover	H	" "	2-1	Dixon, W Elliott
	15th	Torquay Utd Res	H	" "	0-1	
Mar	1st	Devizes Town	A	" "	2-2	Lewer 2
	8th	St Luke's College	A	" "	1-1	Lovatt
	15th	Bridgwater Town	H	" "	2-0	Lewer, Flannagan
	20th	Portland United	H	" "	1-2	Sullivan
	26th	Glastonbury	A	" "	0-0	
	29th	Weston-s-Mare	A	" "	2-3	Flannagan, Sullivan
April	7th	Minehead	A	" "	1-2	og
	17th	Bridport	A	" "	0-2	
	19th	Dorchester Town	A	" "	3-1	Lewer, Fisher, Worth
	24th	Frome Town	H	" "	1-1	Burfield

could have challenged for the title had he remained to the end.

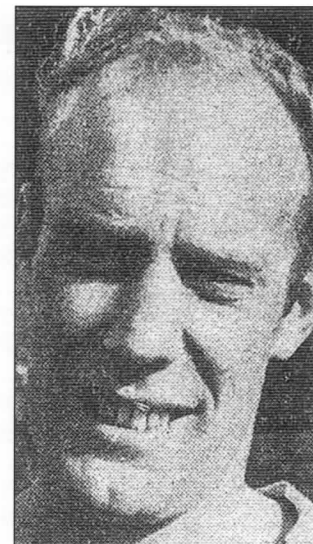
He would be a hard act to follow, for it did not take long for the managerless side to fall apart. Awful displays against Hereford and Bath, where little attempt was made to compete, showed the simmering unrest under the surface. Don Travis and Doug Hunt were put in charge as the job was advertised, Torquay's former West Ham man John Bond immediately making it clear that he was interested in the position.

Saunders tried to take advantage of the situation by offering £4,500 for Cliff Myers and Dick Plumb, but the Board turned down the offer which would come with any surplus Oxford United players, Saunders describing their demand for £7,000 as 'ridiculous'.

During March the FA announced that their new competition, the Knock-Out Cup, later to be christened the FA Trophy, would begin the following season with the cream of the major leagues competing alongside fifteen of the top sides in Wales. Yeovil, along with many others were sceptical and were unsure whether to enter, worried that they would lose their FA Cup place. Having been reassured and having had it confirmed that the final would be at Wembley, they applied, almost at once agreeing to finally quit the Western Counties Floodlit League. Incredibly the reserve side, once again bottom of the Western League were given a reprieve by the Directors, which once again angered the masses and at a meeting to discuss the retained list two people stormed out.

Taylor, France, Flannagan and Roger Slee were shown the

door, the former having finally reached the end of the Yeovil road. Still not yet thirty, the striker had for a couple of seasons endured a love hate relationship with some of the supporters, but his stunning record speaks for itself and is unsurpassed in post-War football, a modern day Johnny Hayward. In all he made 436 appearances for the Glovers, finding the net 285 times in all. He immediately signed for Bath City where he scored after nine minutes of his debut.



George Muir goes to Weymouth after 322 games for the Glovers.

Eventually the new manager was confirmed as Mike Hughes, a Welshman who had been at Cardiff City, Exeter City and Chesterfield, making over 500 League appearances. He became the club's youngest ever manager at the age of 28, at a time when he could rightly worry that there would be no team to manage by August. With the season over, Yeovil had won half of the Professional Cup, drawing on aggregate with Frome Town, and had won their last Western Counties Floodlit League, which from then on would revert to a straight knock-out tournament. But their football had been watched by the lowest average gate for a Southern League season in the club's history. The sheer volume of the financial problems became apparent in June, with losses of over £6,000 indicating that Yeovil Town's proud tenure as members of the Southern League might not last through to the following May. The latest in a series of crisis meetings ended with an appeal to the public for funds to keep them going through the summer. The overdraft remained at £16,000 and with bills piling up it needed the two factions to pull together to save the club. Instead the reverse happened as after several stormy meetings involving Supporters' Club members, board members and joint liaisons, little was achieved. Ken Little had had enough and went public stating that "the board would like to remove the Supporters' Club committee and me in particular". The supporters were barred from using the VP room for bingo and from running draws on Saturday evenings, but after appealing to the Board to "stop this vendetta and get down to the job of saving this football club, Mr Templeman's board sacked the Supporters' Club committee en bloc.

## First Team Appearances 1968-69

Myers 66, Thompson, Harris 63, Jones, Smith 62, Mitten 59(4), Elliott 55(3), Herrity 55, Slee 50(2), Plumb, Taylor 47, Weller 36(2), Burfield, Muir 13, Bramley 12, Flannagan 8(4), James 6, Beal 5, France, Dixon 4, Sullivan 3, Pearce, Hansen, Lewer, Brain 1

## First Team Goalscorers 1968-69

Taylor 22, Elliott 19, Plumb 16, Weller 13, Myers 12, Mitten 8, Harris 4, Bramley, Thompson, og 2, France 1, 2 ogs

## Reserve Appearances 1968-69

Brain 34, Lewer, W Elliott 31, Flannagan, Lovatt 28, Hanson 27, James 26, Dixon 20, Beal 18, Miles 17, Lawson 15(1), Peacock 12, Sullivan 10, Worth 9(1), Pearce 9, Newell, Gibbs 8, Hamilton, Travis 7, Burfield 6(1), Fowler 6, Muir, Smalley, Antell 5, Slee, Shore, Fisher 3, Brimble, Norman, R Elliott, Weller 2, Moores, Herrity, Adams, Jones, France, Lewis, Bellchamber 1

**Reserve Goalscorers 1968-69**

Flanagan 8, Lewer 7, Lovatt 4, R Elliott, W Elliott 3, Travis, France, Sullivan, og 2, Brain, Dixon, Miles, Newall, Smalley, Fisher, Worth, Burfield 1

**Southern Premier League 1968-1969**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cambridge United	42	27	5	10	72	39	59
Hillingdon Borough	42	24	10	8	68	47	58
Wimbledon	42	21	12	9	66	48	54
King's Lynn	42	20	9	13	68	60	49
Worcester City	42	19	11	12	53	47	49
Romford	42	18	12	12	58	52	48
Weymouth	42	16	15	11	52	41	47
Yeovil Town	42	16	13	13	52	50	45
Kettering Town	42	18	8	16	51	55	44
Dover	42	17	9	16	66	61	43
Nuneaton Borough	42	17	7	18	74	58	41
Barnet	42	15	10	17	72	66	40
Chelmsford City	42	17	6	19	56	58	40
Hereford United	42	15	9	18	66	62	39
Wellington Town	42	14	10	18	62	61	38
Poole Town	42	16	6	20	75	76	38
Burton Albion	42	16	5	21	55	71	37
Margate	42	14	7	21	79	90	35
Cheltenham Town	42	15	5	22	55	64	35
Bedford Town	42	11	12	19	46	63	34
Rugby Town	42	10	6	26	38	83	26
Guildford City	42	7	11	24	41	73	25

**Western Counties Floodlight League 1968-1969**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil Town	11	8	2	1	26	15	18
Bournemouth & BA	12	7	1	4	26	16	15
Bath City	12	7	1	4	26	16	15
Salisbury	12	4	4	4	26	21	12
Weymouth	12	3	3	6	12	21	9
Andover	12	2	4	6	9	18	8
Poole Town	11	3	2	6	10	26	8

*One game not played*

**Western League 1968-1969**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Taunton Town	36	24	5	7	96	53	53
Bideford	36	21	7	8	77	44	49
Bridgwater Town	36	18	12	6	72	30	48
Glastonbury	36	22	4	10	85	49	48
Frome Town	36	18	11	7	57	38	47
Andover	36	16	9	11	63	43	41
Minehead	36	16	9	11	57	43	41
Welton Rovers	36	14	9	13	51	51	37
Dorchester Town	36	15	6	15	63	53	36
Bath City Res	36	15	6	15	58	49	36
Barnstaple Town	36	14	7	15	58	67	35
Devizes Town	36	14	7	15	56	77	35
Torquay Utd Res	36	15	3	18	51	60	33
Bristol City Colts	36	13	6	17	64	68	32
Bridport	36	8	11	17	34	54	27
Weston-s-Mare	36	7	11	18	29	54	25
St Lukes College	36	9	5	22	44	74	23
Portland United	36	7	8	21	36	80	22
Yeovil Town Res	36	4	8	24	41	105	16

**Supporters' Club thrown out but Mike Hughes brings success**

It was a move which stunned everybody, including the local press. Only five days earlier the supporters had elected their officers in the presence of Mr Templeman, but at a meeting at his home it was decided to throw them out. There was an immediate reaction from the sacked men, who announced that they would continue to raise money for the club and freeze it until they were able to hand it over. It started an undignified and inglorious few months off the field where the board, led by Templeman but with new man Albert Lukins as the somewhat bombastic mouthpiece, squared up against the Supporters' Club, led by the equally rumbustious Ken Little. The board announced that they had "...no confidence in the Supporters' Club. As long as the present executive committee and officers hold office we will have no dealings with them". Club PRO Bryan Moore emphasised that the Supporters' Club had not been disbanded, and hoped that they would continue to function with a new committee in due course. Ken Little's men had been accused of not handing over monies which had been promised, and of not providing financial statements, whilst the club struggled to survive, and with a clear clash of personalities, it would be a hard road to compromise. It seemed that everyone wanted their piece of the action, but with the Supporters' Club's activities all but at an end and their goods and equipment confiscated, there was little for them to be enthused about.

Further accusations flew to and fro and with Archie Gooch, chairman of the National Federation of Football Supporters' Clubs becoming involved, it was difficult for the general public to comprehend precisely what was going on.

A further board meeting at the end of July 1969 ended with the Football Club setting up its own Green and White Club, to take over fund raising formerly done by the supporters. Days later Ken Little resigned but within hours was back in charge, having been persuaded by a unanimous vote of confidence to stay on. The Football Club appointed Major Doug Holmes and Alwyn Lugg as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the new club at the end of July with Dick Donovan as full time secretary and Albert Lukins and Bryan Moore on the both committees. The old Supporters' Club continued to sell their new lottery tickets and were hopeful of a membership of around 200, and bizarrely both factions produced membership cards.

It was a horrible situation which was to drag on for some time, and new manager Mike Hughes was left on his baptism, to ponder as to what he had let himself in for. Whilst the civil war raged, Hughes went about fashioning a side of sorts which few thought would be up to the task, especially after the first three league games. First to arrive was Stuart Housley, a 20 year old winger who had begun at Grimsby as an apprentice where he made 34 appearances in the League before being released. It was Hughes' next signing that without fanfare and against all odds, began what was a spectacular revival for the ailing football club. Cyril Davies, a 21 year old who had been released by Carlisle United when they disbanded their reserve side, having joined them on a free transfer from Swansea Town. Davies was all but unknown but his spectacular form soon had scouts queueing to watch him. Another signing to do the Carlisle-Swansea-Yeovil route was Ronnie Williams, a young winger who had eight appearances under his belt and he was joined by Paul Lowrie, a teenage full-back from Bristol Rovers and goalkeeper Tony Clark, formerly with Exeter City and Barnstaple Town. Finally to complete what was to prove a devastating forward line, Hughes signed John Clancy, a 20 year old who began with Spurs before moving west to Bristol City where he completed 50 odd games.

Cliff Myers happily re-signed for the club in August 1969 on

## Season 1969-1970

Aug	9th	Hillingdon Borough	H	Southern Premier	0-1
	13th	Poole Town	H	" "	1-1 Thompson
	16th	Margate	A	" "	0-7
	19th	Trowbridge Town	A	South LC 1 1st L	4-2 Plumb 3, Housley
	23rd	Romford	H	Southern Premier	1-0 Plumb
	27th	Trowbridge Town	H	South LC 1 2nd L	3-1 Weller 3
	30th	Wimbledon	A	Southern Premier	1-2 Housley
Sept	1st	Poole Town	A	" "	1-1 Housley
	3rd	Minehead	A	Som Pro Cup 1	0-1
	6th	Crawley Town	H	Southern Premier	3-3 Plumb 2, Mitten
	13th	Hillingdon Borough	A	" "	0-2
	20th	Margate	H	" "	5-2 Myers 4, Plumb
	27th	Worcester City	A	" "	1-0 Myers
Oct	4th	Wimbledon	H	" "	3-1 Myers, Plumb, Housley
	8th	Andover	H	West Co Fl Cup 1	4-0 Plumb 2, Davies, Hughes
	11th	Brentwood Town	A	Southern Premier	0-0
	15th	Hereford United	A	South LC 2nd Rd	0-0
	22nd	Hereford United	H	Replay	2-0 Weller, Plumb
	25th	Hereford United	A	Southern Premier	3-1 Myers 2, Clancy
Nov	1st	Minehead	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	0-0
	5th	Minehead	H	Replay	0-0 aet
	8th	Barnet	A	Southern Premier	1-1 Thompson
	10th	Minehead (at Exeter City FC)	A	FAC 4th Q 2 Rep	5-0 Myers 3, Plumb, Thompson
	15th	Shrewsbury Town	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	2-3 Housley, Davies
	19th	Burton Albion	H	Southern Premier	1-0 Myers
	22nd	Romford	A	" "	1-1 Weller
	29th	Worcester City	H	" "	0-1
Dec	6th	Chelmsford City	A	" "	0-1
	10th	Gloucester City	H	South LC 3rd Rd	0-1
	26th	Bath City	A	Southern Premier	2-0 2 ogs
	27th	Bath City	H	" "	2-1 Plumb 2
Jan	3rd	Crawley Town	A	" "	1-1 Plumb
	13th	Corby Town	A	FA Trophy 1	3-4 Harris, Weller, Thompson
	17th	Dover	H	Southern Premier	3-2 Plumb, Thompson, Weller
	19th	Nuneaton Borough	A	" "	2-0 Plumb, Housley
	24th	Telford United	A	" "	3-2 Plumb, Thompson, Weller
	28th	Gloucester City	H	" "	1-0 Weller
	31st	Gloucester City (at Cheltenham Town FC)	A	" "	3-0 Plumb, Davies, og
Feb	7th	Telford United	H	" "	1-2 Thompson
	14th	Burton Albion	A	" "	5-2 Plumb 2, Weller 2, Myers
	21st	King's Lynn	A	" "	0-1
	24th	Barnet	H	" "	5-3 Housley 3, Plumb, Davies
	28th	Chelmsford City	H	" "	1-2 Clancy
Mar	4th	Hereford United	H	" "	3-0 Plumb, Clancy, Thompson
	11th	Weymouth	A	West Co Fl Cup 2	0-1
	14th	Dover	A	Southern Premier	1-0 Housley
	21st	Kettering Town	H	" "	3-1 Plumb 2, Myers
	27th	Weymouth	A	" "	1-2 Thompson
	28th	Kettering Town	A	" "	2-1 Plumb, Myers
	30th	Weymouth	H	" "	2-0 Plumb, Housley
April	4th	Nuneaton Borough	H	" "	3-0 Plumb, Clancy, Myers
	16th	Cambridge United	A	" "	2-1 Myers, Thompson
	18th	King's Lynn	H	" "	4-0 Myers 2, Housley, Clancy
	25th	Cambridge United	H	" "	4-1 Plumb 2, Housley, Thompson
May	2nd	Brentwood Town	H	" "	2-1 Myers 2
	5th	Swindon Town	H	Friendly	1-4 Plumb

the condition that he was transfer-listed and with Hughes' squad more or less complete and with a promise that he would play 4-2-4 with wingers the season began under a massive cloud and with real doubts as to the club's ability to continue much past the spring unless fortunes changed dramatically.

The pre-season friendlies were encouraging enough, with wins over Swansea Town, Wycombe Wanderers and Waterlooville and a draw with Exeter City but the league was a different matter, the first game being a 1-0 defeat at the hands of runners-up Hillingdon Borough before a crowd of less than 2,000, the smallest ever for an opening day. After throwing away a point against Poole Town four days later they collapsed against Margate, losing 7-0. It was a demoralising start for a side which many had written off before the big kick-off, but Hughes tinkered with the line up, and against Trowbridge Town in the League Cup, Dick Plumb's hat-trick breathed life into the apparently still-borne side. The second leg saw a little bit of history made, when Chris Weller knocked in all three of Yeovil's goals after coming on as a substitute. Sadly only 1,300 saw the match which was a blow to the board who were already aware of what was in store in the financial statement which was about to be made public. The beginning of September was a bleak time for the Glovers both on and off the field, as the side went out of the Somerset Professional Cup to Minehead on the 3rd of September, and Edmund Templeman resigned as chairman on the day that record losses were announced. £6,015 was lost in the previous year, the highest in the club's history. The purchase of Dick Plumb, falling gates and rising expenses were all blamed, all of which pushed the overdraft up to over £17,000, a massive sum secured by the club houses. It was painfully apparent that something had to be done and the AGM, three weeks later, was rightly billed as the most important the football club had ever held. On the field Mike Hughes' side had begun to play with conviction, Cliff Myers scoring six in three games, all of which were won, which gave the supporters some hope, especially with the FA Cup coming up, but all eyes were on the meeting, where new chairman Norman Burfield spelled out to the exiled Supporters' Club committee precisely why they were sacked. There were various calls for unity from all sides, but the old Supporters' Club was fast running out of time and strength, and with the Green and White Club going well, there seemed no way back. Ten men battled for the four available seats on the new board and with Edmund Templeman no longer there, Stan Pinder returned and was elected along with Tony Coles and Don Harrison. The chairman of the sacked committee, Don Osborne was not elected, but soon afterwards another meeting was called and the size of the board was increased to fourteen, Osborne declining the offer of a place.

Hughes side had quietly but efficiently begun to string together a good run of results and the 0-0 draw in the League Cup at Hereford was the first in a series of blessings in disguise, as the replay drew a crowd of 3,500 bringing in desperately needed cash, takings being £627. Three days later the side beat Hereford again, this time in the league with three goals in six minutes, inspired by John Clancy. It was the perfect preparation for the FA Cup tie with Minehead, who had already beaten Yeovil in the County Cup. Cyril Davies and Dick Plumb were both back after injury and they helped bring Minehead back after a gritty 0-0 draw in front of the biggest crowd ever at the Recreation Ground. The replay was a financial goldmine for Yeovil, for not only did a crowd of over 5,000 assemble, but there were 1900 programmes sold, £100 taken on the golden goal and £150 spent over the bar. The game lasted two hours and was an ugly affair, with two booked and Cyril Davies and Minehead's John Morgan sent off for fighting. By then both clubs knew that they would be at home to Shrewsbury Town in the next round, and the second replay was set for St James Park Exeter. Before that, Town stretched their unbeaten run to eleven

## Reserves – Season 1969-1970

Aug	9th	Bideford	A	Western League	1-2	Gadsden
	12th	Frome Town	A	" "	4-2	Gadsden, Thomas, Williams, Antell
	16th	Weston-s-Mare	H	" "	1-4	Smith
	28th	Portland United	H	" "	0-0	
	30th	Bath City Res	H	" "	1-1	Thomas
Sept	6th	Bath City Res	A	" "	0-4	
	11th	Dorchester Town	H	" "	4-2	Myers 2, Clancy, Williams pen
	13th	Bridport	H	" "	0-2	
	20th	St Luke's College	A	" "	1-0	Gadsden
Oct	4th	Taunton Town	A	" "	2-2	Clancy, Weller
	11th	St Luke's College	H	" "	3-0	Weller 3
	16th	Taunton Town	H	" "	2-1	Weller 2
	23rd	Bridgwater Town	H	" "	1-2	Lewer
	25th	Glastonbury	H	" "	1-3	Thomas
Nov	2nd	Welton Rovers	H	" "	3-5	Williams 2 (1pen), Smith
	8th	Bristol City Colts	H	" "	0-1	
	16th	Welton Rovers	A	" "	0-3	
	22nd	Torquay Utd Res	H	" "	1-1	Brain
	29th	Minehead	A	" "	0-5	
Dec	6th	Bideford	H	" "	0-5	
	13th	Weymouth Res	A	" "	0-1	
	20th	Devizes Town	H	" "	2-0	Plumb, Myers
	26th	Frome Town	H	" "	2-4	Brain, Smith pen
	27th	Weston-s-Mare	A	" "	0-0	
Jan	3rd	Barnstaple Town	H	" "	1-0	Thomas
	10th	Dorchester Town	A	" "	1-0	Davies
	17th	Bristol City Colts	A	" "	0-2	
Feb	7th	Andover	A	" "	0-3	
	28th	Barnstaple Town	A	" "	0-1	
Mar	7th	Andover	H	" "	0-1	
	14th	Bridgwater Town	A	" "	1-6	Worth
	19th	Minehead	H	" "	0-1	
	21st	Glastonbury	A	" "	0-5	
	27th	Weymouth Res	H	" "	1-0	Smith
	30th	Devizes Town	A	" "	2-3	Smith, Kingsmith
April	4th	Portland United	A	" "	1-2	Smith
	9th	Bridport	A	" "	0-1	
	25th	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	2-2	Antell, Bryant

games at Barnet and, having crept above half way in the table, they finally disposed of the Western League side with a hat-trick from Cliff Myers.

The financial woes of the club had been slightly eased by the series of five matches against Hereford and Minehead and with another prospective pay-day, there was an air of belief around the club but it did not last long. Hughes' side threw away the tie with Shrewsbury with defensive blunders and a sterling fight back proved abortive, a 3-2 defeat being a sad way for Alan Herry to celebrate his 400th match for the club.

During November news arrived of a proposed Football Alliance, in effect a fifth division involving the top non-League clubs in the country. It was the umpteenth time that hopes had been raised about an end to the farce of re-election being the only way in, and in truth at that time Yeovil were in dire straits and could not realistically number themselves amongst the elite, but with the side on the up and the new fundraising going well every crumb of hope was gleefully gobbled up.

What had been a fine run in the league ended at a frozen Huish against Worcester, and after a further two 1-0 defeats making three in all, chairman Norman Burfield criticized the players, in particular Ken Jones, Dick Plumb and Chris Weller. His comments hit the spot, for the players demanded a meeting with the board, but his words seemed to work.

Back to back wins over Christmas against a Bath City side which included Roy Lambden and Dave Taylor gave them a boost for the Trophy, and it was needed as figures at the end of the year made grim reading. Yeovil Town were £25,000 in the red and were in real danger of going into receivership. Gates had rarely climbed above 2,000 for league games despite a run which had taken them above half way and all hopes were being pinned on a good Trophy run, starting with Corby Town. They were not the only sadnesses, as over the holiday two figures from Yeovil's history passed away. Len Dennett, former Supporters' Club secretary died during the flu epidemic, aged just 47 and a few days later David Halliday, Town's successful manager for three years before the War also passed away, in his native Aberdeen.

Once again gloom had descended over Huish but worse was to come. The visit to Corby Town was an unmitigated disaster, as the defence collapsed, two goals in injury time making the score 4-3 after Corby had led 4-1. The crowd of 902 meant that Yeovil collected the princely sum of £10. The supporters once again voted with their feet and for the next game against Dover, a 3-2 win, the crowd of 1300 rattled around Huish provoking the normally cool Hughes to attack the football public of Yeovil through the press. Echoing the regular weekly rantings of the fifties and sixties by all and sundry, he rounded on those who were still living in the glory of the Sunderland days. Calling them too F A Cup conscious he said that they "did not deserve a good side as nothing else seems to matter.". The support may not have had faith in the side but Hughes did and with Cyril Davies, Dick Plumb, Stuart Housley, Chris Weller and Ken Thompson once again tormenting defences, Yeovil strung together a run of seven wins in eight games which shot them up to sixth place. Weymouth had been top with a group all beating each other, and the Terras had in fact only won ten of their first twenty four games, making some at Huish believe that despite the turmoil they could pull off a startling championship win.

The pillar of the club for many years and club record appearance holder Len Harris played his 600th game for the club against Gloucester City and a week later having completed the double and with other top sides losing, they found themselves briefly joint top of the table with Wimbledon. Hillingdon Borough at that stage had games in hand but there were no predictions from any of the camps as sides continued to take points off each other. Yeovil lost to Telford, Kings Lynn and Chelmsford City during February but a big win over Barnet put them top again for a couple of days. Dick Plumb's goals were beginning to mount up and as March faded into April and after a good Easter where the club brought home four points from six as instructed by Mike Hughes, they were top of the league. The Easter Monday match with Weymouth attracted a crowd of 4,000 and saw Yeovil pull out a three point lead. Any one of six clubs could still win the title at that stage including Cambridge United who had four games in hand. With Mike Hughes side battling away it was with a stunning lack of tact that the board released the retained list prepared by the manager, with six matches still to play. It contained keeper Ken Jones, Chris Weller, Charlie Mitten, Paul Lowrie and Malcolm Smith, who had played the whole season in the reserves. None at that stage were in the first team but they were all on standby should injuries occur.

The run in included two matches with Cambridge United, and the away match, watched by nearly 6,000, saw Ken Thompson and Cliff Myers secure a famous victory. A week later, having beaten Kings Lynn, Yeovil beat United again, this time in front of 4,557, thus prolonging the fight to the final day. Housley, Thompson and Plumb with two made sure of the win, but the man of the match was Cyril Davies whose performance was described as "...one of the finest individual performances ever given at Huish..". The big clubs were there to watch and he

made sure that Cambridge were forced to win their last matches to pip Yeovil to the title. The green and whites had won the last five games, but United could still afford to have lost at Huish, leaving them the simple task of beating Margate on the last day, which they did.

Yeovil were duly runners up in a season which not a few doubters believed would end in tears with Hughes side on or near the bottom. Instead they came within a point of the title in a season where the top two sides lost no less than twenty games between them. It was also a season which saw board room chaos, but saw the emergence of an important talent in Cyril Davies, backed up by the equally well fancied Dick Plumb. It also saw the long overdue withdrawal from the Western League as well as the end of the Colts who resigned from the Yeovil League. The next season would be fought with the bare minimum of staff fighting for places in just one side. Sadly for all but the board who were fighting for the very life of the club, the new campaign would not be fought with the services of Cyril Davies. Having signed him on a whim via a free transfer, he joined Charlton Athletic almost immediately for a club record fee of £3,000, plus a further £2,000 after ten League games and a home friendly. There were to be more heartbreaks during the summer unconnected with the playing side, but having already been pleasantly surprised by Mike Hughes' first season in management, the Yeovil public were in for what for many was the finest season in the club's long history.

#### Southern Premier League 1969-1970

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cambridge United	42	26	6	10	86	49	58
Yeovil Town	42	25	7	10	78	48	57
Chelmsford City	42	20	11	11	76	58	51
Weymouth	42	18	14	10	59	37	50
Wimbledon	42	19	12	11	64	52	50
Hillingdon Borough	42	19	12	11	56	50	50
Barnet	42	16	15	11	71	54	47
Telford United	42	18	10	14	61	62	46
Brentwood Town	42	16	13	13	61	38	45
Hereford United	42	18	9	15	74	65	45
Bath City	42	18	8	16	63	55	44
King's Lynn	42	16	11	15	72	68	43
Margate	42	17	8	17	70	64	42
Dover	42	15	10	17	51	50	40
Kettering Town	42	18	3	21	64	75	39
Worcester City	42	14	10	18	35	44	38
Romford	42	13	11	18	50	62	37
Poole Town	42	8	19	15	48	57	35
Gloucester City	42	12	9	21	53	73	33
Nuneaton Borough	42	11	10	21	52	74	32
Crawley Town	42	6	15	21	53	101	27
Burton Albion	42	3	9	30	24	82	15

#### First Team Appearances 1969-70

Smith 55, Plumb 53, Harris 52(1), Myers 50(1), Thompson 50, Housley 49(1), Hughes 44, Jones 43, Herrity 42(1), Davies 41(1), Dixon 39, Weller 24(3), Clancy 23(3), Clark 12, Lowrie 11, Mitten 10(3), Williams 7

#### First Team Goalscorers 1969-70

Plumb 30, Myers 21, Housley 13, Thompson, Weller 11, Clancy 5, Davies 4, og's 3, Harris, Hughes, Mitten 1

#### Known Reserve Appearances 1969-70

Antell 26, Clarke, Brain, M Smith 24, Lewer 21, Thomas 19, Kingsmill 18, Lowrie, Elliott 17, Hanson, Clancy, James 12, Mitten 10, Dixon, Williams 9, Gadsden 7, Hughes 5, Davies, Weller, Travis, Meldrum 4, Ritchie, Worth, Myers, O'Donnell 3, Jones, Fisher, Housley 2, Lester, Trim, Herrity, P Smith, Harris, Plumb, Thompson 1, Lock (1)

#### Reserve goalscorers 1969-70

M Smith, Weller 6, Williams, Thomas 4, Gadsden, Myers 3, Antell, Brain, Clancy 2, Bryant, Davies, Kingsmill, Lewer, Plumb, Worth 1

#### Western League 1969-1970

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glastonbury	38	29	5	4	100	37	63
Andover	38	26	6	6	76	20	58
Bridgwater Town	38	23	7	8	97	41	53
Minehead	38	21	10	7	70	37	52
Taunton Town	38	21	8	9	84	56	50
Bideford	38	20	7	11	84	58	47
Dorchester Town	38	18	8	12	78	69	44
Torquay Utd Res	38	15	10	13	70	54	40
Bath City Res	38	16	7	15	71	67	39
Welton Rovers	38	17	3	18	72	62	37
Weston-s-Mare	38	14	8	16	53	72	36
Frome Town	38	12	10	16	62	73	34
Portland United	38	14	6	18	63	94	34
Bristol City Colts	38	13	7	18	58	76	33
Devizes Town	38	10	9	19	44	70	29
Barnstaple Town	38	11	6	21	58	73	28
Yeovil Town Res	38	9	6	23	38	78	24
Weymouth Res	38	10	4	24	34	74	24
Bridport	38	6	9	23	43	86	21
St Lukes College	38	4	6	28	35	93	14





## Champions Again

Dick Donovan had come up with a brave idea to raise funds for Town, when it was decided to hold a pop festival at Huish. During the spring and summer top line acts such as the Nice and Yes were booked to appear and crowd estimates ranged from 10,000 to 20,000, which would bring in profits of over £2,000. Through no fault of Dick Donovan's the project was doomed to disaster, as the Nice disbanded and Yes cancelled leaving a list of relative local bands or unknowns to fill the gaps. Several guarantors eased the payload, but with ticket prices at 26/-, less than 500 turned up. All police leave had been cancelled and it was estimated that only 20 people from the town attended the concert. It plunged the club further into the red and, soon after, chairman Norman Burfield tendered his resignation, citing anxiety and worry as his reasoning. His cool headedness throughout his short term had been a great influence and the fortunes had just begun to turn for the club during his tenure. In the end Mr Burfield thankfully did not resign, having been persuaded to carry on and in July 1970 when the AGM was held, for once there was real optimism. The Green and White Supporters'

Club had handed over some £2,475 to the Football Club in the ten months of their existence, surpassing all hopes. Plans were aired during the meeting concerning saunas, restaurants and gymnasia, the Under 18's were praised for their efforts and their support on the terraces and even talk of League status was again mooted, as were a series of sub-committees in the surrounding villages to arrange transport for would be supporters. With all the bon homie Mike Hughes set about his team building for the 1970-71 season. Chris Weller re-signed along with Brian Grey, a 21 year old striker, again from Swansea. He had thirty odd first team matches to his name and he was joined by Andy McCluskey, a teenage utility player from Hartlepool who had played half a dozen times. Hughes also did a deal with Charlton manager Theo Foley who generously put on offer any fringe players for loan should his squad be stretched. With the friendlies beginning in July, there was little time for much else and so after matches with Barnstaple, Brentford, Glastonbury and Salisbury, the fourteen pros, plus amateur Bev Dixon went into battle and kicked off the most



**Yeovil Town F.C. 1970-71**

Back row: P. Smith, R. Bayliss, R. Reynolds, A. Herrity, B. Dixon, K. Thompson, C. Weller, L. Harris, T. Clarke. 2nd row: M. O'Donnell, (Trainer), A. Lukins, J. Baulch (Directors), C. Myers, M. Hughes, G. Banbury, A. Coles (Directors), R. Donovan (Secretary), D. Hunt (Physio), 3rd row: O. James, D. Barnett, B. Moore, R. White (Directors), N. Burfield (Chairman), I Rendall, C. Farthing, E. Templeman, T. Mear, G. Cobb (Directors), Seated in front: A. McCluskey, S. Housley, B. Grey, J. Clancy

## Season 1970-1971

Aug	15th	Cambridge City	H	Southern Premier	1-0	Plumb
	18th	Weymouth	A	" "	1-2	Thompson
	22nd	Wimbledon	A	" "	3-2	Plumb, Myers, Dixon
	26th	Folkestone Town	A	South LC 1 1 Leg	2-2	Plumb, Grey
	29th	King's Lynn	H	Southern Premier	1-0	Thompson
Sept	2nd	Folkestone Town	H	South LC 1 2 Leg	3-1	Housley, Plumb, Weller
	5th	Gloucester City	A	Southern Premier	3-0	Myers, Plumb, Grey
	9th	Weymouth	H	" "	2-0	Thompson, Plumb
	12th	Chelmsford City	H	" "	0-1	
	16th	Hereford United	A	" "	0-1	
	19th	Margate	A	" "	1-1	Plumb
	26th	Wimbledon	H	" "	0-0	
	29th	Cambridge City	A	" "	1-1	Gilchrist
Oct	3rd	Chard Town	A	Som Prof Cup 1	6-0	Weller 2, Grey 2, McCluskey, Myers
	7th	Gravesend & N	H	South LC 2nd Rd	3-0	Myers 2, Weller
	10th	Margate	H	Southern Premier	1-0	Grey
	17th	Dover	A	" "	1-2	Myers
	31st	Hillingdon Borough	A	" "	1-0	Tomkins
Nov	7th	Poole Town	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	2-1	Clancy, Weller
	14th	Worcester City	A	Southern Premier	1-0	Grey
	21st	Aveley	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	1-0	Clancy
	24th	Poole Town	A	WCFC 1 1 Leg	1-2	Housley
	28th	Telford United	A	Southern Premier	2-1	Clancy, Grey
	30th	Margate	A	South LC 3rd Rd	1-2	Clancy
Dec	2nd	Poole Town	H	WCFC 1 2 Leg	6-1	Clancy 2, Housley 2, McDonald, Harris
	5th	Telford United	H	Southern Premier	3-0	Grey, Housley, Myers
	12th	Bournemouth & BA	A	FA Cup 2nd Rd	1-0	Myers
	19th	Frome Town	A	Som Prof Cup 2	1-1	Housley
	23rd	Worcester City	H	Southern Premier	2-0	Grey 2
	26th	Bath City	A	" "	2-0	Myers, McCluskey
Jan	2nd	Arsenal	H	FA Cup 3rd Rd	0-3	
	9th	Barnet	H	Southern Premier	0-3	
	16th	Grantham	H	FA Trophy 1	3-1	Gray 2, Moffat
	20th	Nuneaton Borough	H	Southern Premier	3-0	Moffat 2, og
	23rd	Dartford	A	" "	1-0	Weller
	25th	Bournemouth & BA	H	WCFC Semi-fina 1st leg	3-0	Myers 2 (1 pen), Weller
Jan	30th	Kettering Town	H	Southern Premier	5-0	Weller 2, Housley, Myers, Bayliss
Feb	6th	Weymouth	H	FA Trophy 2	0-0	
	10th	Weymouth	A	Replay aet	1-0	Weller
	13th	Frome Town	H	Som Prof Cup 3	4-1	Hughes, Weller, Grey, Smith
	17th	Romford	A	Southern Premier	0-0	
	20th	Barnet	A	" "	1-2	Weller
	24th	Bournemouth & BA	A	WCFC Semi-final 2nd Leg	1-3	Weller
	27th	Wimbledon	A	FA Trophy 3	1-1	Moffat
Mar	3rd	Wimbledon	H	Replay	4-0	Weller 3, Moffat
	6th	Kettering Town	A	Southern Premier	1-2	Myers
	10th	King's Lynn	A	" "	1-1	Weller
	13th	Stourbridge	H	FA Trophy 4	2-0	Weller, Myers
	15th	Taunton Town	H	Somerset Prof Cup Semi-final	6-3	Grey 2, Clancy 2 Housley, Myers
	17th	Bath City	H	Southern Premier	2-0	Grey, Housley
	20th	Nuneaton Borough	A	" "	2-1	Grey, Myers
	24th	Ashford Town	H	" "	2-1	Clancy 2
	27th	Hereford United	H	" "	2-0	Grey 2
	29th	Bedford Town	A	" "	0-1	
April	3rd	Telford United (at West Bromwich Albion FC)		FA Trophy Semi-final	1-3	Moffat
	5th	Dover	H	Southern Premier	1-1	Thompson

## Season 1970-1971 continued

7th	Bristol City	H	Somerset Prof Cup Final 1st Leg	2-1	Myers, Clancy	
10th	Gloucester City	H	" "	5-0	Myers 3, Clancy, Dixon	
12th	Poole Town	A	" "	0-2		
13th	Poole Town	H	" "	3-1	Thompson 2, Grey	
17th	Ashford Town	A	" "	1-0	Clancy	
19th	Bedford Town	H	" "	2-0	Grey, Dixon	
21st	Romford	H	" "	2-1	Grey, Reynolds	
24th	Dartford	H	" "	1-0	Clancy	
26th	Hillingdon Borough	H	" "	4-0	Reynolds 2, Grey, Dixon	
29th	Bristol City	A	Somerset Prof Cup Final 2nd Leg	1-3	Myers	
May	3rd	Chelmsford City	A	Southern Premier	1-3	Reynolds

remarkable of seasons at Huish. Cambridge United had made it to the Football League during the summer, leaving Cambridge City to go it alone and it was they who provided the first opposition for Hughes' side which read: Clark, Hughes, Smith, Myers, Dixon, Harris, Housley, Grey, Plumb, Thompson, Clancy. They won 1-0 and after losing at Weymouth in mid-week beat Wimbledon at Plough Lane. Having negotiated the League Cup tie with Folkestone with the minimum of fuss, the league matches got under way again, but goals were very hard to come by. Just one by Dick Plumb in four games was all they had to show for their efforts, and it was to be Plumb's last goal for the club for several years, as Charlton Athletic were in again, paying a record £7,000 for his services. With the extra money being activated via Cyril Davies, it brought the money generated by Hughes to £12,000, almost halving the overdraft of a year ago. The down side however was that a weak forward line had just got progressively weaker and Paul Gilchrist came from the Valley on loan, although he returned after four games, as did Steve Tomkins, another 19 year old striker. Gilchrist went on to enjoy a long career with a series of southern based clubs including an F A cup winner's medal with Southampton. To add to the worries Alan Herrity endured another injury when he broke a collar bone but up front the goals began to come, although the gates for the first half of the season were still only around 2,000. Progress was made in both League and Professional Cups as the Glovers ran into form in time for the FA Cup. It coincided with the news that Yeovil Town Football Club had become owners of their ground at Huish, a site valued at around £250,000. Bass Charrington agreed to lift the covenant restricting the club to certain practices, in return for sales rights at the ground. The late vendor, Mr Joseph Brutton had decreed that the ground be sold back to him or his successors, should it cease to be used for football. It was marvellous news for all concerned at the club whose Green and White Club had forged ahead. Sadly the old Supporters' Club committee continued with their fight and at their own sparsely attended AGM they agreed to persist with legal action against the club, although their support was waning fast and the majority would soon decamp and set up at Westland Sports just down the road.

The FA Cup run began at Poole Town where the side played their worst game of the season, but were still good enough to beat the struggling Dorset club. Clancy and Weller scored the goals which brought a tie with Aveley, an amateur side from Essex who were having their own purple patch. At the time Yeovil were fifth in the table, tucked in behind the likes of Hereford United, Chelmsford City, Dover Athletic and Wimbledon, the top three having all already beaten Yeovil. Aveley made Yeovil battle all the way for their place in the First Round, with John Clancy scoring the winning goal with



*John Radford gets airborne to put Arsenal ahead at Huish. Yeovil full-back Alan Herritty can only stand and admire.*

a diving header. Sadly crowd trouble marred the match, as an Aveley player was knocked out after an argument with a supporter and referee Bassett was also attacked. The cup draw was not kind, giving Yeovil a local derby at Bournemouth, the side beaten back in the Twenties by the likes of Stan Abbott and company. This time they would be a different proposition, with ace striker Ted McDougall who had scored six in the previous round against Margate.

In the ensuing weeks the side lost in the League Cup at Margate but further league victories kept up the momentum for Dean Court. 11,583 turned up to watch the champions elect, the Cherries biggest gate of the season, and the 3,000 Glovers fans were in good voice, especially when Myers converted a near post header just before half time. Chris Weller, who scored for the Cherries when the two teams last met back in 1960, also went close, but with Housley and Clancy causing havoc, the Division Four side were given the run around and the once famous giant-killers were again the talk of the national press.

After the game Bournemouth offered £200 for Housley, the bid was turned down with Yeovil asking £600.

Hughes side had reached the Third Round, only a year after seeming to be close to extinction and they needed one more piece of luck with a home draw against a big club, to all but eradicate their debts and clear the slate. At 12.05 pm on Monday, 14th December 1970 they got it. The draw had given them a home tie with Arsenal, second in the First Division and holders of the Fairs Cup, as well as being ultimately destined to complete a wonderful double. Chaos ensued, but with three weeks to the match Yeovil could afford to take full advantage and they did. The league match with Worcester City drew a crowd of over 8,000, a more than healthy bonus as thousands turned up to buy tickets. Prices were hoiked up to 30s for the stand and 15s for terraces with free admission to the next game, but this did not go down well with many supporters, although the board argued with some conviction that the thousands which only came to Huish on the big occasions must suffer the cost whilst those regulars would not begrudge the club a chance to get out of debt anyway.

People queued all day for tickets, but in London there was apathy as half their allocation was sent back, as many Arsenal fans decided they did not wish to stand having been used to sitting down at Highbury.

Brian Grey's double gave Yeovil the points against Worcester City before Bath City were beaten on Boxing Day to keep up the pressure.

Disappointingly for Yeovil the ground limit was set at 14,000, whereas they were confident that Huish could hold 17,000 at least, but with receipts of £12,500 few were complaining. The match was postponed on the Saturday and played the following Wednesday afternoon and Arsenal took the field with Bob Wilson, Pat Rice, Bob McNab, Peter Simpson, Frank McLintock, Peter Storey, George Armstrong, Jon Sammels, John Radford, Ray Kennedy, George Graham and Eddie Kelly, who was twelfth man.

Yeovil held out for 36 minutes but Bertie Mee's men took control and three goals in six minutes sealed the tie. There was to be no Sunderland type miracle but it mattered little, for Yeovil had made a tidy sum, were still well to the fore in the league and were looking forward to their FA Trophy run which would begin a fortnight later. Arsenal had been more than impressed with the facilities at Huish and in a splendid gesture they pledged their support for the Glovers when they applied for membership of the Football League.

The team suffered a reaction when losing 3-0 to Barnet, but a week later against Midland Leaguers Grantham in the F A Trophy they came from behind to win 3-1, Bob Moffat and Grey netting. Yeovil were through to meet Weymouth in the Second Round, coming as it did in the middle of a run which brought them to within six points of Hereford United, with games in hand.

Hughes' all out attacking policy had certainly got the crowds back into Huish and the whole club was buzzing from the youths to the board itself, wondering if the double of league and Wembley could be within reach. Certainly the squad was good enough, but it would need luck to bring it off, and that was in short supply as the Weymouth game approached.

Yeovil made a desperate attempt to get the tie postponed, travelling to FAHQ armed with medical certificates showing half his squad were unfit. Myers had glandular fever, Ken Thompson tonsillitis and a knee injury, Bob Moffat and Paul Smith also had knocks as did Alan Herritty, with Brian Grey's skin rash completing the tale of woe. Sportingly the FA refused to postpone the tie leaving Yeovil to field eight fit men and a patched up Smith, Grey and Moffat. 5,000 saw them hold out for a well deserved 0-0 draw at Huish, completing an unlikely victory four days later with a Weller goal in extra time.

The league hopes took a knock with one point from the next two games, including a top table 0-0 draw at Romford but they were soon back on track, when visiting Wimbledon, who were also chasing the title. Back in the Trophy over 600 Yeovil fans travelled to Plough Lane on a special train along with some eighteen coaches and after Bob Moffat had given



*Arsenal's third goal by Ray Kennedy, also showing Yeovil players Paul Smith and goalkeeper Tony Clark.*





*Bob Wilson saves from Yeovil Town's centre-forward Brian Grey. Bob was just beginning to carve out a niche for himself in television at the time.*

them the lead, the Dons equalised on the hour to give Yeovil another money spinning match at Huish. This time over 5,000 cheered them to a wonderful victory, inspired by Chris Weller's hat-trick. The veteran striker had been axed from Huish when they could not afford his summer wages but he had returned in style and had edged his club nearer a visit to Wembley with his eleventh goal in eleven games. It put Yeovil into the last eight along with Stourbridge, Tamworth, Telford United, Buxton, Hillingdon Borough, Hereford United and Macclesfield Town. After again only obtaining one point from two league games Town entertained Stourbridge from the West Midland League, who were unbeaten in fourteen games. They were overwhelmed by a powerful Yeovil side where Weller and Moffat again scored the vital goals. The side were looking invincible with Clark ever present in goal, the evergreen Herritty and Harris alongside, Paul Smith with Bayliss, Hughes himself, Myers, Housley, Grey, Thompson and Clancy backed up by Bob Moffat. The end of March was a fabulous time for the club, as they clocked up four straight league wins to put themselves to the forefront of a title race, which any one of eight clubs could win. The top of the table clash with Hereford again brought in a huge crowd which saw Brian Grey's double clinch the points but the run came to an end at Bedford before the big semi-final with Telford United. The FA had once again incurred the wrath of the Football Club when they allocated the match to West Bromwich Albion's Hawthorns ground, a short coach ride from the Bucks Head. Chairman Norman Burfield protested, stating that Telford's supporters could virtually cycle to the match.

Yeovil had already beaten Telford twice in the league and although they had been beaten at Wembley the season before, they were rated the worst of the four, alongside

Hillingdon Borough and Hereford United. Over 4,000 Yeovil fans travelled north for the game, swelling the crowd to around 9,000, but what had been a dream season with the probability of a Wembley appearance, faded in what was a terrible performance. "I just cannot work out why we played so badly", were Mike Hughes words after the 3-1 defeat. Bob Moffat had equalised after half an hour but it went down hill from there and instead of Wembley the final match of the season would be a friendly with Charlton Athletic.

It was a stunning blow, as was the loss of Moffat immediately after the match, as he returned to play in America leaving the remainder of the squad to fight for the title. Having beaten Gloucester City 5-0 with Cliff Myers hat-trick, Hughes predicted that his side needed fifteen points from nine games to be champions. Easter brought four points from six, with a blemish at Poole Town which was righted a day later, and despite losing Chris Weller for the run in with a bad injury, the rest, boosted by the inclusion of Richard Reynolds loan from Plymouth Argyle, Hughes heroes duly completed a run of six straight wins in thirteen days to clinch the title in memorable and magnificent style. The 4-0 victory over Wembley bound Hillingdon Borough gave the shield to Yeovil, a side comprising of "failures who became champions", according to the press. The Professional Cup Final was lost to Bristol City three days later, but few cared, as they collected the Championship shield on the day of the final game, against Charlton Athletic.

Tony Clark was voted player of the year having played in all 67 matches, and Brian Grey was top scorer with 23, two more than Cliff Myers. Len Harris finished the season on 659 appearances, with Alan Herry on 463, Paul Smith on 242 and Ken Thompson on 229. They, along with the remaining staff, were all offered terms at the end of the season, the first



Mike Hughes, centre striped top, celebrates with the other Yeovil team players and Chairman Norman Burfield after winning the Southern League Championship



Above: Mike Hughes leads the celebrations after Yeovil win the Southern League championship.

time that the club had retained all of its staff. It was a fitting gesture to the small bunch of men who had collectively restored the pride in the club after the undignified wrestling which had gone before, and they, ably led by Mike Hughes had provided the backbone for the financial recovery which was then well under way. They had become champions of the Southern League, had reached the Third Round of the FA Cup, knocking out Bournemouth along the way, and had reached the semi-final of the FA Trophy as well as the final of the Somerset Professional Cup. It would take nothing short of a minor miracle to better that performance and few clubs over the years have achieved it.

**First Team Appearances 1970-71**

Clark 67, Clancey 67(2), Housley 64, Grey 60(1), Myers 60, Smith 57, Thompson 53(1), Hughes 46(1), Herrity 45(1), Bayliss 42(3), Harris 42, Dixon 34(1), Weller 32(6), McCluskey 25(4), Moffat 18(1), Plumb 11, Reynolds 5, Gilchrist, Tomkins 4, MacDonald 3, Kingsmill 1

**First Team Goalscorers 1970-71**

Grey 23, Myers 21, Weller 18, Clancy 14, Housley 9, Plumb 7, Thompson, Moffat 6, Dixon, Reynolds 4, McCluskey 2, Bayliss, Gilchrist, Harris, Hughes, McDonald, Smith, Tomkins, og 1



## Southern Premier League 1970-1971

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil Town	42	25	7	10	66	31	57
Cambridge City	42	22	11	9	67	38	55
Romford	42	23	9	10	63	42	55
Hereford United	42	23	8	11	71	53	54
Chelmsford City	42	20	11	11	61	32	51
Barnet	42	18	14	10	69	49	50
Bedford Town	42	20	10	12	62	46	50
Worcester City	42	20	8	14	61	46	48
Wimbledon	42	20	8	14	72	54	48
Weymouth	42	14	16	12	64	47	44
Dartford	42	15	12	15	53	51	42
Dover	42	16	9	17	64	63	41
Margate	42	15	10	17	64	70	40
Hillingdon Borough	42	17	6	19	61	68	40
Bath City	42	13	12	17	48	68	38
Nuneaton Borough	42	12	12	18	43	66	36
Telford United	42	13	8	21	64	70	34
Poole Town	42	14	6	22	57	75	34
King's Lynn	42	11	7	24	44	67	29
Ashford Town	42	8	13	21	52	86	29
Kettering Town	42	8	11	23	48	84	27
Gloucester City	42	6	10	26	34	81	22

## Season 1971-72 'Record Profits'

For once, during the close season there was little or nothing for the board or the supporters to fret about. The balance sheet for the old season reported a record profit of some £15,781, enabling them to completely clear their overdraft. Income from attendances was a staggering £38,848, more than double that of a year earlier and £7,000 came from Charlton Athletic with over £9,000 from the lottery. With a further £9,000 coming in from the Green and White and Social Club activities, the turn around was nothing short of remarkable. Buoyed with this sudden wealth, on July 7th Norman Burfield revealed that the club planned to buy the Huish Infant School building next door, using it for administration and for supporters club premises. At that time they did not know exactly when it would come up for tender, but if and when it did the club would definitely be interested. The meeting was also told that Mr Burfield intended to resign as chairman at the start of the season, but would remain as a director, paving the way possibly for Ivan Rendall to take over the chair. Weeks later at the AGM Mr Rendall was unanimously elected with Cyril Farthing as Vice-Chairman, but Tony Coles surprisingly lost his seat on the board creating another position alongside that which Albert Lukins vacated when he resigned after a spectacularly bombastic spell on the board.

Rendall's was a baptism of fire, as he was called to sort out a row involving some of the players who were angry that their efforts of the previous season had not been recognised by some form of bonus, bearing in mind the flood of funds which had been generated by them.

Eventually the club agreed upon an incentive scheme to get to Wembley, but there was some discontent as the campaign got under way with friendlies against Newport County, Bridport, Torquay United and Bridgwater Town. Hughes had signed 25 year old Terry Cotton, inevitably from Swansea, who had joined the Vetch Field club from Ammanford, as an amateur where he had gained Welsh International recognition as a centre-forward. Joining him was Ken Wookey, a 24 year old who began at Newport

## Season 1971-1972

Aug	14th	Romford	H	Southern Premier	0-0	
	18th	Telford United	H	Champion match	2-1	Cotton 2
	21st	Dover	A	Southern Premier	0-3	
	25th	Poole Town	H	" "	1-1	Cotton
	28th	Hillingdon Borough	H	" "	1-0	Thompson
Sept	1st	Hereford United	A	" "	0-2	
	4th	Nuneaton Borough	A	" "	1-1	Cotton
	8th	Hereford United	H	" "	3-1	Cotton, Weller, Thompson
	11th	Dartford	H	" "	4-1	Cotton 2, Weller 2
	13th	Hillingdon Borough	A	" "	1-2	Weller
	18th	Margate	A	" "	4-1	Cotton, Weller, Clancy, Bayliss
	22nd	Weymouth	H	Western Counties Floodlit Cup Final 1972 1st Leg	0-0	
	25th	Bedford Town	H	Southern Premier	0-1	
Oct	2nd	Romford	A	" "	1-1	Cotton
	7th	Weymouth	A	Western Counties Floodlit Cup Final 1972 2nd Leg	2-0	Housley, Myers
	9th	Barnet	H	Southern Premier	2-3	Cotton, Weller
	12th	Merthyr Tydfil	A	South LC 1 1st L	2-2	Weller 2
	16th	Telford United	A	Southern Premier	0-2	
	20th	Merthyr Tydfil	H	South LC 1 2nd L	0-1	
	30th	Gravesend & N	A	Southern Premier	1-1	Weller
Nov	6th	Bridgwater Town	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	0-2	
	13th	Cambridge City	A	Southern Premier	2-2	Thompson, Grey
	20th	Worcester City	A	" "	2-3	Thompson, Weller
	22nd	Salisbury City	A	West Co Floodlit	3-1	Cotton 2, Clancy
	27th	Weymouth	H	Southern Premier	3-1	Grey 3
Dec	8th	Weymouth	H	West Co Floodlit Aban 57 mins	3-1	Weller 2, Cotton
	11th	Chelmsford City	H	Southern Premier	1-2	og
	18th	Telford United	H	" "	2-1	Weller 2
	27th	Bath City	A	" "	0-0	
Jan	1st	Bath City	H	" "	4-2	Weller, Thompson, Housley, Cotton
	5th	Weymouth	A	West Co Floodlit	1-2	Myers
	8th	Bedford Town	A	Southern Premier	1-2	Jones
	15th	Nuneaton Borough	H	" "	2-0	Cotton 2
	22nd	Wimbledon	A	FA Trop 1st Rd	5-1	Cotton 2, Myers 2, Thompson
	26th	Weymouth	A	West Co. Floodlit Cup Semi-final	1-0	Wookey
	29th	Dover	H	Southern Premier	1-0	Cotton
Feb	2nd	Salisbury City	H	West Co Floodlit	7-0	Wookey 3, Grey 3, Myers
	5th	Barnet	A	Southern Premier	0-0	
	9th	Guildford City	H	" "	4-1	Cotton 2, Smith, Housley
	12th	Hastings Town	H	FA Trop 2nd Rd	4-1	Weller 3, Clancy
	19th	Gravesend & N	H	Southern Premier	5-0	Cotton 3, Weller 2
	22nd	AFC Bournemouth	H	West Co Floodlit	0-0	
	26th	Chelmsford City	A	FA Trop 3rd Rd	3-2	Weller, Cotton, Clancy
March	1st	Bath City	H	Som Prem Cup 1	2-0	Grey, Wookey
	4th	Cambridge City	H	Southern Premier	2-2	Myers, Thompson
	11th	Grantham Town	A	FA Trop 4th Rd	1-0	Myers pen
	15th	Andover	H	West Co Floodlit	7-2	Clancy 2, Wookey 2, Housley
	18th	Weymouth	A	Southern Premier	0-3	
	20th	Bristol City	A	Som Prem Cup 2	0-2	
	25th	Stafford Rangers		FA Trophy semi-final (at Oxford United FC)	0-4	

## Season 1971-1972 – continued

Mar	27th	Basingstoke Town	H	West Co Floodlit	1-0	Housley
April	1st	Chelmsford City	A	Southern Premier	1-3	Weller
	3rd	Merthyr Tydfil	A	" "	2-1	Weller, Wookey
	4th	Merthyr Tydfil	H	Southern Premier	1-0	Housley
	8th	Dartford	A	" "	0-1	
	10th	Weymouth	H	West Co Floodlit	1-0	Grey
	15th	Wimbledon	H	Southern Premier	1-1	Weller
	18th	Poole Town	A	" "	2-0	Cotton, Thompson
	20th	Basingstoke Town	A	West Co Floodlit	2-1	Cotton, Weller
	22nd	Wimbledon	A	Southern Premier	0-2	
	24th	Worcester City	H	" "	4-0	Weller 2, Cotton, Myers
	26th	Folkestone Town	H	" "	2-1	Weller, Cotton
	29th	Folkestone Town	A	" "	2-0	Cotton, Bayliss
May	1st	Guildford City	A	" "	2-2	Thompson, Bayliss
	3rd	Margate	H	" "	2-1	Bayliss 2
	8th	AFC Bournemouth	H	WC Floodlight Cup Final	2-1	Myers, Wookey

County where he stayed for five years before moving to Port Vale and then Workington. His signing brought the list of professionals to sixteen and it was with those that Mike Hughes commenced, the term beginning in stuttering fashion with a goalless draw at home to Romford. Four days later Yeovil landed the Southern League championship Cup when beating Telford United, but defeats at Hereford and Dover and poor draws with Nuneaton Borough and Poole Town had the critics carping, despite the good crowds.

Almost unnoticed during the previous season, Yeovil had won through to the final of the Floodlit Cup and the two-leg match against Weymouth was reasonably well attended, goals from Myers and Housley clinching the trophy at the Recreation Ground. Unfortunately John Clancy was injured during the game which disjointed a forward line which had just began to drop into place. Terry Cotton had netted eight times before the end of September but was the target of some barbed comments, but in truth no one else was finding the net, as virtually the same side which performed so heroically, was struggling.

On October 14th Hughes captured the signing of Barrie Jones, yet another Swansea man who had enjoyed a fine career which started with well over 100 appearances for the Swans before they received £45,000 for him from Plymouth Argyle. The winger played another hundred matches before moving to Cardiff City where he was ever-present in the midfield until breaking a bone in his leg in 1969. He suffered another hairline fracture a year later and was eventually released with over 370 League appearances and fifteen Welsh caps to his name.

Jones came into a side urgently in need of perking up, with defeats by Barnet, Telford and Merthyr and luke warm draws with bottom club Gravesend and Northfleet, Romford and Merthyr again, they had gone seven league and League Cup matches without a win and the pressure was on. The FA Cup tie at Bridgwater came at the worst possible moment, reversing the trend of good fortune which Hughes enjoyed a year earlier. 3,000 crammed into Castle Fields for the Fourth Qualifying Round tie. Bridgy had been enduring a nightmare and had only gained their first Western League points of the season a week earlier, but goals from Alan Hurford and Colin Skirton and a fine display from ex-Glover Ken Jones sunk a poor Yeovil.

The ramifications financially were unthinkable, as so much work had gone into rescuing the ailing club through the previous season, the one result could have had the effect of reversing it all, but happily it did not. A bleak November

gave way to a much brighter second half to the season, helped by a number of postponements in December. Three points were taken from Bath City over Christmas and a Terry Cotton double against Nuneaton Borough gave everyone a boost, much needed as the gates had once again begun to tumble. What was required was a fine Trophy run, going one step further than last season, to make up for the lack of FA Cup excitement. It began at the most unlikely source of Wimbledon, where Cliff Myers and Cotton inspired Yeovil to a stunning 5-1 victory, a large contingent of travelling supporters roaring the side on. The good run gathered speed with big wins over Salisbury and Guildford City. A dispirited and understrength Hastings United were no match for Yeovil in the next round of the Trophy, where Chris Weller's hat-trick ensured an easy victory, but the game was marred by a row between skipper Cliff Myers and manager Mike Hughes. Myers' V signs to the bench lost him the captaincy, brought a seven day suspension and a £20 fine from the club, but he was not missed as Gravesend were crushed by Cotton and Weller who made it thirteen goals in three games.

The fuel crisis in Britain at that time had meant mid-week matches were kicking off in the afternoon, but few of Yeovil's games were affected, and certainly not the third round Trophy tie at Chelmsford City. Hughes described the draw as "the worst possible" with some justification. City were clear at the top of the league having taken 24 out of 26 home points, losing only to Romford six months earlier, and were top scorers in the league. Over 5,000 crammed into New Writtle Street, but it was Yeovil who played magnificently, goals from Chris Weller and Terry Cotton turning round an early goal. City levelled again before John Clancy clinched a memorable win with a 20 yard drive three minutes from the end.

Cliff Myers' strange season saw him once again as the hero in the next round, against Grantham, leaders of the Midland League and beaten once in 28 games. The match was rightly billed as the champions of the Midland League versus those of the Southern League for a place in the semi-final, and all local football around the Lincolnshire town was called off enabling over 4000 to watch, four times the average for Grantham. Cliff Myers won the game for Town with a penalty but Ron Bayliss was later sent off leaving the ten men to hang on grimly for half an hour.

A train load of supporters from Somerset reached ten minutes after the kick off and were some two hours late in returning home, happy with the result but tired after the interminable delays. British Rail's part of 50p of the £2.50 of the fare was a token gesture.

By then Town's involvement in league matters was negligible, but the Trophy run had taken them to the semi-final for the second year running, and the players were close to the bonus which had been promised them. The match finally arrived on March 25th 1972, played at Oxford United's Manor Ground against Stafford Rangers, favourites for the Northern Premier League. 6,566 turned up for what was Alan Herrity's 499th appearance for Yeovil. Once again the side froze on the day and within five minutes they had collapsed, losing 4-0 to Rangers who went on to win the final, beating Barnet at Wembley. Bryan Moore was quoted as saying "I feel I will soon wake up from my worst nightmare", echoing the thoughts of thousands of Yeovilians who had seen their side come so close for the second year. For loyal and long serving Len Harris it was the last chance, for shortly afterwards he was released after fourteen years service at Huish. His 691 first team appearances and 26 goals for the club were recognised with a Benefit game at the end of the season against Portsmouth, with fellow veteran Alan Herrity, who

had reached 512 appearances, also being the recipient of an award, voted Player of the Year and receiving an additional silver salver for his 500th game. All the end of season festivities happened after another dispute which rose out of the retained list. The fine run in with four league wins and victory over AFC Bournemouth in the Floodlit Cup Final did little to appease a section of the crowd who were incensed that Ron Bayliss had been given his cards. Demonstrations of anger and petitions showed the depth of feeling for Bayliss, but Hughes was adamant that he was to go, and go he did, but not before scoring four times in three games at the end. Fittingly Len Harris's final game, the Floodlit Cup Final, ended in success, as the curtain came down on a curious campaign.

It began with euphoria before a rot set in, improved due to the Trophy and ended in controversy once again, with Torquay United hanging around like vultures, eager for the services of Mike Hughes and Stuart Housley. It was a foregone conclusion that after the spectacular 1970-71 season gates would go down, and a 25% drop was the eventual amount, but it was not the end of Yeovil's purple patch, although it was the end for Hughes, temporarily at least, for he was released from his contract to join Torquay as coach.

Brian Grey and Ron Bayliss joined Folkestone Town, with Len Harris moving down to Ilminster Town as a professional. Some said that things could never be the same again, but a certain balding 30 year old Geordie would have something to say about that.

#### Southern Premier League 1971-1972

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelmsford City	42	28	6	8	109	47	62
Hereford United	42	24	12	6	68	30	60
Dover	42	20	11	11	67	45	51
Barnet	42	21	7	14	80	57	49
Dartford	42	20	8	14	75	68	48
Weymouth	42	21	5	16	69	43	47
Yeovil Town	42	18	11	13	67	51	47
Hillingdon Borough	42	20	6	16	64	58	46
Margate	42	19	8	15	74	68	46
Wimbledon	42	19	7	16	75	64	45
Romford	42	16	13	13	54	49	45
Guildford City	42	20	5	17	71	65	45
Telford United	42	18	7	17	83	68	43
Nuneaton Borough	42	16	10	16	46	47	42
Bedford Town	42	16	9	17	59	66	41
Worcester City	42	17	7	18	46	57	41
Cambridge City	42	12	14	16	68	71	38
Folkestone Town	42	14	7	21	58	64	35
Poole Town	42	9	11	22	41	72	29
Bath City	42	11	4	27	45	86	26
Merthyr Tydfil	42	7	8	27	29	93	22
Gravesend & N	42	5	6	31	30	110	16

#### First Team Appearances 1971-72

Clark 65, Housley 61(1), Smith 59, Myers 58, Thompson 56, Cotton 53(7), Bayliss 52, Herrity 49, Clancy 43(1), Weller 42(1), Hughes 38, B Jones 33, Harris 32(2), Grey 30(4), Wookey 25(7), Dixon 14, McCluskey 5(1)

#### First Team Scorers 1971-72

Cotton 29, Weller 26, Grey 10, Myers, Wookey, Thompson 9, Clancy, Bayliss, Housley 6, Jones, Smith, og 1

## '1972 Summer Cup comes and goes'. Welcome Cecil Irwin

During June 1972 the Football League announced that they were considering a new competition to be sponsored by the Pools Promoter's Association in 1973. The Summer Cup would run during May and June and would include clubs from Divisions Two, Three and Four as well as the Scottish Division Two and members from the Northern and Southern Premier Leagues, including Yeovil. The 32 groups of four would play during May with a knock-out stage in June. Bryan Moore commented..." we don't know much about it at this stage but it sounds attractive although it will extend the season with players' contracts going into mid-June..."

The Southern League itself extended the Southern Division to twenty two clubs at that time, but that did not overly concern Yeovil Town who had offered their top job to Mike Keen of Luton Town, who declined their offer. Eventually a short list was drawn up with Bill and Alan Williams and Dickie Rooks amongst the candidates, but the job went to Cecil Irwin on June 17th 1972. A one-club man with Sunderland, Irwin played 312 League matches for the Roker Park club, starting as a fifteen year old, all of which were in the top two divisions. Having been released he spent a while coaching at Bishop Auckland before landing the Huish position. The board had already signed John Brown, a 26 year old from Poole Town who had scored goals for Leicester City, Mansfield Town and Burton Albion. A year earlier Poole had rejected Yeovil's bid for Brown, wanting £2,000 but he signed just prior to Irwin's arrival, leaving him one less job to do.

The shareholders' meeting was unusual in that there appeared to be few worries that the club had made a loss of over £5,000, as with a balance of £34,000 and houses alone worth £40,000, suddenly the club had become relatively prosperous. In what was one of the shortest ever meetings the suggestion was made that a reserve side be reformed, playing only in the Somerset Senior League, but new chairman Ivan Rendall, taking over from the retiring Norman Burfield, wisely stated that finance would be a factor, possibly remembering the resentment felt by some pros when made to play in the Dorset Combination a few years earlier. Irwin's squad lost Barrie Jones who moved to Worcester City but gained John Piekalnetis, a 21 year old defender from Southend United, and Andy Harris, a young midfielder released by Manchester United, who came on trial. Alan Herrity would miss the start of the season with injury, but the pre-season friendlies gave Irwin a chance to look at one or two alternatives, one being Dave Spencer from Hull City and another Terry Bertram, a Cumbrian based player. Wins over Exeter City, Minehead and Westland Sports preceeded the kick-off, away games at Romford and Poole Town bringing one point and no goals. The first home game, against Burton Albion saw John Brown become an instant hero with a hat-trick against his old side, and it heralded the start of a remarkable run. With Chris Weller also amongst the goals Yeovil embarked on a run of fifteen matches unbeaten. Poole were beaten in the League Cup and Basil Hayward's Telford United went down to a Brown goal. The defence under Irwin conceded just two goals in nine matches, one of which was a bad-tempered affair with Weymouth in front of 4,000 fans, which saw the Glovers go top of the table and Chris Weller move to third in Yeovil's all time goal scoring list. The defence had been bolstered by an unlikely source, in Terry Cotton, who despite being top scorer the season before had taken some criticism, but his conversion to centre-half was a great success. Irwin's side were conceding few, but were not scoring many and a succession of draws during September

## Season 1972-1973

2Aug	12th	Romford	A	Southern Premier	0-1	
	14th	Poole Town	A	" "	0-0	
	19th	Burton Albion	H	" "	4-1	Brown 3, Weller
	21st	Poole Town	A	South LC 1 1 Leg	0-0	
	26th	Guildford City	A	Southern Premier	2-2	Brown, Weller
	30th	Poole Town	H	South LC 1 2 Leg	4-0	Weller 2, Myers, og
Sept	2nd	Telford United	H	Southern Premier	1-0	Brown
	6th	Poole Town	H	" "	4-0	Brown, Weller, Thompson 2
	9th	Barnet	A	" "	0-0	
	13th	Weymouth	H	" "	1-0	Weller
	20th	Weymouth	A	" "	1-1	Thompson
	23rd	Ramsgate	A	" "	1-1	Brown
	25th	Salisbury	A	West Co Fl Lge	0-0	
	30th	Nuneaton Borough	H	Southern Premier	0-0	
Oct	2nd	AFC Bournemouth	H	West Co Fl Lge	2-2	Myers, og
	7th	Romford	H	Southern Premier	6-0	Weller 3, Brown, Clancy, Irwin
	9th	Bath City	A	South LC 2nd Rd	1-3	Clancy
	14th	Cambridge City	A	Southern Premier	2-1	Brown 2
	17th	Torquay United	H	Friendly	2-1	Cotton 2
	21st	Hillingdon Borough	H	Southern Premier	1-0	Weller
	28th	Chelmsford City	A	" "	2-0	Weller, Brown
Nov	4th	Taunton Town	H	FA Cup 4th Qual	4-1	Weller, Brown, Myers Bertram
	11th	Worcester City	H	Southern Premier	2-1	Thompson, Bertram
	18th	Brentford	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	2-1	Weller, Myers
	25th	Margate	H	Southern Premier	3-1	Thompson 2, Housley
	29th	Dover	H	" "	0-1	
Dec	2nd	Rugby Town	H	FA Trophy 1	2-3	Brown, Weller
	9th	Plymouth Argyle	H	FA Cup 2nd Rd	0-2	
	13th	Cambridge City	H	Southern Premier	5-1	Brown 3, Housley 2
	16th	Wimbledon	A	" "	2-0	Thompson, Clancy
	23rd	Nuneaton Borough	A	" "	1-1	Brown
	26th	Waterlooville	H	" "	2-0	Housley, Myers
	30th	Burton Albion	A	" "	1-0	Clancy
Jan	3rd	Kettering Town	H	" "	1-1	Weller
	6th	Ramsgate	H	" "	2-2	Housley, Myers
	10th	Trowbridge Town	H	West Co Fl Cup	2-0	Brown, Wright
	17th	Trowbridge Town	A	West Co Fl Lge	4-0	Brown, Wright, Cotton, Housley
	20th	Telford United	A	Southern Premier	0-0	ABAN 62 mins
	24th	Salisbury	H	" "	4-0	Myers 2, Wright, Housley
	27th	Barnet	H	" "	2-1	2 ogs
	31st	Weymouth	A	West Co Fl Lge	1-2	Brown
Feb	3rd	Hillingdon Borough	A	Southern Premier	1-4	Wright
	6th	Dartford	A	" "	1-1	Brown
	10th	Dover	A	" "	2-0	Myers, og
	14th	Welton Rovers	H	Som Pro Cup 1	4-0	Myers 3, Housley
	17th	Worcester City	A	Southern Premier	0-2	
	20th	AFC Bournemouth	A	West Co Fl Cup	1-2	Myers
	24th	Bedford Town	H	Southern Premier	1-2	Clancy
	27th	AFC Bournemouth	A	West Co Fl Lge	2-0	Housley, Weller
Mar	3rd	Bedford Town	A	Southern Premier	2-1	Brown, Myers
	7th	Weymouth	H	West Co Fl Lge	2-1	Thompson, Cotton
	14th	Trowbridge Town	H	Southern Premier	2-2	Weller 2
	17th	Kettering Town	A	" "	0-1	
	19th	Minehead	H	Som Pro Cup 2	5-1	Trebilcock 3, Spencer, Brown
	24th	Chelmsford City	H	Southern Premier	1-2	Brown
	28th	Folkestone Town	H	" "	6-0	Clancy 2, Trebilcock 2, Brown, Housley
	31st	Margate	A	" "	0-0	
April	3rd	Glastonbury	H	Somerset Profl Cup Semi-final	0-0	

## Season 1972-1973 –continued

	7th	Wimbledon	H	Southern Premier	2-0	Trebilcock, Thompson
	11th	Glastonbury	A	Somerset Profl Cup SF Replay (aet)	4-2	Myers 2, Housley, Leigh
	14th	Folkestone Town	A	Southern Premier	0-0	
	18th	Telford United	A	" "	1-1	Bertram
	21st	Dartford	H	" "	1-0	Brierley
	23rd	Waterlooville	A	" "	1-1	Housley
	24th	Guildford City	H	" "	2-0	Brierley, Bertram
	27th	Bridgwater Town	A	Somerset Prof Cup Final 1st Leg	0-0	
May	1st	Bridgwater Town	H	Som Pro Cup Final 2nd Leg	3-0	Myers, COtton, Leigh
	4th	Fulham	H	Testimonial	2-1	Brown, Bertram
	10th	Wolverhampton W	H	" "	3-2	Harman 2, Housley
	14th	Ipswich Town	H	" "	2-4	Clancy, Myers
	23rd	Hereford United	H	" "	0-5	

gave cause for a little concern, as did the lack of goals from the likes of Stuart Housley, Chris Weller, John Brown and John Clancy'. Ken Thompson enjoyed the 6-0 thrashing of Romford which broke the deadlock, as it was his 300th game but, two days later Bath City knocked Yeovil out of the League Cup, thus spoiling their unbeaten run. By then the squad was beginning to be stretched by injuries, but the Bath game was a mild hiccup as it started another run of eight straight wins, including a fierce local derby with Taunton Town in the FA Cup. Violence inside and outside the ground involving hooligans not connected to either club, five goals, six bookings and a crowd of 5,000 added up to an afternoon high on adrenaline. Taunton were also on a run of seventeen games unbeaten but early goals steadied Yeovil nerves and a place in the First Round against Brentford was assured.

With Town top of the league and through to the money spinning rounds of the Cup all was once again rosy at Huish and Irwin's side completely outplayed the Bees, where close on 10,000 saw a one sided match won in the end by ex-Bees player Cliff Myers. The national press were once again in raptures over Yeovil Town and many predicted a similar result in the next round when Plymouth were to visit. Due to a freak in the way the fixtures dropped into place, Yeovil played no less than eight home matches on the trot, but amongst them were defeats. Dover won in the league at Huish before Rugby Town inflicted a shock FA Trophy defeat. It was the worst possible preparation for the Plymouth Argyle tie, and it showed as the division's bottom club won with two second half goals to disappoint the majority of the 10,557 crowd.

With League Cup, FA Cup and Trophy no longer on offer, Irwin's side dug deep and were inspired to embark on another lengthy run of eleven matches into January. It came with the board having had discussions on the possibility of either relocating and cashing in on their new found freedom, or spending heavily on rectifying the slope, in preparation for what was looking increasingly like a full blown shot at League membership. Certainly it was believed that there would be little problem in gaining planning permission for housing on the site and directors were actively scanning the town for a possible new home, some eighteen years before the move was actually made out of Huish.

An estimate of £17,000 was received to level the pitch and then a bid of £260,000 was to hand to sell Huish.

Cec Irwin was hospitalised after a knee op over Christmas, with Maurice O'Donnell taking over but Cliff Myers had more to celebrate as he added his name to the celebrated few who had played 300 times for the club. The away form was



Yeovil Town players before the game against Kettering Town (March 17th 1973), with them spelling out their intentions of being elected to the Football League.

backing up the home form in the new year and when the unbeaten run stretched to ten matches it beat the best since the Second War. A 2-2 draw with Ramsgate put Yeovil top of the league again in January but the Floodlit League and Cup matches were beginning to intrude and the club considered joining the Border Counties Floodlit League for the following season, which would give better opposition and some fresh challenges. In the Southern League five teams were in the running for the title behind Yeovil, for whom Ben Embury, Barnet captain managed to score two own goals which put them two points clear. Kettering were fifth with games in hand but unhappily February proved to be a disaster with just one win in four away games as the previously fine travelling form deserted them. Further losses to Bedford, AFC Bournemouth and Worcester City took the remaining wind out of Irwin's sails and Alan Impey was introduced to try to balance things up. Chris Weller finally notched his 100th goal for the club after a wait of two months at the end of February, but by then Weymouth had gone top and Yeovil were slipping. Irwin had signed a number of players on loan during the winter, including 28 year old Tony Cottle from Bristol City, a full back and Alan Impey from Bristol Rovers but in March he linked up with Mike Trebilcock, the hero of Everton's FA Cup win in 1966. Still only 27, he had subsequently played for Portsmouth and Torquay United, from whom he signed on loan, playing six games and scoring six goals.

Irwin's team juggling did the trick as results improved again and with the other sides all failing to pull away, there was still a chance that the team could pull it off. Trebilcock notched a hat-trick in his debut match with Minehead but in the next game the Glovers lost to a controversial goal with keeper Tony Clark lying flat out in the area. He recovered to complete his 200th consecutive game against Glastonbury, but the side lost the knack of scoring goals at the worst possible time, for having scored six against struggling Folkestone, they then drew three of their last five league games. It was all that Kettering needed, for they beat Barnet in their last match, whilst Yeovil beat Guildford to take runners up, just one point behind. Incredibly the two had won less than half their games between them, drawing no less than thirty one times, but it was just enough to fight off Dover, Chelmsford City and Worcester City.

Irwin's retained list sadly did not include Alan Herry, who after 523 matches bade farewell. It was also goodbye to Chris Weller after 218 games and 102 goals, with Dave Spencer and John Piekalnietis moving on. Herry and Weller, along with Paul Smith and Ken Thompson were all due benefits at the end of the season, and after the Somerset Professional Cup was won in a two leg match with Bridgwater Town, four matches against Fulham, Wolves, Ipswich Town and Hereford United made the quartet around £1,100 each.

Weller moved on to Salisbury soon after along with Piekalnietis as Yeovil Town Football Club took in what had been an unusual topsy-turvy season.

#### Southern Premier League 1972-1973

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kettering Town	42	20	17	5	74	44	57
Yeovil Town	42	21	14	7	67	31	56
Dover	42	23	9	10	60	38	55
Chelmsford City	42	23	7	12	75	43	53
Worcester City	42	20	13	9	68	47	53
Weymouth	42	20	12	10	72	51	52
Margate	42	17	15	10	80	60	49
Bedford Town	42	16	15	11	43	36	47
Nuneaton Borough	42	16	14	12	51	41	46
Telford United	42	12	20	11	67	58	44
Cambridge City	42	14	15	13	64	53	43
Wimbledon	42	14	14	14	50	50	42
Barnet	42	15	11	16	60	59	41
Romford	42	17	5	20	51	65	39
Hillingdon Borough	42	16	6	20	52	58	38
Dartford	42	12	11	19	49	63	35
Folkestone Town	42	11	11	20	41	72	33
Guildford City	42	10	11	21	59	84	31
Ramsgate	42	9	13	20	35	61	31
Poole Town	42	10	10	22	50	88	30
Burton Albion	42	9	7	26	43	81	25

Towards the end in a huge publicity campaign launched at the Grand Hotel in Bristol, the directors announced plans for a complete revamp of the club and its ground. Huish was to be turned into a super-stadium, capable of holding 30,000, and complete with a flat pitch, the slope to be done away with after fifty years. Journalists from forty newspapers heard that the club was to spend some £2,500 in its bid for League status, some of which would be going on Bristol journo Dave Solomons, who would spearhead the campaign. A full colour brochure was produced and sent to all 92 League clubs, including messages from the likes of Bertie Mee and Bob Lord and during the season the directors travelled all over the country lobbying for votes.

At home the slope would be done away with by slicing off the top half and re-laying it on the bottom, but it would also entail work on the terracing behind both goals, all of which would be carried out within two to three years. Spare land at the Queen Street end would be available, should the proposed ring road go ahead, and two new stands would be built. It all added up to the most dramatic development that the club had been involved in since the move to Huish.

With Alan Herry's departure, a year after that of Len Harris, the last of the old guard had bade farewell to Huish, and it was fitting that it should coincide with the launch of what was seen as a whole new beginning for Yeovil Town Football Club. It was now up to those who had promised them their vote, to see whether the plans would sink or swim.

#### First Team Appearances 1972-73

Clark 65, Housley, Smith 63, Myers 60(1), Brown 60, Clancy 57, Cotton 56(2), Thompson 55, Bertram 53(1), Weller 42(3), Spencer 29(3), Irwin 25(1), Cottle 16(1), Piekalnietis 14(7), Herry 11(3), Dixon 10, Wright 7, Trebilcock 6(1), Jones 5(1), Brierley 5, Impey 4, Leigh 3(1), Harris, Jenkins 3,

#### First Team Goalscorers 1972-73

Brown 25, Weller 18, Myers 17, Housley 12, Thompson 9, Clancy 7, Trebilcock 6, og 5, Wright, Bertram 4, Cotton 3, Brierley, Leigh 2, Spencer, Irwin 1



## So near and yet so far....

The campaign had been a success around the country, but, as so often is the case, promises came to nothing in too many quarters. Yeovil Town collected fourteen votes, with thirteen broken promises, a total of twenty seven, which would have beaten Darlington, who gained twenty six. It was more than any other non-League club, but Colchester United, Northampton Town, Crewe Alexandra and Darlington were re-elected. They were sufficiently encouraged to launch another campaign, hopefully on the back an FA Cup run.

Also during June the club made it clear just what the facts were concerning the levelling of the pitch at Huish.

Chairman Ivan Rendall said that the club would not consider going back into another overdraft situation and would only have the work done when the money was there. Somewhat optimistically he asked for average gates of 5,500 which would impress prospective voters as well as go a long way to financing the work at Huish. There were other factors, including the relief road which had still to be ratified, but all at the club were behind the plans. Irwin's plans would have to be without Cliff Myers, who joined Torquay United in June 29th for £6,600. In six years since Ron Saunders captured him for pennies, Myers made 328 appearances and scored 84 goals, and for this he would be given a benefit as part of the deal.

Irwin began his restocking with Brian Usher, an experienced ex-Sunderland and Sheffield Wednesday winger, capped at England Under 23 level along with Dave Verity, a midfielder from Halifax Town. Cyril Davies also made a return on loan from Charlton Athletic where he had suffered injuries and he would vie with Steve Briggs, another striker from Doncaster who began at Leeds United.

A few weeks later Irwin's building continued with young centre-half Mike Harrison who had been at Southend United. Despite his diligence Irwin did not enjoy much luck during the summer, as Usher soon returned north and Davies went back to Charlton after one friendly as the knee broke down again. Usher was replaced by Clive Slattery, a 26 year old winger on a free from Hereford United.

The friendlies included two matches against Wigan Athletic and one at home to Minehead, a game in which Ken Thompson was booed when he came on as a late substitute. The incident upset him sufficiently for him to ask for a transfer, but by September he had gained their respect to the extent that he came off the list, and indeed ended the term in triumph, in stark contrast.

With so much uncertainty it was not surprising that the team began with a stutter, the marked shortage of goals bringing only two wins in the first nine games. They were out of the League Cup at the first attempt and after losing at home to bottom club Hillingdon Borough the knives came out, with some suggesting that money should be saved by scrapping the League election bid to improve a ragged side. Although there were few wins, there weren't too many losses either and going into the FA Cup tie with Weymouth, Yeovil were seventh in the league, although crowds were dropping.

Tommy Walker had become the latest acquisition in September, from Burnley, where he had been on trial and it was he in one of his nine matches for the club, who scored in the first game in front of nearly 6,000, only for Mike Trebilcock to equalise. Sadly once again there was trouble on the terraces with a number arrested, and with the match ending all square, the replay at Weymouth was just as tight, again ending all square after two hours. Weymouth won the toss for the third game, with no neutral ground available and neither side wanting to play at Poole Town. It was an injury to keeper Tony Clark when he clashed with Alan Skirton that finally swung

Season 1973-1974							
Aug	11th	Dartford	A	Southern Premier	1-1	Briggs	
	14th	Barnet	A	" "	2-1	Clancy 2	
	18th	Telford United	H	" "	0-0		
	22nd	Poole Town	H	South LC 1 1 Leg	0-3		
	25th	Kettering Town	A	Southern Premier	1-2	Brown	
	27th	Poole Town	A	South LC 1 2 Leg	1-0	Slattery	
	Sept	1st	Folkestone Town	H	Southern Premier	1-1	Slattery
		5th	Hillingdon Borough	H	" "	0-1	
	8th	Bedford Town	A	" "	1-1	Bertram	
	15th	Barnet	H	" "	3-0	Cotton 2, Walker	
	19th	Guildford City	H	" "	2-0	Clancy, Brown	
	22nd	Grantham	A	" "	0-1		
	29th	Kettering Town	H	" "	1-1	Brown	
	Oct	6th	Grantham	H	" "r	1-1	Cotton
		10th	Salisbury	H	West Co Fl Lge	3-0	Briggs 2, Clancy
	13th	Hillingdon Borough	A	Southern Premier	2-2	Briggs, Walker	
	20th	Romford	A	" "	1-0	Walker	
	24th	Poole Town	H	West Co Fl Cup 1	1-0	Brown	
	27th	Cambridge City	H	Southern Premier	1-1	Briggs	
	Nov	3rd	Weymouth	H	FA Cup 4th Qual	1-1	Walker
		7th	Weymouth	A	Replay AET	2-2	Slattery, Bertram
10th		Dover	H	Southern Premier	3-1	Clancy 2, Verity	
12th		Weymouth	A	FAC 4th Q 2 Rep	0-1		
	17th	Chelmsford City	A	Southern Premier	2-3	Clancy, Irwin	
	24th	Margate	H	" "	1-0	Brown	
	Dec	1st	Dover	A	" "	1-2	Clancy
		8th	Nuneaton Borough	H	" "	2-2	Brown, Pickett
	15th	Wimbledon	H	" "	1-1	Cottle	
	22nd	Atherstone Town	A	" "	1-1	Watson	
	26th	Weymouth	H	" "	0-0		
	29th	Westland United	H	Som Pro Cup 1	4-0	Watson, Verity, Clancy, Cotton	
	Jan	5th	Tonbridge AFC	A	Southern Premier	1-2	Brown
12th		Guildford City	A	FA Trophy 1	1-2	Clancy	
19th		Bedford Town	H	Southern Premier	1-0	Pickett	
26th		Tonbridge AFC	H	" "	1-0	Pickett	
Feb	2nd	Wimbledon	A	" "	0-1		
	10th	Atherstone Town	H	" "	1-0	Housley	
	16th	Folkestone Town	A	" "	0-0		
Mar	23rd	Telford United	A	" "	0-0		
	2nd	Worcester City	H	" "	1-1	Pickett	
	9th	Cambridge City	A	" "	1-0	og	
	16th	Romford	H	" "	3-1	Thompson, Verity, Briggs	
	23rd	Guildford City	A	" "	1-1	Housley	
Apr	30th	Maidstone United	H	" "	1-0	Plumb	
	2nd	Bridgwater Town	A	Somerset Professional Cup Semi-final	0-4		
	6th	Margate	A	Southern Premier	1-1	Verity	
	8th	AFC Bournemouth	H	West Counties Floodlit Cup Semi-final	5-0	Thompson 2, Slattery 2, Briggs	
	13th	Chelmsford City	H	Southern Premier	1-1	Cotton	
	15th	Weymouth	A	" "	1-0	Verity	
	17th	Exeter City	H	Friendly	1-0	Plumb	
	20th	Nuneaton Borough	A	Southern Premier	0-3		
	22nd	Torquay United	H	Friendly	1-2	Cotton	
	26th	Maidstone United	A	Southern Premier	2-4	Plumb, Clancy	
May	1st	Worcester City	A	" "	0-0		
	3rd	Sunderland	H	Friendly	2-0	Verity, Briggs	
	5th	Dartford	H	Southern Premier	1-1	Plumb	
	9th	Hereford United	H	Friendly	9-0	Brown K 2	

the game as the Terras scored past Paul Smith who had taken over. The three games brought in a total of over 14,000 spectators, but it saw the end of Clark's consecutive run of 232 matches which begun in March 1970.

There would be no more FA Cup football that term for



**Above:** Front cover from the Elect Yeovil brochure 1973.

Yeovil, although the second replay between Bideford and Trowbridge Town was played at Huish.

December was a disaster for the team and for Irwin, as his side failed to win a match other than against Westland United in the Professional Cup and with the three day week, fuel restrictions and afternoon kick-offs, it was a bleak period for the club, so soon after they had seemed to be on a high and going higher. Gates were again well under 2,000 and Irwin convinced the board to splash out on a striker to boost the squad and the support. The man was Ray Pickett who played twice on loan, impressing on his debut after coming from Oxford United's youth team. With no League experience and at eighteen years old he became the club's most expensive player at £3,000 plus a signing on fee. Little did anyone know how that would rebound on the club, who were fast spiralling out of financial control behind the scenes. John Brown had not enjoyed his season and the signing of Pickett, plus the interest shown in resigning Dick Plumb was enough, and he was sold to Weymouth for £2,000, a day before Plumb came from Exeter City for £4,000.

Sadly all this happened a week after the side had surrendered to Guildford City in the Trophy, immediately severing the final chance to rescue themselves from their plight. Irwin's good intentions still refused to come to anything positive and through February the side scored just one goal, courtesy of Stuart Housley. There was an improvement in March, in fact at one point the side went eleven games with just one defeat, but the public were not impressed, and nor were a number of the board. A meeting was held to discuss whether to offer him a new contract, and

with three men missing he was given the thumbs up by a narrow margin, although by then he knew that it was far from unanimous.

The season petered out with a thrashing in the Pro Cup semi-final at Bridgwater Town and the abandoning of the Floodlit League and Cup and the end of term statistics spoke for themselves. John Clancy was top scorer on the wing with eleven goals, four more than Briggs and John Brown. Irwin's brave signings had not been a success, with Pickett already attracting criticism, he and Dick Plumb managing just eight goals between them in a total of forty matches. One man who did not disappoint was Ken Thompson, who after the grief of August won the Player of the Year award. Terry Cotton and John Clancy played in every game, a total of 53 matches, a small total made smaller by the chaotic fixture list which Yeovil were about to have inflicted upon them for the next two seasons.

The final outcome in a poor season was a sixth spot, but with just thirteen wins in 42 matches, at a goal a game, it was nothing to write home about. The fuel crisis had come at just the wrong time for Yeovil, and combined with other factors had plunged them into another crisis of their own, although few realised outside the club until the summer.

#### **First Team Appearances 1973-74**

Cotton 53, Clancy 52(1), Thompson, Clark 49, Irwin 42(1), Verity 35(5), Impey 34(1), Housley 29(4), Brown 29(1), Briggs 28(2), Cottle 26(1), Slattery 25, Harrison 23(1), Dixon 23, Pickett 19(2), Plumb 19, Bertram 18(3), Smith 12, Walker 9, Watson 5, Franklin 4.

**Southern Premier League 1973-1974**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dartford	42	22	13	7	67	37	57
Grantham	42	18	13	11	70	49	49
Chelmsford City	42	19	10	13	62	49	48
Kettering Town	42	16	16	10	62	51	48
Maidstone United	42	16	14	12	54	43	46
Yeovil Town	42	13	20	9	45	39	46
Weymouth	42	19	7	16	60	41	45
Barnet	42	18	9	15	55	46	45
Nuneaton Borough	42	13	19	10	54	47	45
Cambridge City	42	15	12	15	45	54	43
Atherstone Town	42	16	9	17	61	59	41
Wimbledon	42	15	11	16	50	56	41
Telford United	42	12	16	14	51	57	40
Dover	42	11	17	14	41	46	39
Tonbridge AFC	42	12	15	15	38	45	39
Romford	42	11	17	14	39	52	39
Margate	42	15	8	19	56	63	38
Guildford City	42	13	11	18	48	67	37
Worcester City	42	11	14	17	53	67	36
Bedford Town	42	11	14	17	38	51	36
Folkestone Town	42	11	12	19	56	65	34
Hillingdon Borough	42	9	15	18	44	65	33

**First Team Goalscorers 1973-74**

Clancy 11, Briggs, Brown 7, Slattery, Verity, Cotton 5, Walker, Pickett 4, Plumb, Thompson 3, Watson, Bertram, Housley 2, Cottle, Irwin 1

## *Westlands turn pro as Town go close... 1974-75*

Yeovil Town lost their status as the only professional club in the town when Westlands were elected to the Western League in the summer of 1974, and turned pro themselves. Town's bid to escape from the non-League world was again rejected, but with a difference, as Kettering Town took over as the premier non-League club, gaining sixteen votes, with Ivan Rendall's side again posting fourteen. It was probably just as well for the balance sheet released later made grim reading with a loss of £18,452 plus an overdraft of £11,250.

Learning from the mistakes of a year before, Cecil Irwin had signed a trio of players early in the close season. Ken Brown, a striker from South Shields who was well thought of in Irwin's home territory, and Frank McMahon, an Irishman who had been at Coventry City, Lincoln City and Darlington were the first, followed by Brian Thompson, a former colleague of Irwin's at Sunderland and another full back.

Falling gates, a rising wage bill, the loss of Floodlit League games and early exits in Cup and Trophy all added up to a mess. The knock-ons were fewer people spending money in the Social Club and advertising down too. Wages and playing expenses had shot up by £10,000 and gross gate receipts were down by £12,000. Bryan Moore pointed out that bank charges on the club overdraft would add to the problem, which needed to be seen to urgently.

Sadly Town lost Paul Smith who joined Westland Sports after 375 appearances in the green and white, but as always the season would begin with optimism.

Bizarrely, the Supporters' Club members thrown out of Huish five years previously again surfaced and three way meetings were held to try to settle differences, but little progress was made and in August talks once again broke down after a scheme of amalgamation was rejected.

Sadly once again Cecil Irwin was forced to prepare himself and his squad under a cloud, but the friendlies were encouraging, with six undefeated games and wins over AFC Bournemouth and Halifax Town. They were at a cost, for John Clancy and Terry Cotton missed the start through injury. The club was to be overseen by new chairman David Hawker, a 44 year old estate agent who took over from Ivan Rendall who stepped down, and he was not alone, for the supporters, led by Ken Little, finally gave up on Yeovil Town, agreeing to help out Westlands in the Western League. Having changed their constitution they had been fundraising "for the good of football in Yeovil...", and as that included Westlands they were gone, along with the money which had long been frozen after the dispute.

Ken Brown got off to a flier against Grantham, but three days later an ill-disciplined Town lost at Wimbledon, McMahon having been sent off and Brown fortunate not to join him after flooring an opponent. There were two more losses in another poor start, but then Dick Plumb, Ray Pickett and Ken Brown begun to find some form which took Yeovil to sixth place in October. Off the field new commercial man Dick Washbrook was coming to terms with match day sponsoring, a new concept which began with extensive company lay-outs in the car park advertising the wares, along with room in the programme and all for a set fee. It was money much needed as gates were showing no sign of taking off again.

For a couple of days in early October Yeovil topped the table, but they were handed a blow when in the first minute of a Floodlit League match with Weymouth, Ken Thompson was injured and two men were booked, which again prompted some to call for Yeovil to get out. It was a sad way for Thompson to celebrate his 400th game for the club.

There had been talk a year earlier of Yeovil once again venturing in with a reserve side, but it came to nothing under Rendall, new man David Hawker was keen, but there were problems. The Western League did not admit reserve sides any longer, which left the Somerset Senior or Dorset Combination, both competitions having been roundly ridiculed by past members of the club in years gone by.

Irwin enjoyed a good October in the run up to the important FA Cup tie with Bath City, although it was not realised at the time just how important it was, for the club had not made the First Round a year ago, and failure again would have repercussions that absolutely nobody was prepared for. The squad included Ken Sandercock, signed on loan from Torquay United, but he was not eligible for the Bath game, watched by over 5,000 at Twerton Park. The full time professionals, managed by Bert Head, formerly of Crystal Palace, beat Yeovil with goals from Taverner and Hall, killing the dream for another year. What it also did was relegate Town to the also rans for 1975, as they would be stunned when told by the FA that their cup record counted for nothing and they would have to start at the beginning the following season.

That news was still to come as chairman Hawker reacted to the Bath defeat by writing to all supporters at the League Cup match a few days later. In it he thanked all for their support and vocal effort, but quite rightly reminded them that they were top of the Southern League, and still in the League Cup and the F A Trophy.

He then went on to ask for money to put their house in order and to correct 'one or two team faults', and spoke of what was to happen, in the way of markets, boxing tournaments and sales at the ground.

The playing side was going well, but the dream of League football on a flat pitch was fading fast, at least for the immediate future, which could include the Football Alliance, which after being shelved was once again being dusted off.

## Season 1974-1975

Aug	17th	Grantham Town	H	Southern Premier	2-1	Brown 2
	20th	Wimbledon	A	" "	0-1	
	24th	Chelmsford City	A	" "	1-4	Verity
	28th	Waterlooville	A	South LC 1 1st L	1-2	Pickett
	31st	Atherstone Town	H	Southern Premier	3-0	Brown, Plumb, K Thompson
Sept	4th	Waterlooville	H	South LC 1 2nd L	2-0	Brown, Verity
	7th	Maidstone United	A	Southern Premier	2-1	Plumb, Pickett
	11th	Wealdstone	H	" "	4-1	Plumb 2, Pickett, Brown
	14th	Margate	H	" "	2-2	Brown, Verity (pen)
	16th	Telford United	A	" "	3-1	Brown, Verity, Plumb
	18th	Weymouth	A	Western Cou. Flo.	0-1	
	21st	Wimbledon	H	Southern Premier	0-1	
Oct	2nd	Guildford & Dorking	H	" "	4-0	Brown 2, Plumb 2
	5th	Tonbridge	H	" "	3-0	McMahon, Plumb, Housley
	9th	Weymouth	H	Western Cou. Flo.	2-3	Brown, Housley
	12th	Grantham Town	A	Southern Premier	0-2	
	16th	Salisbury	H	West Co Fl Lge	2-0	Pickett, Verity
	19th	Chelmsford City	H	Southern Premier	1-0	Plumb
	22nd	Wealdstone	A	" "	2-1	Brown 2
	26th	Guildford & Dorking	A	" "	2-1	Brown, McMahon
	28th	Torquay United	H	West Co Fl Lge	1-0	Loverly
Nov	2nd	Bath City	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	1-2	Plumb
	6th	Poole Town	H	South LC 2nd Rd	3-1	Plumb 2, McMahon
	9th	Dartford	A	Southern Premier	0-0	
	12th	Oxford United	H	Friendly	3-0	
	16th	Barnet	H	Southern Premier	3-0	Brown 2, Housley
	18th	Salisbury City	A	West Co Fl Lge	0-0	
	20th	Norwich City	H	Benefit	2-2	Plumb 2
	23rd	Stourbridge	H	Southern Premier	3-0	Brown 2, Clancy
	30th	Minehead	A	FA Trop 3rd Q	2-1	Brown, Plumb
Dec	4th	Chelmsford City	H	South LC 3rd Rd	4-1	Brown, Housley 3
	11th	Minehead	H	West Co Fl Lge	1-1	Brown
	14th	Atherstone Town	A	Southern Premier	1-1	B Thompson
	16th	Trowbridge Town	H	West Co Fl Lge	6-0	Pickett 2, Plumb 2, Irwin, Loverly
	21st	Kettering Town	H	Southern Premier	0-0	
	28th	Telford United	H	" "	7-0	Clancy 3, Plumb 2, Brown, Cotton
Jan	1st	Bath City	H	" "	2-1	Cottle (pen), Brown
	4th	Barnet	A	" "	1-2	Plumb
	6th	Trowbridge Town	A	West Co Fl Lge	1-0	Brown
	11th	Canterbury City	A	FA Trophy 1	0-3	
	13th	Poole Town	H	West Co Fl Cup	2-0	Plumb 2
	15th	Weymouth	H	West Co Fl Lge	3-1	McMahon 2, K Thompson
	18th	Cambridge City	A	Southern Premierr	0-1	
	22nd	Torquay United	H	West Co Fl Lge	2-0	og, Verity
	27th	Minehead	A	Som Pro Cup 1	3-3	K Thompson 2, Plumb
Feb	1st	Nuneaton Borough	H	Southern Premier	1-0	Plumb
	5th	Minehead	H	Som PC 1 Rep	2-1	Housley, Plumb
	8th	Tonbridge	A	Southern Premier	1-1	Verity (pen)
	12th	Burton Albion	H	" "	2-0	Verity 2 (1pen)
	15th	Cambridge City	H	" "	1-0	Verity
	17th	Margate	A	South LC 4th Rd	0-2	
	19th	Poole Town	H	West Co Fl Lge	2-0	Housley, Turner
	22nd	Kettering Town	A	Southern Premier	0-0	
	26th	Weymouth	A	" "	0-0	
Mar	1st	Dartford	H	" "	4-2	Verity 2 (1pen), Brown, Cotton
	3rd	Bath City	A	West Co Fl Lge	1-2	Clancy
	5th	Orient	H	Benefit	4-1	Plumb 2, Cotton, Housley

## Season 1974-1975 – continued

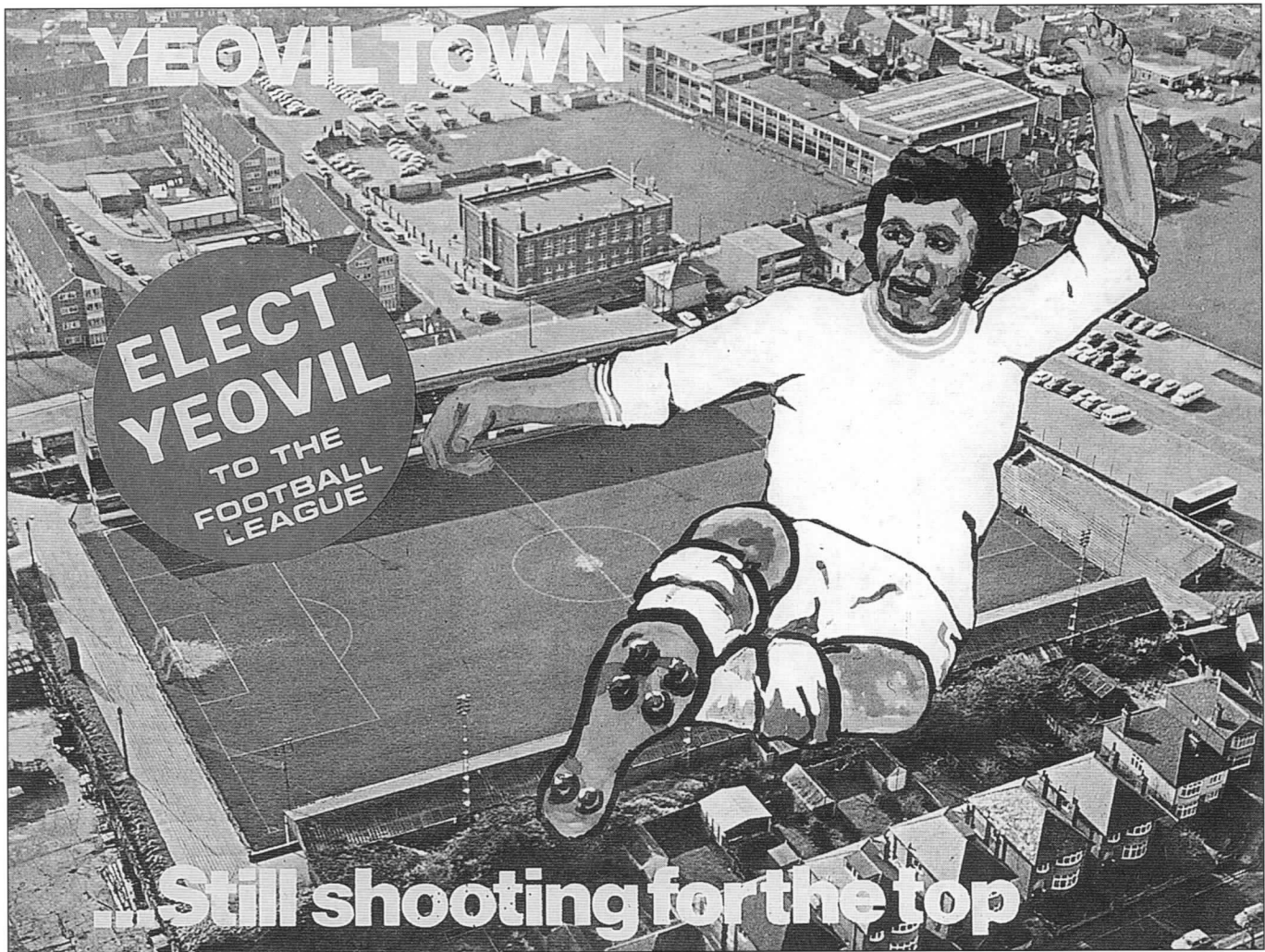
	8th	Nuneaton Borough	A	Southern Premier	0-2	
	10th	Bristol City	H	Somerset Prof Cup Semi-final	1-1	Plumb
	12th	Weymouth	A	West Co Fl Lge	0-1	
	15th	Margate	A	Southern Premier	0-3	
	18th	Stourbridge	A	" "	1-2	K Thompson
	22nd	Dover	H	" "	3-0	Plumb, Brown, Housley
	24th	Bristol City	A	Som PC 1 Rep	1-3	Cottle
	28th	Bath City	A	Southern Premier	0-1	
	31st	Weymouth	H	" "	1-0	Irwin
April	3rd	Trowbridge Town	H	Western Co. Flo. Cup Final 1st Leg	2-0	Clancy 2
	7th	Torquay United	A	West Co Fl Lge	2-1	Irwin, og
	9th	Bath City	H	Southern Premier	3-3	Brown 2, Cotton
	11th	Dover	A	" "	0-1	
	12th	Romford	A	" "	0-0	
	14th	Poole Town	A	West Co Fl Lge	0-0	
	19th	Romford	H	Southern Premierr	0-0	
	23rd	Burton Albion	A	Southern Premier	0-1	
	25th	Maidstone United	H	Southern Premier	4-0	Plumb 2, K Thompson, Cotton
	27th	Trowbridge Town	H	Western Co. Flo. Cup Final 2nd Leg	3-0	Plumb, K Thompson, Clancy
	28th	Minehead	A	West Co Fl Lge	1-2	Pickett
	30th	Stoke City	H	Benefit	2-2	Plumb, McMahon
May	2nd	Shrewsbury Town	H	Friendly	1-4	
	7th	Fulham	H	Benefit	1-2	

The Trophy campaign began at Minehead where Dick Plumb and Ken Brown secured the win, which was in one of three separate competitions that the two clubs played in, the others being the Floodlit League and the Professional Cup. The one Christmas game saw Irwin's men chalk up the biggest league win for nine years, when beating Telford United 7-0, Clancy and Plumb getting five between them. The good form meant that expensive signing Ray Pickett could not get a game and he went off to try his luck with a trial at Gillingham although he was soon back. The good vibes all disappeared along with the remains of the turkey, when Barnet knocked Yeovil off the top of the table a week before the journey into the unknown in the FA Trophy. Canterbury City's gate of 822 was largely made up of Yeovilians who had travelled by car or chartered train, but none of them were prepared to accept a dreadful display culminating in a 3-0 defeat which prompted a good deal of anger and abuse directed at the players and management on the station after the game. It was Stuart Housley's 300th game, and one he would want to forget in a hurry.

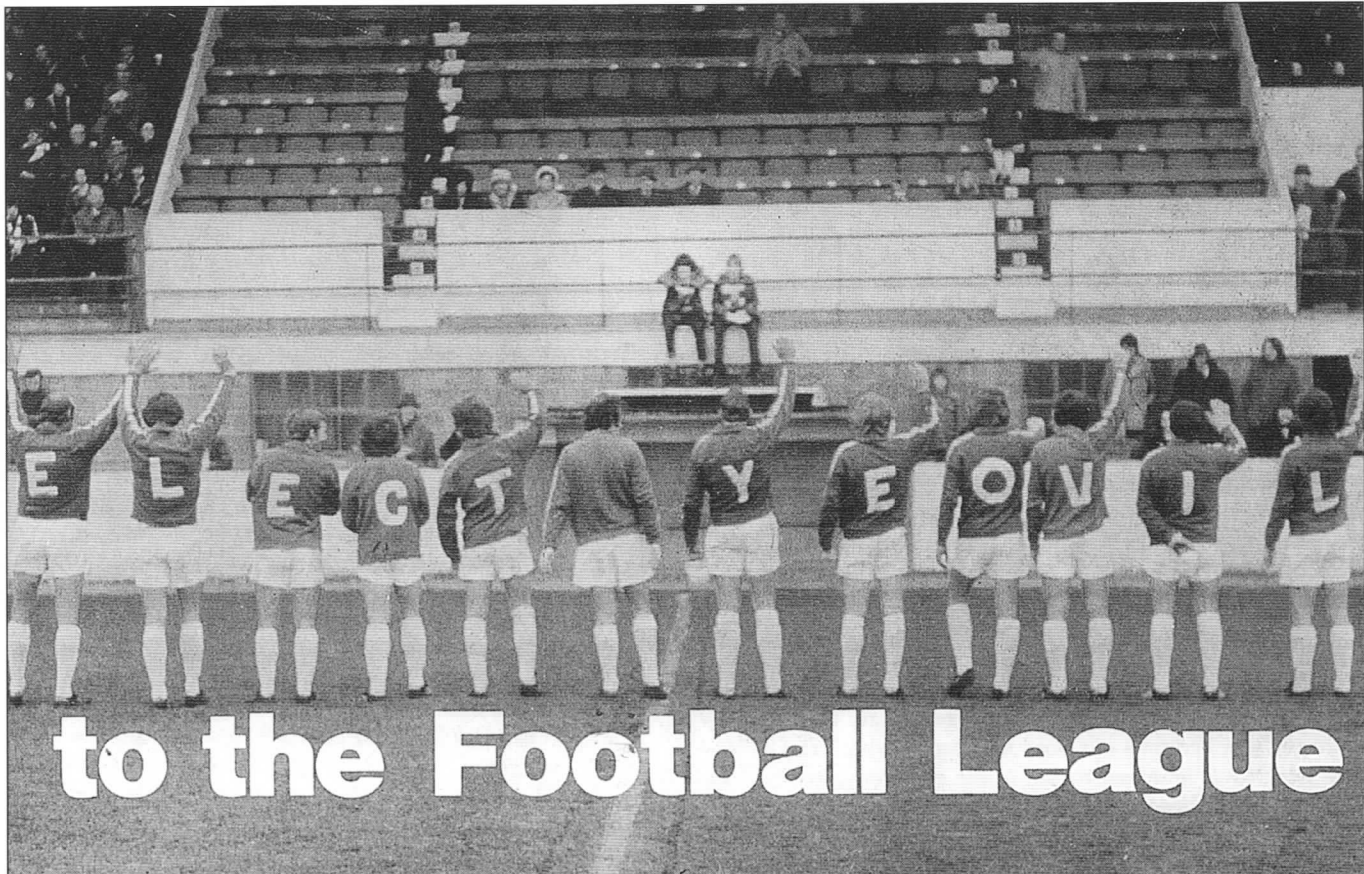
It was Irwin's prime aim to raise morale all round before the season which promised so much faded away, possibly along with his job. He again signed Ken Sandercock who had returned to Torquay but had subsequently been released and his side beat Nuneaton Borough in a top of the table game to stay in contention with two games in hand.

Sadly the momentum could not be maintained and having lost in the League Cup to Margate, four league games out of five without a goal were a crushing blow. Most of the contenders were beating each other, but Wimbledon had no less than ten games in hand and were firm favourites. The team lost to Margate once again and then Stourbridge and the board decided to make cuts by releasing Ken Sandercock to the dismay of an angry Irwin, who was already juggling a thin squad and trying to secure a runners up spot in a run in awash with additional fixtures which were crippling them. The manager was forced to negotiate Easter with thirteen players, but it was to little avail as he was called to the





Above: Front cover from the Elect Yeovil brochure 1974.



Above: Back cover from the Elect Yeovil brochure 1974.





Ken Thompson receiving a silver salver from chairman David Hawker having completed 400 appearances for the club in October 1974.

Chairman's office on April 3rd and told he was not to be given another contract, although he stayed until the end of the season.

It was not to be the nightmare that it might have been for Irwin, as he was almost immediately offered the manager's job at Gateshead, enabling him to go into business as a newsagent in his home town. The season yet again dissolved with alarming swiftness, as did the forward line which did not register a goal in five games during a period in April. The Floodlit Cup was won by beating Trowbridge Town, but few were bothered, preferring to watch the benefit games against Stoke City, Shrewsbury Town and Fulham.

The Stoke game included Geoff Hurst and Peter Shilton but the nostalgia was held back for the Fulham game, for the benefit of old favourite Ray Wright, who had become ill and had lost both legs at a comparatively young age. The Fulham manager was Wright's old boss Alec Stock who brought his side which was watched by ten of the eleven men who beat Sunderland all those years ago.

The Fulham side contained a certain Barry Lloyd, who a few years on would return to Yeovil with much water under the bridge.

#### Southern League Premier 1974-1975

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wimbledon	42	25	7	10	63	33	57
Nuneaton Borough	42	23	8	11	56	37	54
Yeovil Town	42	21	9	12	64	34	51
Kettering Town	42	20	10	12	73	41	50
Burton Albion	42	18	13	11	54	48	49
Bath City	42	20	8	14	63	50	48
Margate	42	17	12	13	64	64	46
Wealdstone	42	17	11	14	62	61	45
Telford United	42	16	13	13	55	56	45
Chelmsford City	42	16	12	14	62	51	44
Grantham Town	42	16	11	15	70	62	43
Dover	42	15	13	14	43	53	43
Maidstone United	42	15	12	15	52	50	42
Atherstone Town	42	14	14	14	48	53	42
Weymouth	42	13	13	16	66	58	39
Stourbridge	42	13	12	17	56	70	38
Cambridge City	42	11	14	17	51	56	36
Tonbridge	42	11	12	19	44	66	34
Romford	42	10	13	19	46	62	33
Dartford	42	9	13	20	52	70	31
Barnet	42	10	9	23	44	76	29
Guildford & D Utd	42	10	5	27	45	82	25

**First Team Appearances 1974-75**

Clark 71, Harrison 69, Plumb 66(2), Cotton 63(3), Housley 63(1), B Thompson 60(2), K Thompson 59, Brown 58 (5), McMahon 51(3), Irwin 49(3), Clancy 46 (5), Verity 44(2), Cottle 39(2), Pickett 24 (7), Sandercock 18, Lovery 9(1), Dixon, Smith 9, Jefferies, Tones 3(1), Turner 1

**First Team Goalscorers 1974-75**

Plumb 28, Brown 27, Verity 12, Housley 9, Clancy 8, Pickett, K Thompson 7, McMahon 5, Cotton 4, Irwin 3, Cottle, Lovery, og 2, B Thompson, Turner 1

**Stan Harland arrives.... 1975**

Ray Pickett was immediately branded Yeovil's biggest ever failure when heading down the road to Westlands just two years after coming from Oxford United. He passed Weymouth's "Player of the Year" John Brown on the way out, who signed due to a mix up on the contract which allowed Yeovil to snap him up on a free transfer. Another discarded Terras player was Rod Adams, signed by the Yeovil board whilst the club was without a manager, some seven years after Ron Saunders tried but failed to sign him. On May 28th 1975 the search for the latest man to try to lead the Glovers into the Football League ended when Stan Harland was offered the job which Derek Dougan and Mike England had turned down.

Harland was then 35, and married to a former ice skating champion with one child. His playing career began at Everton where he stayed for two years before moving first to Bradford City, Carlisle United, Swindon Town and then Birmingham City, making over 500 appearances in all four divisions. He famously skippered Swindon at Wembley when they won the League Cup in 1969.

He quickly got to work, securing the services of Steve Flay, a young full-back from Oxford United and Mike Franklin, a 20 year old keeper who was on loan at Huish two years earlier covering for the injured Tony Clark. His brief was straight forward, to put Yeovil back in to the Football League spotlight, by preparing them for the new Alliance League, which had been given the go ahead although a date had not been fixed.

Believing that the new league could begin in twelve months, the club began the season desperate to finish in the top ten to qualify, as they knew that Huish was acceptable. To add some experience to the squad, Harland signed Bryn Jones from Bristol Rovers, a 27 year old midfielder who had been at both Newport County and Cardiff City. He was also pleased to have John Brown back, who had gone to Weymouth for £2,000 in 1974 but had not settled. Sadly after only turning up for two training sessions he was sacked by the club who had taken him on a three month trial.

The pre-season matches went well, with the new side playing 4-2-4 and both Dick Plumb and Ken Brown netting hat-tricks. Plumb had another treble in the second game against Stourbridge and with Ken Brown and Ken Thompson also amongst the goals there appeared to be no problems on the pitch, although there were plenty off it. The balance sheet for the previous season showed a working loss of over £9,000, only half that of the year before but still a grave situation. The main indicator was that inflation, raging at over 20%, was as much to blame as anything.

The FA had already softened Yeovil's blow concerning the FA Cup in the summer by informing them that they must begin in the qualifying rounds for the first time since the 1934-35 season, so being drawn to play away at Stonehouse, a Gloucester County League side, was not the culture shock

it might have been. The former Western League outfit immediately requested to play at Huish to reap the financial benefits, but were turned down by the FA, leaving the Stan Harland to travel to their spartan little ground to check it out. In the end it was a waste of time as the FA relented and permitted the match to be switched, Dick Plumb scoring four of the six goals in a one sided charade. Harland's tactics in playing a strict offside game with players allegedly wasting time when 4-0 up brought scathing criticism from terraces and press alike. It was justified by an excellent defence which enjoyed a run of six games without conceding, Tony Clark eventually breaking the club record during the match at Burton Albion. Before then Yeovil had scraped home in the next round of the Cup against Weston-s-Mare, cruising a replay 4-0 after a 0-0 draw. It brought a tie with Minehead who had not won a match at Huish for over 20 years, but sadly it would not be witnessed by former director Albert Lukins, who died at the end of October aged 72. Remembered for his part in excluding the Supporters' Club committee as well as helping re-shape the club, he had resigned some while earlier.

The Minehead game was won by Dick Plumb, but at a price, for he and full back John Morgan were sent off for fighting. Having been made to scramble through to the fourth qualifying round, Yeovil were faced with a trip to all conquering Falmouth Town, incredibly going there as underdogs. Many predicted a defeat but Harland's men shocked many by crushing Falmouth 5-1 and landing a plum draw with Millwall in the First Round.

The Lions were in the top half of the Third Division, having been relegated in May, but they struggled to contain Yeovil, in front of a crowd of just under 7,000. Without Ken Thompson and Bryn Jones, Town took the lead through Ken Brown only for Barry Kitchener to equalise with ten minutes left. Sadly Millwall's hooligan element were to the fore, and some 21 people were arrested, many after a pitch invasion which saw the players led off the field. The replay at the Den saw the home fans turn on their team who again struggled to beat Yeovil, who dominated the game with Terry Cotton inspirational up front. After extra time the scores were again level and a third game was needed. The following Monday many fans travelled to Elm Park, Reading only to find that the game had been rained off, and so two days later the match was decided at Aldershot, where a sad defensive blunder gave Millwall the tie and a home match with Crystal Palace.

Strangely, in between the three games Yeovil began their FA Trophy campaign in circumstances that could not have been more in contrast. Ferndale were a little known Welsh League club playing on an exposed and cramped pitch on a ground with no cover of any kind. From the Den to the Valleys inside four days was a recipe for disaster, but in the end the Glovers beat the elements to progress to another match in Wales, against Merthyr Tydfil six weeks later.

Doug Hickton became the latest Glover in November, when he signed from Burton Albion for a small fee. The 24 year old centre-forward wasted little time, scoring on his debut at home to Wealdstone and, with Dick Plumb also finding the net, Christmas came with Town still in the FA Trophy, League Cup and Premier Cup as well as sixth in the league. Sadly Stan Harland's squad was not settled, as Ken Brown asked for a transfer, wanting to go back up north, although Ray Pickett, who had been shown the door in expensive fashion, asked to train at the club again around the same time.

Plans were underway also for the revamped reserve side, which had been accepted into the new Second Division of the Western League. It would be run by Tony Pounder sen., but not as many years ago, as a way to obtain extra income. The

## Season 1975-1976

Aug	16th	Kettering Town	H	Southern Premier	1-1	Brown
	20th	Stourbridge	H	" "	4-0	Plumb 3, McMahon
	23rd	Atherstone Town	A	" "	3-4	Brown 2, Jones
	27th	Bath City	H	South LC 1 1st L	4-0	Brown, Plumb, K Thompson, Adams
	30th	Tonbridge	H	Southern Premier	1-0	K Thompson
Sept	1st	Bath City	A	South LC 1 2 Leg	1-2	K Thompson
	6th	Grantham	A	Southern Premier	0-1	
	8th	Bath City	A	" "	2-1	Cotton 2
	13th	Stonehouse	H	FA Cup 1st Qual	6-0	Plumb 4, K Thompson, McMahon
	17th	Minehead	H	West Co Fl Lge	2-0	Plumb, Housley
	20th	Maidstone United	A	Southern Premier	1-2	K Thompson
	27th	Chelmsford City	A	" "	1-1	Plumb
Oct	4th	Weston-s-Mare	A	FA Cup 2nd Qual	0-0	
	8th	Weston-s-Mare	H	Replay	4-0	Plumb, Clancy 2, Cotton
	11th	Chelmsford City	H	Southern Premier	3-0	Housley 2, McMahon
	14th	Gravesend & N	A	" "	0-0	
	18th	Minehead	H	FA Cup 3rd Qual	1-0	Plumb
	22nd	Merthyr Tydfil	H	South LC 2nd Rd	3-0	McMahon (pen), Brown, Plumb
	25th	Burton Albion	A	Southern Premier	1-3	Plumb
Nov	1st	Falmouth Town	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	5-1	Cotton, Brown, Jones, B Thompson, Adams
	3rd	Salisbury	A	West Co Fl Cup	1-2	Plumb
	8th	Weymouth	H	West Co Fl Lge	1-0	Adams
	10th	Trowbridge Town	A	Southern Premier	2-1	Housley, Brown
	15th	Gravesend & N	H	" "	3-1	McMahon (pen), Brown, Plumb
	22nd	Millwall	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	1-1	Brown
	25th	Millwall	A	Replay (AET)	2-2	Cotton, Housley
	29th	Ferndale	A	FA Trophy 3rd Q	3-1	Housley, McMahon, Cotton
Dec	3rd	Millwall	A	FA Cup 1 2nd Rep (at Aldershot FC)	0-1	
	6th	Wealdstone	H	Southern Premier	1-1	Hickton
	10th	Dorchester Town	H	South LC 3rd Rd	1-1	McMahon
	13th	Stourbridge	A	Southern Premier	0-0	
	17th	Dorchester Town	A	South LC 3 Rep	3-1	Plumb 2, Brown
	20th	Bedford Town	A	Southern Premier	2-3	Plumb, Hickton
	26th	Weymouth	H	" "	3-1	Plumb, Hickton 2
	27th	Tonbridge	A	" "	2-1	Clancy 2
Jan	1st	Maidstone United	H	" "	2-1	McMahon (pen), Jones
	3rd	Telford United	H	" "	2-0	Clancy, Hickton
	6th	Kettering Town	A	" "	0-0	
	10th	Merthyr Tydfil	A	FA Trophy 1st Rd	0-1	
	13th	Bridgwater Town	A	West Co Fl Lge	1-1	Adams
	17th	Grantham	H	Southern Premier	2-0	Plumb, McMahon
	21st	Gravesend & N	H	" "	1-0	Plumb
	24th	Wimbledon	A	" "	0-0	
	28th	Bath City	H	West Co Fl Lge	3-1	Brown 2, Pickett
	31st	Dunstable	H	Southern Premier	0-1	
Feb	7th	Margate	H	" "	3-1	Brown 2, Plumb
	9th	Hillingdon Borough	A	" "	0-0	
	11th	Minehead	H	Som Prem Cup 1	1-1	Plumb
	14th	Hillingdon Borough	H	Southern Premier	1-1	Hickton
	17th	Margate	A	" "	1-1	McMahon (pen)
	21st	Nuneaton Borough	A	" "	2-0	Clancy, Hickton
	25th	Wimbledon	H	" "	1-2	Cotton
	28th	Dunstable	A	" "	2-1	Clancy, Brown
Mar	3rd	Kettering Town	H	Southern LC Semi-final 1st Leg	3-0	Cotton, Adams, Plumb
	10th	Kettering Town	A	South L.C. SF 2nd leg	0-0	
	13th	Keynsham Town	H	Som Prem Cup 2	5-1	Hickton 2, Brown 2, K Thompson

## Season 1975-1976 – continued

	15th	Minehead	A	West Co Fl Lge	0-3	
	17th	Trowbridge Town	H	" "	1-0	Lovery
	20th	Cambridge City	H	Southern Premier	2-0	Clancy, Brown
	24th	Nuneaton Borough	H	" "	0-1	
	27th	Wealdstone	A	" "	1-2	Cotton
	31st	Bridgwater Town	H	Somerset Premier Cup Semi-final	2-1	Brown, Adams
April	3rd	Wimbledon	H	Southern League Cup Final 1st Leg	1-1	Cotton
	5th	Telford United	A	Southern Premier	1-0	Plumb
	10th	Wimbledon	A	Southern League Cup Final 2nd Leg	1-2	Plumb
	12th	Burton Albion	H	Southern Premier	4-0	Plumb, Cotton, B Thompson, Brown
	16th	Weymouth	A	" "	2-0	Plumb, Brown
	17th	Bath City	H	" "	2-1	Plumb, K Thompson
	19th	Bedford Town	H	" "	3-0	Hickton 2, Brown
	21st	Dover	A	" "	1-1	Brown
	23rd	Dover	H	" "	5-1	Brown 2, K Thompson 2, B Thompson
	24th	Bath City	A	West Co Fl Lge	1-2	Hickton
	27th	Cambridge City	A	Southern Premier	1-1	Harrison
	28th	Weymouth	A	West Co Fl Lge	2-1	Hickton, Bletsoe
	29th	Bristol City	H	Friendly	0-5	
	30th	Atherstone Town	H	Southern Premier	2-0	Brown, McMahon (pen)
May	3rd	Salisbury	A	West Co Fl Lge	3-1	Brown 2, Plumb
	4th	Salisbury	H	" "	4-1	Jones 2, Cotton, Plumb
	8th	Westland Yeovil	H	Somerset Premier Cup Final 1st Leg	1-1	K Thompson
	10th	Bridgwater Town	H	West Co Fl Lge	0-0	
	13th	Westland Yeovil	H	Somerset Premier Cup Final 2nd Leg	4-0	Plumb, Adams, McMahon 2 (1pen)

days when reserve football and its financial problems which split the board under Edmund Templeman were long gone, but the grief that came with it was still remembered, as were the repercussions. The Merthyr game was lost 1-0, and, when the goals began to dry up in January and February, the crowd began to put John Clancy and Dick Plumb under fire. Harland's plan to play without wingers was received in the same way as Ron Saunders' ideas, the supporters not overly concerned that the defence was superb, with no opposing team scoring more than once in eighteen games.

Harland still harboured hopes of the title, but a home defeat by Wimbledon who were clear at the top, put paid to that. There was some consolation, for the side reached the League Cup semi-final against Kettering Town, cruising the first leg 3-0, but leaving nothing to chance Harland went to Rockingham Road and threw up a blanket defence to gain a 0-0 draw which was met with a barrage of abuse from the home support, and no little condemnation at home too. Off the field the board were aware that the season was heading for a major financial loss, a figure of £17,000 or more was suggested and this led to one member resigning due to policy. On the field Harland's season was staggering on, but without Ray Pickett, who chose to play for Chard Town rather than travel to Wealdstone, a decision which led the manager to remark that Pickett would never play for the club again.

With no less than eight professionals on two year contracts, the end of season retained list proved awkward, and with the season extended well into May, there were still almost twenty games left when the list was drafted, a situation which Harland described as "ludicrous". His

**Southern League Premier 1975-1976**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wimbledon	42	26	10	6	74	29	62
Yeovil Town	42	21	12	9	68	35	54
Atherstone Town	42	18	15	9	56	55	51
Maidstone United	42	17	16	9	52	39	50
Nuneaton Borough	42	16	18	8	41	33	50
Gravesend & N	42	16	18	8	49	47	50
Grantham	42	15	14	13	56	47	44
Dunstable Town	42	17	9	16	52	43	43
Bedford Town	42	13	17	12	55	51	43
Burton Albion	42	17	9	16	52	53	43
Margate	42	15	12	15	62	60	42
Hillingdon Borough	42	13	14	15	61	54	40
Telford United	42	14	12	16	54	51	40
Chelmsford City	42	13	14	15	52	57	40
Kettering Town	42	11	17	14	48	52	39
Bath City	42	11	16	15	62	57	38
Weymouth	42	13	9	20	51	67	35
Dover	42	8	18	16	51	60	34
Wealdstone	42	12	9	21	61	82	33
Tonbridge AFC	42	11	11	20	45	70	33
Cambridge City	42	8	15	19	41	67	31
Stourbridge	42	10	9	23	38	72	29

bombastic nature was not designed to make a whole army of friends at the club, although his play could not be faulted, but there was much unrest, and Dick Plumb asked for a move, at the time when Stuart Housley was released after 360 games, to join Weymouth. The league had become a dog fight for second place, and Yeovil had reached two finals, a season for some which would have spelled untold success, but with gates falling and little harmony, it felt like failure. Westland-Yeovil reached the Somerset Professional Cup final, to play Yeovil Town and not surprisingly both legs were to be played at Huish. Before then in two unpleasant ties, Wimbledon took the League Cup, winning 3-2 on aggregate to edge closer to the double, which left Yeovil clear to embark on an unlikely run through April. Seven wins and two draws, courtesy of goals from various sources, saw the runners up spot gained, as well as a place in the Anglo-Italian Cup for the next season. Ken Brown and Frank McMahon scored the goals against Atherstone on the last day in what was a decider for the runners up medals, and they were followed by winners medals in the Pro Cup. Westland's fielded five ex-Town players and with seven of the current squad working at Westland it was a very parochial affair. After a 1-1 draw, Town eased through to take the trophy to add to the runners up medals in the League Cup and winners in the Floodlit League.

To cap a personal triumph for Terry Cotton, he was again named Player of the Season after a campaign which saw 86 fixtures played, a ridiculous amount which went a long way to explaining the tiredness and lack of harmony which sometimes manifested itself. It left Ken Thompson just six games short of the magic 500 and cleared the way for the latest attempt at Football League membership. Nuneaton Borough, Scarborough, Gainsborough Trinity and Telford United all applied, once again splitting the floating vote, and it was this which enabled Workington to stay in once again. They gained just three more votes than Yeovil Town, whose delegation were naturally distraught at the outcome. It was the nearest they had got, but it might have well been a million miles, for with the proposed Alliance deferred and with Wimbledon on an unstoppable roll, the dream had again faded.

It was to fade still further during the rest of Stan Harland's reign as manager.

**First Team Appearances 1975-76**

Cotton 71(4), B Thompson 71(2), McMahon 64(5), Brown 62(5), Plumb 58(3), Harrison 58(2), Jones 55, Cottle 53(2), Adams 52(11), Clancy 48(3), Harland 48, K Thompson 46(1), Franklin 44, Flay 38(1), Clark 36, Housley 33(2), Hickton 22(4), Lovery, Bletsoe 6, Pickett 4, Russell, Gray 2, McKay 1(1)

**First Team Goalscorers 1975-76**

Plumb 33, Brown 28, Hickton, McMahon 13, Cotton 12, K Thompson 10, Clancy 8, Adams 7, Housley 6, Jones 5, B Thompson 3, Harrison, Bletsoe, Lovery, Pickett 1

**Western Floodlight League 1975-1976**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil Town	12	8	2	2	20	11	18
Minehead	12	7	2	3	19	10	16
Weymouth	12	5	3	4	17	14	13
Bath City	12	6	1	5	19	17	13
Bridgwater Town	12	4	3	5	16	15	11
Salisbury City	12	4	2	6	11	20	10
Trowbridge Town	12	1	1	10	12	27	3

**Season 1976**

The Southern League passed a resolution during the summer of 1976, that only the top club should apply for Football League status, providing they met with the criteria, but of course it was a year too late for Town who once again prepared for life in the Southern League. Stan Harland had come close to landing the Mansfield Town job but had been unsuccessful, and was equally frustrated by the lack of suitable players, many of whom were playing in the USA. With friendlies due to start in July, amidst the baking heat of what was the hottest summer for decades, and with pitches cracking up under the drought conditions, the problems were stacking up almost before cricket got under way.

The Huish pitch was faring little better but despite that the friendlies began there, with wins over Newport County, Hereford United and Exeter City, all won. The season started with no new signings, a fact which worried some of the supporters, who queried where the reserve team was going to be picked from, under Tony Pounder.

As a legacy of a clutch of bookings last term, Stan Harland was suspended for two matches at the start, a fortunate single goal gave victory over Trowbridge in the League Cup over two legs. Ken Brown had been dropped following a row, but he was soon back with six goals in three games including four against Penzance in the FA Cup, the first preliminary round tie for 45 years. They were pleased to escape with only a 7-2 beating. Ken Thompson duly completed his 500th game against Gravesend but it was not in happy circumstances, for Harland, by then regularly referred to in the press as 'Yeovil's controversial manager', was again accumulating bookings and his defence was shipping goals. The supporters were not slow to show their disapproval and with no signings and few goals at the right end it was yet another dismal start. Ivan Rendall, the former chairman left the board in September after some 30 years as Secretary, Chairman and director. He was made a life member, but his fellow members were forced to palate the news that the club lost over £12,000. The wage bill had soared from £33,000 to £45,000.

On the field Tiverton Town were beaten in the FA Cup, as were Wimbledon in the championship match, and two players had contrasting fortunes, Ken Thompson being dropped for the first time in nine years, and Terry Cotton

## Season 1976-1977

Aug	21st	Trowbridge Town	H	South LC 1 1st L	1-0	Flay (pen)
	25th	Trowbridge Town	A	South LC 1 2nd L	0-0	
	28th	Minehead	H	Southern Premier	2-2	Harrison, B Thompson
	31st	AP Leamington	A	" "	1-0	Brown
Sept	4th	Penzance	A	FA Cup Prel Rd	7-2	Brown 4, Hickton 2, Jones
	6th	Chelmsford City	A	Southern Premier	1-4	Brown
	11th	Gravesend & N	H	" "	0-0	
	15th	Grantham	A	" "	0-4	
	18th	Tiverton Town	A	FA Cup 1st Qual	2-0	Brown, Harrison
	25th	Atherstone Town	H	Southern Premier	3-0	Plumb 2, Flay
	29th	Kettering Town	A	" "	1-1	Plumb
Oct	2nd	Hillingdon Borough	A	" "	0-1	
	5th	Wimbledon	A	Champion match	2-1	Harrison, K Thompson
	9th	Ilminster Town	H	FA Cup 2nd Qual	10-1	Brown 5, Clancy 2, K Thompson 2, Hickton
	16th	Telford United	A	Southern Premier	0-1	
	20th	Bath City	H	South LC 2nd Rd	2-0	Plumb 2
	23rd	Falmouth Town	A	FA Cup 3rd Qual	0-2	
	30th	Maidstone United	A	Southern Premier	1-1	Cotton
Nov	3rd	Burton Albion	A	" "	0-3	
	6th	Maidstone United	H	" "	2-0	Plumb, og
	13th	Margate	H	" "	5-1	Leigh 2, Brown 2, Plumb
	17th	Redditch United	H	" "	3-2	Clancy, Brown, og
	20th	Chelmsford City	H	" "	0-2	
	27th	Wimbledon	H	" "	1-1	Brown
Dec	4th	Dartford	A	" "	1-1	Leigh
	8th	Merthyr Tydfil	H	South LC 3rd Rd	1-0	Leigh
	10th	Torquay United	H	Friendly	0-0	Abandoned 24 MINS
	14th	Trowbridge Town	A	WC Floodlit Cup	0-0	Abandoned 45 MINS
	18th	Bedford Town	H	Southern Premier	2-1	Leigh, Plumb
	20th	Nuneaton Borough	A	" "	0-0	Abandoned 27 MINS
	27th	Weymouth	A	" "	2-1	Brown, Plumb
Jan	1st	Bath City	H	" "	0-0	
	11th	Trowbridge Town	A	West Co Fl Cup	1-3	McKay
	15th	Merthyr Tydfil	H	FA Trop 1st Rd	0-0	
	20th	Merthyr Tydfil	A	Replay	3-1	Brown 2, Plumb
	22nd	Burton Albion	H	Southern Premier	0-0	
	29th	AP Leamington	H	" "	1-0	Brown
Feb	5th	Dagenham	A	FA Trop 2nd Rd	1-1	Cotton
	9th	Dagenham	H	Replay	1-2	Hickton
	16th	Barnet	H	South LC 4th Rd	2-1	Hickton, Clancy
	19th	Gravesend & N	A	Southern Premier	0-0	
	23rd	Wealdstone	H	" "	3-1	Leigh 2, Hickton
	26th	Grantham	H	" "	1-1	Jones
March	1st	Minehead	A	" "	0-1	
	5th	Atherstone Town	A	" "	0-2	
	9th	Nuneaton Borough	H	Southern LC Semi-final 1st Leg	2-0	Cotton, Leigh
	12th	Hillingdon Borough	H	Southern Premier	4-0	Hickton 2, Plumb, og
	14th	Nuneaton Borough	A	Southern LC Semi-final 2nd Leg	1-1	Rogers
	16th	IFK Malmo	H	Friendly	2-1	Albury, Hickton
	19th	Redditch United	A	Southern Premier	2-0	Rogers (pen), Plumb
	23rd	Dover	A	" "	1-1	Hickton
	26th	Telford United	H	" "	4-0	Plumb 2, Hickton, Harland
	30th	Bridgwater Town	H	Som Prem Cup 1	4-1	Hickton, Rogers, Harrison, Leigh
April	2nd	Dartford	H	Southern LC Final 1st Leg	1-1	og
	5th	Wealdstone	A	Southern Premier	1-1	Plumb
	9th	Dartford	A	Southern LC Final 2nd Leg	0-2	

## Season 1976-1977 – continued

	11th	Weymouth	H	Southern Premier	1-2	Albury
	16th	Shepton Mallet	A	Som Prem Cup 2	3-1	Rogers (pen), Albury
	18th	Bath City	A	Southern Premier	0-0	
	23rd	Margate	A	" "	0-0	
	27th	Turris	H	Anglo-Italian Cup	5-1	McMahon (2 pens), Plumb, Albury, Hickton
	30th	Bari	H	Southern Premier	4-3	Harland (pen), Plumb, Adams, Hickton
May	2nd	Bedford Town	A	" "	1-1	Harland
	4th	Dartford	H	" "	1-1	Plumb
	7th	Wimbledon	A	" "	0-1	
	9th	Nuneaton Borough	A	" "	0-1	
	11th	Kettering Town	H	" "	5-1	Annals, Plumb, Leigh, Harland (pen), Hickton
	14th	Nuneaton Borough	H	" "	3-1	Leigh, Harrison, Thompson
	20th	Dover	H	" "	1-0	Clancy
	23rd	Minehead	A	Somerset Prem Cup (at Bridgwater Town F.C.)	0-1	Final 1st Leg
	26th	Minehead	H	2nd Leg	1-1	Leigh
June	23rd	Teramo	A	Anglo-Italian Cup	1-3	Hickton
	27th	Parma	A	" "	0-0	

## Reserves – Season 1976-1977

Aug	21st	Swanage T & Hers	A	Western Div 1	1-3	Bletsoe
	25th	Ilminster Town	A	" "	0-0	
	28th	Brixham United	A	" "	3-0	Bletsoe, Callaway, Sturgess
Sept	4th	Larkhall Athletic	H	" "	2-5	Leigh, og
	11th	Keynsham Town	A	" "	1-3	Cotton
	18th	Torquay Utd Res	H	" "	2-5	Leigh, Plumb
	25th	Portway-Bristol	A	" "	3-3	Leigh 2, Cottle
Oct	2nd	Saltash United	H	" "	0-1	
	9th	Shepton Mallet Tn	A	" "	0-2	
	16th	Melksham Town	H	" "	0-0	
	23rd	Larkhall Athletic	A	" "	1-2	Leigh
	27th	Portway-Bristol	H	" "	2-1	Leigh, Albury
	30th	Devizes Town	A	" "	1-1	Cook
Nov	6th	Clandown	A	" "	0-2	
	10th	Heavitree United	H	" "	6-0	Albury 3, Leigh 2, Sturgess
	13th	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	0-0	
	27th	Heavitree United	A	" "	2-1	Adams, O'Donnel P
Dec	4th	Ottery St Mary	H	" "	4-1	Bletsoe 2, Brown 2
	27th	Swanage T & Hers	H	" "	2-1	Bletsoe, Cook
Jan	1st	Ottery St Mary	A	" "	0-1	
	29th	Saltash United	A	" "	1-4	Hickton
Feb	2nd	Chippenham Town	H	" "	0-1	
	5th	Brixham United	H	" "	3-2	McKay 2, Sturgess
	19th	Chard Town	H	" "	0-0	
	26th	Chippenham Town	A	" "	0-1	
March	5th	Devizes Town	H	" "	2-1	Plumb, Bletsoe
	12th	Chard Town	A	" "	0-2	
	19th	Keynsham Town	H	" "	1-3	Albury
	23rd	Shepton Mallet Tn	H	" "	0-1	
	26th	Exmouth Town	A	" "	1-3	Albury
	28th	Clandown	H	" "	5-1	Phillips, Clancy, Bletsoe, Leigh, Montacute
April	8th	Melksham Town	A	" "	4-1	Phillips, Bletsoe, Leigh, Albury
	9th	Exmouth Town	H	" "	3-1	Albury 2, Phillips
	23rd	Ilminster Town	H	" "	2-2	Bletsoe, Wray





**Yeovil's Anglo-Italian squad 1977**

*Back Row (l to r): R. Plumb, R. Adams, B. Thompson, M. Franklin, M. Harrison, A. Cottle, D. Hickton, M. O'Donnell (trainer).*

*Front Row: B. Jones, F. McMahon, T. Cotton, S. Harland (player/manager), S. Flay, K. Leigh, J. Clancy.*

clocking up his 300th game, against Atherstone. The opponents in the 2nd qualifying round were Ilminster Town, who had Dave Taylor in their ranks, and Yeovil completed their biggest FA Cup win in 45 years, with Ken Brown netting five in a 10-1 thrashing. It brought another tie with Falmouth Town, who had been expected to beat Yeovil a year earlier, and this time they did, leaving chairman David Hawker to comment, "this is a complete disaster, we are in dead trouble now..." to add insult to injury the Yeovil team coach was stoned by Falmouth supporters and windows were broken. The supporters complained of no aggression, and with results in November plunging the club into the relegation zone, the heat was once again on Stan Harland.

The Western Gazette rubbed it in even further by stating that statistically the side was the worst post-War team ever with just eight points from twenty two and just nine league goals, as well as being knocked out of the Cup at the earliest stage since 1930. Chelmsford's win at Huish was due to two players at opposite ends of their careers, with the legendary Jimmy Greaves still turning out up front, although by then by his own later admission losing a battle with alcohol, and a young eighteen year old keeper called Nigel Spink, who gained a European Champions Cup winners medal with Nottingham Forest some time later.

There was no such glamour at Huish, where the club was being urged to sell the ground and relocate out of town where dogs and speedway could be involved. David Hawker agreed that in theory it was a good idea, but it should have been done fifteen years earlier, as the cost would have been £2m in 1976.

Local boy Kevin Leigh broke into the side in November and began finding the net, which alerted Swindon Town who wanted to take him on trial, but in contrast Ken Thompson had had enough and asked to be released from his contract.

In the new year a famous name appeared once again on the score sheet, when Ian McKay, son of Johnny netted against Trowbridge Town in his only appearance for the club, a mere 328 less than his dad managed.

Yeovil suffered no less than three abandoned matches in

ten days through December but things improved after the new year with wins in league and League Cup before Merthyr Tydfil were beaten in the Trophy after a replay. Sadly the lack of goals was the downfall in the next round when having drawn with Dagenham away, the side lost the replay. In a desperate move to strengthen his squad, the manager first tried to lure Harry Redknapp to Huish, but then brought in former Swindon Town hero Don Rogers, but the move backfired as Rogers performances were slated by press and public alike.

Yeovil's only chances of silverware, as a year before, were the League Cup and what was then called the Somerset Premier Cup, and they again reached the final of the former, beating Nuneaton Borough which sparked a great run through the month of March. Another son of a famous father appeared in the side, namely Kevin Albury, whose father Bill was well loved for many years at Huish, and he was given a few games in an oft changed team which was without Dick Plumb who had again fallen out with Stan Harland and demanded a transfer.

Don Rogers was dropped for the match with Weymouth, but it made little difference, as the team were branded 'cheats' by an increasingly exasperated Harland who had seen Yeovil's best chance for League status go for a burton. With Workington once again about to apply for re-election, the top Southern League club were in with a real chance, but it was not Yeovil but Wimbledon who would be nominated.

From then until the end of May when Minehead won the Premier Cup, the grind continued, Dartford having put paid to Yeovil's chance of a place in the Southern League Cup final. Harland's continuous battle with officialdom had brought him his sixteenth booking in two seasons and his third suspension, but he was available to play in the Anglo-Italian Cup matches against Turriss and Bari. Only after some deliberation and much fund raising did Yeovil finally agree to compete, but they were disappointed at the attendances in what were two sparkling performances bringing nine goals and a very real chance of a place in the final over in Italy in June. Frank McMahon knocked out a Turriss player with a right hook after much provocation and was sent off in the

**Southern Premier League 1976-1977**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wimbledon	42	28	7	7	64	22	63
Minehead	42	23	12	7	73	39	58
Kettering Town	42	20	16	6	66	46	56
Bath City	42	20	15	7	51	30	55
Nuneaton Borough	42	20	11	11	52	35	51
Bedford Town	42	17	14	11	54	47	48
Yeovil Town	42	15	16	11	54	42	46
Dover	42	13	16	13	46	43	42
Grantham	42	14	12	16	55	50	40
Maidstone United	42	13	14	15	46	50	40
Gravesend & N	42	13	13	16	38	43	39
AP Leamington	42	12	15	15	44	53	39
Redditch United	42	12	14	16	45	54	38
Wealdstone	42	13	12	17	54	66	38
Hillingdon Borough	42	14	10	18	45	59	38
Atherstone Town	42	14	9	19	41	49	37
Weymouth	42	16	5	21	53	73	37
Dartford	42	13	10	19	52	57	36
Telford United	42	11	12	19	36	50	34
Chelmsford City	42	9	13	20	56	68	31
Burton Albion	42	10	10	22	42	52	30
Margate	42	9	10	23	47	85	28

game which saw four other bookings and one man carried off in chaotic scenes described by John Lukins as one of the most incredible games ever seen at Huish.

It left seven league games to be played in May, four of which were at Huish, the pitch by then being called 'absolutely disgraceful' by Stan Harland. The same words sadly used to refer to the manager's behaviour in one or two games, where he was blamed for keeping away many supporters, whose numbers had diminished by 25% during his reign. Another factor was the emergence of Bristol City in the top flight, which had enticed many away to Ashton Gate.

Sadly the death had earlier been announced of former Yeovil Town manager Billy Kingdon, who had played and run the club from 1937 to 1946 before moving to Weymouth where he became a publican until his death at the age of 72.

The second half of the Italian job commenced with a tour party journeying for fifteen days, after some three weeks training for the tournament. As befitted football in those parts, the matches themselves were rugged and not without refereeing controversy. A 3-1 defeat, albeit unluckily, against Teramo should have meant the end of the road, but results contrived to leave Yeovil needing a win in the last game to go through to the final. The game with Parma had everything but a goal, but the 0-0 draw saw Yeovil go out, but in style. The training on the beaches of Montesilvano and the fabulous banquets provided by the hosts more than made up for the disappointment, but the return to England meant a return to the reality of the Southern League. As predicted Workington had perished at the hands of Wimbledon, who thus began their staggering rise through the divisions to the Premiership and an FA Cup win at Wembley. Yeovil on the other hand were left to rue their fate at being runners up a year too early, and looked forward to the Alliance League which then became the only realistic way to progress.

**First Team Appearances 1976-77**

Harrison 57, Jones 56(1), B Thompson 54, Harland 52, Plumb 51(2), Franklin 50, Hickton 45(4), Cotton 45(2), Flay 44(1), McMahon 40(2), Cottle 35, Adams 34(7), Clancy 30(8), Brown 28(2), Leigh 25(6), K Thompson 23, Rogers 16, Clark 14, Annells 13(2), K Albury 6, Welsh 5, Sturgess, Montacute 4, Ivermee 3, McKay, Shackell, Wray 1, Russell (1)

**First Team Goalscorers 1976-77**

Brown 20, Plumb 19, Hickton 14, Leigh 12, Clancy, Harrison 5, Rogers, Harland, Cotton, ogs 4, Albury, K Thompson 3, Jones, Flay, McMahon, B Thompson 2, Adams, Annells, McKay 1

**Reserve Goalscorers 1976-77**

Leigh 10, Bletsoe, Albury 9, Sturgess, Phillips 3, Plumb, Brown, Cook, McKay 2, Callaway, Cotton, Cottle, Adams, O'Donnell, Hickton, Clancy, Montacute, Wray, og 1

**Western League Div One 1976-1977**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saltash	34	24	6	4	81	29	78
Shepton Mallet Tn	34	23	7	4	84	39	76
Keynsham Town	34	23	2	9	87	38	71
Melksham Town	34	20	7	7	69	30	67
Chippenham Town	34	17	6	11	53	43	57
Devizes Town	34	15	8	11	58	44	52*
Torquay Utd Res	34	15	3	16	61	59	48
Portway-Bristol	34	13	9	12	57	58	48
Larkhall Athletic	34	13	7	14	59	69	46
Clandown	34	10	12	12	54	58	42
Yeovil Town Res	34	11	7	16	52	55	40
Brixham United	34	9	8	17	45	77	35
Ottery StMary	34	8	10	16	41	61	34
Exmouth Town	34	9	7	18	40	68	34
Chard Town	34	8	9	17	43	63	33
Swanage T&Hers	34	8	9	17	48	72	33
Ilminster Town	34	8	9	17	39	69	33
Heavitree United	34	4	10	20	23	56	22

\*1pt deducted

Stan Harland's summer signings of 1977 included a player who had cost some £40,000 just two years earlier. Brian Parker, a 22 year old keeper was signed from Crewe Alexandra by Arsenal, but left before making any first team appearances. He was joined at the club by Terry Hubbard, a midfielder who began at Swindon Town but had suffered knee injuries which had curtailed his career, and Barry Dominey, son of ex-Yeovil player Gordon Dominey, a centre-half with 70 League appearances to his name.

The manager's success in the transfer market did little for his peace of mind, for the pitch at Huish, despite having been rested, infuriated him, a sentiment echoed in the press, John Lukins stating that he had never seen it in a worse condition. It was open season on the ailing club, as various voices complained of a 'poor tannoy, ramshackle standing areas and general neglect', and what they needed least of all was an embarrassing FA Cup performance, and they nearly got it at the hands of Athenian League Alton Town.

The team had changed for the start and it had got past Bath City in the League Cup, but had gained just one point from two games when the visit of Alton came along. With Tony Clark having left for Bideford after a little matter of 379 games, and with Parker out with a fractured cheekbone, young Fred Ivermee was pitched into goal, with Kevin Leigh and Dick Plumb up front. It almost became the ultimate nightmare at Huish, as less than 1000 home fans saw an own goal rescue Yeovil. The replay was a happier affair and gave the Glovers another awkward trip, to a Frome Town side which was enjoying a good start. It included Ray Mabbutt, a youthful 41 year old whose son Kevin was in the First Division with Crystal Palace.

## Season 1977-1978

Aug	20th	Bath City	A	South LC 1 1st Leg	2-0	Leigh 2
	24th	Bath City	H	South LC 1 2nd Leg	1-0	Morrall
	27th	Wealdstone	H	Southern Premier	1-2	Hubbard
	31st	Cheltenham Town	A	" "	0-0	
Sept	3rd	Alton Town	H	FA Cup 1st Qual	2-2	Plumb, og
	7th	Alton Town	A	Replay	4-0	Leigh, Plumb, og, McMahon
	10th	Hastings United	H	Southern Premier	2-2	Plumb, Clancy
	13th	Atherstone Town	A	" "	0-0	
	17th	Frome Town	A	FA Cup 2nd Qual	1-2	Dominey
	24th	Maidstone United	H	Southern Premier	0-1	
	28th	Weymouth	H	South LC 2nd Rd	1-2	Hickton
Oct	1st	Bath City	A	Southern Premier	1-3	Thompson
	8th	Kettering Town	H	" "	3-0	Plumb 2, Morrall
	12th	Poole Town	H	West Co Fl Cup	2-0	McMahon, Harrison
	15th	Dartford	H	Southern Premier	5-1	Plumb, Dominey, Hickton 2, O'Donnell
	22nd	Grantham	A	" "	1-0	Plumb
	29th	Grantham	H	" "	1-0	Harland
Nov	3rd	Redditch United	H	" "	4-1	Hickton, og, Plumb, Morrall
	9th	Hillingdon Borough	H	" "	2-0	Hickton 2
	14th	Telford United	A	" "	1-2	Hickton
	19th	Dover	H	" "	1-1	Hickton
	26th	Dover	A	" "	0-0	
Dec	3rd	Nuneaton Borough	H	" "	1-0	McMahon
	5th	Salisbury	A	West Co Fl Cup	3-0	og, McMahon, Leigh
	10th	Gravesend & N	A	Southern Premier	1-2	Plumb
	17th	Bedford Town	H	" "	2-2	Leigh 2
	26th	Minehead	A	" "	2-0	Hickton, Morrall
	27th	Weymouth	H	" "	1-3	Leigh
Jan	2nd	Barnet	A	" "	1-2	Plumb
	7th	Redditch United (at Bromsgrove Rovers FC)	A	" "	3-1	Thompson, Plumb, Hickton
	14th	Weymouth	A	FA Trophy 1st Rd	1-2	Clancy
	21st	Worcester City	H	Southern Premier	0-2	
	28th	Cheltenham Town	H	" "	1-1	Clancy
Feb	4th	Hastings United	A	" "	1-1	Plumb
	11th	Atherstone Town	H	" "	3-0	Jones, og, Harland
	15th	Weymouth	A	West Co Fl Cup	2-1	Hickton, Griffin
	18th	Maidstone United	A	Southern Premier	1-1	Plumb
	25th	Bath City	H	" "	1-1	Harland
March	4th	Kettering Town	A	" "	3-3	Hickton 2, Plumb
	11th	Dartford	A	" "	0-2	
	18th	Telford United	H	" "	2-0	Dominey, Harland
	20th	Worcester City	A	" "	0-1	
	25th	Weymouth	A	" "	0-2	
	27th	Minehead	H	" "	1-0	Dominey
April	1st	Weston-s-Mare	A	Som Prem Cup 3	2-1	Leigh, Dominey
	5th	Barnet	H	Southern Premier	1-2	Clancy
	8th	AP Leamington	H	" "	0-0	
	11th	Wealdstone	A	" "	1-1	Leigh
	15th	Hillingdon Borough	A	" "	1-0	Leigh
	18th	Bristol City	H	Som Prem Cup s-f	1-2	Clancy
	20th	Gravesend & N	H	Southern Premier	1-3	Clancy
	25th	AP Leamington	A	" "	0-2	
	29th	Bedford Town	A	" "	5-2	Dominey, Green 4
May	1st	Nuneaton Borough	A	" "	2-2	Griffin, Green
	3rd	Bath City	A	Western Counties Floodlit Cup Final 1st Leg	1-1	Green
	11th	Bath City	H	Cup Final 2nd Leg	4-2	Leigh 2, Harland, Green (pen)

In one of the biggest playing disasters the club had known, Mabbutt's goal knocked them out of the Cup.

The support and the press were quick to lay the blame

## Reserves – Season 1977-1978

Aug	23rd	Clandown	A	Western Div 1	1-2
Sept	1st	Westland-Yeovil	A	"	0-2
	3rd	Brixham United	A	"	2-6
	10th	Melksham Town	A	"	1-3
	17th	Swanage T & Hers	H	"	1-1
	24th	Bristol Manor Farm	A	"	0-1
Oct	1st	Exmouth Town	H	"	1-2
	5th	Torquay Utd Res	A	"	6-1
	8th	Chippenham Town	A	"	1-2
	15th	Odd Down	A	"	0-1
	17th	Ilminster Town	H	"	2-0
	24th	Clandown	H	"	2-0
	29th	Ottery St Mary	A	"	1-3
Nov	5th	Chard Town	A	"	6-1
	12th	Melksham Town	H	"	3-1
	19th	Heavitree United	A	"	1-1
	26th	Larkhall Athletic	H	"	1-2
Dec	3rd	Exmouth Town	A	"	1-2
	10th	Devizes Town	H	"	3-5
	17th	Larkhall Athletic	A	"	2-2
	26th	Ottery St Mary	H	"	0-4
	31st	Bristol Manor Farm	H	"	2-1
Jan	2nd	Ilminster Town	A	"	0-3
	14th	Portway (Bristol)	A	"	0-3
	21st	Keynsham Town	A	"	2-3
Feb	4th	Chard Town	H	"	2-3
March	4th	Chippenham Town	H	"	3-2
	6th	Torquay Utd Res	H	"	1-1
	11th	Keynsham Town	H	"	0-0
	24th	Heavitree United	H	"	0-4
	25th	Devizes Town	A	"	1-0
April	3rd	Portway (Bristol)	H	"	0-1
	10th	Westland-Yeovil	H	"	1-1
	11th	Swanage T & Hers	A	"	2-2
	15th	Odd Down	H	"	1-1
	22nd	Brixham United	H	"	2-0

and, if the papers were to be believed, Harland was on his way, but with his contract it was estimated it would cost around £4,000 to dispense with his services. The whole squad was put on the list as things showed little sign of improving, for at the beginning of October the club had yet to win a league game in first team or reserves, and were out of the FA Cup and the League Cup.

Terry Cotton had joined Salisbury and Doug Hickton was recovering from a knee operation which hindered Harland's plans, but when Hickton returned, so did the belief, and a run of six straight league wins catapulted Yeovil to second place. The heady heights were enjoyed only briefly, as only two wins from mid-November to January sent the team back down to lower mid-table again. With little to cheer on the field, the shareholders' AGM added fuel to the fire with a grim report at Christmas, which told that the financial decline was acute and if it continued, then the club and company would be insolvent within three years. There had been a loss of £15,000, making some £53,000 in four years. Chairman Mr Hawker wryly observed that "there was light at the end of the tunnel, although it needs very strong glasses to see it"...

Yeovil beat Redditch United 3-1, in a game played at Bromsgrove, but they were left with only nine fit professionals, and that included Doug Hickton who was wanted by Nuneaton Borough, and Kevin Leigh who was to start a month's trial at Plymouth Argyle. Bad weather during February contributed to some poor gates, but few were expecting just 965 to turn up for the Atherstone match, despite Yeovil being on a run which lasted seven games unbeaten. By March the strain of the



A superb aerial view of Huish before the ring road came through (taken around 1978).

uncertainty was beginning to tell, and Frank McMahon was sold to Bath City for £2,000, Harland signing Kevin Griffin from Bath, formerly their top scorer. Sadly, after being dropped for the game with Telford, Dick Plumb also took a walk, leaving the club after becoming a non-contract player a few weeks earlier. Plumb, whose relationship with Harland was strained to the point of the use of surnames in press comments, joined Western League Chard Town after 150 goals and 337 games for Yeovil Town. It was a sad end to an era punctuated by several years in the Football League.

The rest of the campaign was played out to funeral crowds with few goals, save from a freak game at Bedford Town, where loan signing Clive Green bagged four, the first time in Yeovil history that a player had done the feat in an away game. Green had come from Portsmouth, having scored four goals in forty games as a teenage striker at Fratton Park, although history would show that he would make a valid contribution to the following seasons at Huish.

To compound the agony of Ray Mabbutt's FA Cup winner for Frome Town, son Kevin played against Yeovil for Bristol City in the Premier Cup and removed the last chance that the club had of salvaging anything from a dismal season in what was becoming one of the bleakest periods in the club's long history.

Terry Cotton, who had returned to the club as commercial manager, had a testimonial game against West Ham United.

#### First Team Appearances 1977-78

Cottle, Dominey 51, Parker 45, Harland 43(1), Harrison 43, Clancy 41(5), Morrell 40, Thompson 38(1), Leigh 33(5), McMahon 32(4), Plumb 32(1), Hickton 30(2), Jones 30, Flay 28(2), Griffin 14(3), O'Donnell 12, Ivermee, Green 11, Barnard 10, Russell 6(4), Hubbard 6, Sturgess 5, White 4(1), Annalls, Meare (1)

#### First Team Goalscorers 1977-78

Plumb 14, Hickton 13, Leigh 12, Green 8, Dominey 6, Clancy, Harland, og 5, McMahon 4, Morrall 3, Griffin, B Thompson 2, Hubbard, Jones, Harrison, O'Donnell 1

#### Southern Premier League 1977 -1978

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bath City	42	22	18	2	83	32	62
Weymouth	42	21	16	5	64	36	58
Maidstone United	42	20	11	11	59	41	51
Worcester City	42	20	11	11	67	50	51
Gravesend & N	42	19	11	12	57	42	49
Kettering Town	42	18	11	13	58	48	47
Barnet	42	18	11	13	63	58	47
Wealdstone	42	14	14	12	54	48	46
Telford United	42	17	11	14	52	45	45
Nuneaton Borough	42	15	14	13	38	36	44
Dartford	42	14	15	13	57	65	43
Yeovil Town	42	14	14	14	57	49	42
Hastings United	42	15	9	18	49	60	39
Cheltenham Town	42	12	14	16	43	52	38
Hillingdon Borough	42	13	9	20	45	54	35
Atherstone Town	42	10	15	17	41	56	35
Redditch United	42	15	5	22	40	55	35
AP Leamington	42	11	13	18	34	57	35
Minehead	42	11	12	19	43	48	34
Dover	42	9	13	20	41	63	31
Bedford Town	42	8	13	21	51	75	29
Grantham	42	11	6	25	40	66	28



**Western League Div One 1977-1978****Reserve Appearances 1977-78**

Neate 33, Ivermee 32, Russell 31, Wray 29, Shackrell 27, Street 25, Trott 24(1), A Sturgess 23, A O'Donnell, Mear 22, Montacute 21, Flay 19, Board 18(1), Jones 11, Dominey, B O'Donnell 8, Leigh, Clancy 7, Francis, O White, Pounder, Plumb 6, Hickton 5, Harrison, Parker, Murrell, McMahon 4, Chant, Cottle 3(1), Harland, Cunnick, Williams 3, Thompson, White, Farwell, R Sturgess 2, Annalls, Griffin, Lowe, Dugdale, Hubbard 1, Pardoe (1)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Keynsham Town	36	23	10	3	77	22	79
Clandown	36	22	4	10	77	36	70
Ilminster Town	36	21	6	9	69	47	69
Bristol Manor Farm	36	20	5	11	67	38	65
Devizes Town	36	20	5	11	73	52	65
Torquay Utd Res	36	18	5	13	69	53	59
Portway-Bristol	36	17	8	11	57	42	59
Melksham Town	36	17	7	12	76	60	58
Ottery St Mary	36	16	7	13	55	55	55
Larkhall Athletic	36	15	8	13	58	66	53
Exmouth Town	36	13	7	16	41	55	46
Brixham United	36	11	9	16	61	79	41
Chard Town	36	12	5	19	56	81	41
Westland-Yeovil	36	8	12	16	40	52	36
Odd Down	36	9	9	18	52	75	36
Yeovil Town Res	36	9	8	19	52	65	35
Heavitree United	36	9	5	22	32	64	32
Swanage T & Hers	36	6	11	19	48	85	29
Chippenham Town	36	8	4	24	40	74	28







## CHAPTER SEVEN

# Huish welcomes Barry Lloyd with Alliance Football drawing closer

During the summer of 1978 it was finally confirmed that the long awaited Football Alliance would be up and running twelve months hence. Promotion and relegation in the Southern and Northern Premier Leagues was suspended, as thirteen clubs from the former and seven from the latter would be taken, based on their average league positions over the previous and current seasons. Yeovil Town quite rightly used this news as a rallying call to the supporters, many of whom had lost interest in an unremitting diet of bland football. The board and the club would use what they hoped would be the final ever season in the Southern League to build for the far greater challenge of the national league.

Stan Harland had signed a six month extension to his contract and began without Doug Hickton who had gone back to the Derby area, but had landed 21 year old David Platt, an exciting striker from Grantham for £4,000. He had rejected overtures from Gillingham and Doncaster Rovers as Yeovil were able to fix him up with a job. Also joining the fray was Bob Baird, a keeper from Frome Town, but Harland's main problem was again the pitch, which according to him, was 'not fit for cows to graze on'. There were bare patches and cracks, with gravel, glass and metal objects strewn on it and it did not bode well for the upcoming season. Clive Green signed before the start but was immediately injured in a training match and Terry Cotton, who had re-signed from Salisbury, was again drafted in, although his astonishing run of goals did not begin in earnest until October.

Stan Harland's unhappy tenure at Yeovil came to an abrupt end, albeit a happy one, when he was offered, and accepted, the post of assistant manager at Portsmouth, and he left the Huish faithful with mixed emotions. He was one of the finest players of his time at Yeovil, his class shining above much of what was mediocre, but his aggressive side often let him down on and off the pitch, where he was inclined to aggravate one or two people, on similar lines to a former International who took charge at Yeovil two decades on.

With Harland gone and the season up and running, the club once again coped with a flood of applicants, choosing a young player-manager in Barry Lloyd, a 29 year old Hillingdon born midfielder player who began as an apprentice at Chelsea before enjoying a career spanning 250 plus games for Fulham with subsequent spells at Hereford United and Brentford.

It was of course hoped that he would bring a breath of fresh air to the club and he started reasonably well,

progressing in the League Cup via a replay with Trowbridge Town and cantering past Witney Town in the FA Cup. Having already lost Clive Green before the season had begun, David Platt was sidelined with ankle problems, leaving local boy Gary Turner to soldier away up front alongside Terry Cotton, enjoying his comeback with a glut of goals. Lloyd's philosophy was simple, attack and be damned appeared to be the motto, and for the FA Cup tie with Hungerford Town he fielded five strikers, a throw back to the good old days of the fifties. The match had what many saw as one of the most exciting finishes of any Glover's game, when Yeovil recovered from being 4-2 down with two minutes to go to force a replay, which Terry Cotton won with two more goals, making four in all for the tie. Sadly the squad was being crucified by injuries, Terry Hubbard again being sidelined by what looked to be a career ending injury. Yeovil edged past Dorchester despite missing a penalty and having Brian Parker sent off, and then four days later they knocked the same side out of the League Cup, again thanks to Cotton.

Although the Cup run began in September, it had proved to be a worthwhile venture, as Cheltenham were next in the final qualifying round. Again a late goal by Kevin Leigh put Lloyd's men into the First Round on the back of an eleven match unbeaten run, which ended three days later at Redditch United.

Lloyd had been negotiating with Norman Piper, a 30 year old midfielder who had played over 500 League games before venturing to play in America, and he was keen to join, although international clearance did not come in time for the FA Cup tie with Barking. The Isthmian Leaguers were described as being 'one of the best non-League outfits for many years, and their experience told as Lloyd's good luck ran out with a single goal defeat at Huish, robbing them of the dubious pleasures of hosting Aldershot in Round Two.

Merthyr Tydfil felt the backlash a week later in the Trophy, conceding seven second half goals in an 8-1 slaughter of a team previously unbeaten. David Platt's four goals confirmed his recovery from injury and he soon began to attract attention which was seen as a Godsend financially. Hereford United were prepared to pay £18,000 for his services and a deal was struck, although it did not go through, unofficially due to his suspect ankles not allowing him to train full time. Brian Thompson was also in demand

Season 1978-1979					
Aug	19th	Trowbridge Town	H	South LC 1 (1st leg)	2-0 Leigh 2
	22nd	Trowbridge Town	A	South LC 1 (2nd leg)	0-2 AET
	26th	AP Leamington	H	Southern Premier	3-1 Clancy, Thompson (pen), Turner
Sept	2nd	Nuneaton Borough	A	" "	0-0
	5th	Trowbridge Town	A	South LC 1 Replay	2-1 og, Turner
	9th	Witney Town	A	Southern Premier	2-4 Clancy, Jones
	16th	Andover	H	FA Cup 1st Qual	4-0 Turner, Clancy, Hubbard, Cotton
	23rd	Dartford	H	Southern Premier	2-1 Turner, Morrall
	26th	Dorchester Town	A	South LC 2nd Rd	0-0
	30th	Bridgend Town	A	Southern Premier	1-1 Clancy
Oct	7th	Hungerford Town	A	FA Cup 2nd Qual	4-4 Cotton 2, Leigh 2
	11th	Hungerford Town	H	Replay	3-0 Cotton 2, Turner
	16th	Hillingdon Borough	A	Southern Premier	0-0
	21st	Dorchester Town	H	FA Cup 3rd Qual	2-1 Cotton 2
	25th	Dorchester Town	H	South LC 2 Rep	3-0 Cotton, Morrall, Cottle (pen)
	28th	Weymouth	A	Southern Premier	3-3 Cotton, Flay, Platt
Nov	4th	Cheltenham Town	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	2-1 Dominey, Leigh
	7th	Redditch United	A	Southern Premier	1-3 Cotton
	11th	Margate	H	" "	2-0 Cotton 2
	15th	Barry Town	H	South LC 3rd Rd	3-0 Cotton 2, Platt
	18th	Kettering Town	A	Southern Premier	1-5 Platt
	22nd	Cheltenham Town	H	" "	0-0
	25th	Barking	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	0-1
Dec	2nd	Merthyr Tydfil	H	FA Trop 3rd Qual	8-1 Platt 4, Leigh, Cottle (pen), Harrison, Cotton
	6th	Salisbury	H	West Co FI Cup	5-0 Cotton 2, Leigh, Sturgess, Green
	9th	Atherstone Town	A	Southern Premier	1-1 Platt
	13th	Hastings United	H	" "	3-1 Leigh, Platt, Morrall
	16th	Wealdstone	H	" "	4-1 Platt 3, Morrall
	23rd	Maidstone United	A	" "	2-2 Platt, Cotton
	26th	Dorchester Town	H	" "	3-0 Piper 3
	30th	Telford United	H	" "	3-3 Piper, Cotton, Green
Jan	10th	Gravesend & N	H	" "	4-0 Green 2, Morrall, Platt
	17th	Falmouth Town	H	FA Trophy 1st Rd	3-0 Morrall, Platt 2
	20th	Nuneaton Borough	H	Southern Premier	3-1 Platt, Clancy, Cottle (pen)
	27th	Kettering Town	H	" "	0-1
Feb	3rd	Barrow	H	FA Trophy 2nd Rd	5-0 Green, Platt 2, Morrall, Thompson
	10th	Bridgend Town	H	Southern Premier	1-0 Platt
	17th	Cheltenham Town	A	" "	0-0
	19th	Worcester City	A	South LC 4th Rd	3-3 Platt, Green, Morrall
	24th	Leatherhead	A	FA Trophy 3rd Rd	1-0 Platt
	26th	Worcester City	H	South LC 4 Rep	4-1 Platt 3, Green
	28th	Witney Town	H	Southern Premier	2-0 Leigh 2
Mar	3rd	Worcester City	A	" "	0-1
	7th	Weymouth	A	Southern LC Semi-final 1st Leg	1-1 Morrall
	10th	Weymouth	H	Southern Premier	4-0 Green 2, Platt, Cotton
	13th	Hereford United	H	Friendly	2-4 Green, Morrall
	17th	Dagenham	A	FA Trophy 4th Rd	0-2
	19th	Weymouth	H	Southern LC Semi-final 2nd Leg	1-0 Thompson
	21st	Dartford	A	Southern Premier	1-1 Cotton
	24th	Margate	A	" "	0-0
	25th	Poole Town	A	West Co FI Cup	0-3
	27th	Hillingdon Borough	H	Southern Premier	2-1 Clancy, Green
	31st	Barnet	H	" "	0-1
April	2nd	Worcester City	H	" "	1-1 og
	4th	Frome Town	H	Som Prem Cup 3	1-0 Cotton
	7th	Bath City	A	Southern LC	0-1

Season 1978-1979 - continued					
				Final 1st Leg	
	9th	Bath City	A	Southern Premier	0-3
	14th	Bath City	H	Southern LC	0-0
				Final 2nd Leg	
	16th	Bath City	H	Southern Premier	1-1 Green
	18th	Bath City	H	Som Premier Cup Semi-final	4-2 Turner, Cottle (pen), Hayward, Green
	19th	AP Leamington	A	Southern Premier	0-3
	21st	Telford United	A	" "	0-2
	22nd	Dorchester Town	A	West Co FI Cup	0-1
	23rd	Maidstone United	H	Southern Premier	0-0
	26th	Weymouth	H	West Co FI Cup	1-3 Green
	28th	Atherstone Town	H	Southern Premier	0-0
	30th	Barnet	A	" "	1-1 Finnigan
May	2nd	Gravesend & N	A	" "	1-0 Sturgess (pen)
	4th	Dorchester Town	A	" "	1-3 Finnigan
	5th	Wealdstone	A	" "	0-4
	7th	Redditch United	H	" "	4-0 Cotton, Green 2, Clancy
	9th	Hastings United	A	" "	2-0 Cotton 2
	15th	Minehead	A	Somerset Prem Cup Final 1st Leg	1-1 Cotton
	17th	Minehead	H	Final 2nd Leg (AET)	3-2 Green 2, Clancy

and Portsmouth offered £2,000 for him, only to be rejected by the club who were hell bent on finishing high enough for the Alliance League and possible Football League status, conveniently disregarding the desperate monetary situation.

With Platt, Piper and Green on form, Terry Cotton once again reverted to centre half, but he continued to find the net as the goals flowed throughout December. Piper's hat-trick in twelve minutes at home to Dorchester Town on Boxing Day was followed by a 3-3 draw with Telford United and a 4-0 win over Gravesend, just part of a remarkable sequence of eight consecutive home matches including Trophy wins over Falmouth Town and Barrow, two opposite ends of the footballing map.

Sadly it was not all good news, as it was announced that Jack Hargreaves, a member of the famous Alec Stock side, had died of a heart attack at the early age of 63.

David Platt's ankle problems did not appear to bother him unduly, as fourteen goals in fourteen games testified, and his partnership with Clive Green was becoming lethal and exciting, the win over Gravesend taking the club to fifth place.

Lloyd signed Trevor Finnigan, a 26 year old former Blackpool and AFC Bournemouth striker for £2,000 who began as a youth at Everton, as cover for Green and Platt, particularly as Platt was still being coveted, but he was soon injured along with Norman Piper and Bryn Jones. Progress was made in both Trophy and League Cup through March as excitement grew with a possible Wembley appearance, but the draw was unkind, sending Yeovil to Dagenham. It proved to be a journey too far as Yeovil were outplayed, but they bounced back to reach the final of the League Cup by beating Weymouth over two legs, a fitting reward for Lloyd whose side had been watched by FA representatives looking for non-International material. Brian Parker and Brian Thompson went all the way by playing for the England Semi-Professional team, but from then on, with a whole army of matches to be played due to the cup runs, the season petered away badly and disappointingly, as was so often the case. Another freakish run of fixtures saw Yeovil play Bath City five consecutive times in eleven days in April, twice in League Cup final, twice in the league and once in the Somerset Premier Cup semi-final. Bath City came out on top

## Reserves – Season 1978-1979

Aug	29th	Bristol Manor Fm	A	Western Div 1	2-2
Sept	2nd	Devizes Town	H	" "	0-1
	6th	Swanage T & Hers	H	" "	1-1
	9th	Brixham United	H	" "	1-3
	16th	Portway Bristol	A	" "	1-3
	23rd	Elmore	A	" "	1-2
	30th	Wellington	H	" "	3-0
Oct	4th	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	2-1
	7th	Ottery St Mary	H	" "	0-0
	14th	Chippenham Town	H	" "	1-1
	18th	AFC B'mouth Res	H	" "	1-4
	21st	Odd Down	A	" "	1-3
	28th	Bristol Manor Fm	H	" "	0-3
Nov	4th	Brixham United	A	" "	1-1
	11th	Chard Town	A	" "	1-3
	18th	Heavitree United	H	" "	1-1
Dec	9th	Elmore	H	" "	2-1
	16th	Chippenham Town	H	" "	1-1
Jan	1st	Torquay Utd Res	H	" "	0-7
	20th	Ottery St Mary	A	" "	0-1
	27th	Melksham Town	A	" "	0-3
Feb	3rd	Odd Down	H	" "	0-0
	12th	Westland Yeovil	H	" "	0-2
Mar	10th	Chippenham Town	A	" "	0-3
	17th	Chard Town	H	" "	1-0
	20th	AFC B'mouth Res	A	" "	0-1
	24th	Larkhall Athletic	H	" "	1-1
	30th	Heavitree United	A	" "	0-1
	31st	Devizes Town	A	" "	0-0
April	4th	Wellington	A	" "	1-2
	11th	Exmouth Town	H	" "	2-1
	13th	Westland Yeovil	A	" "	1-2
	14th	Portway Bristol	H	" "	1-1
	16th	Swanage T & Hers	A	" "	0-4
May	11th	Portway Bristol	H	" "	1-2

by winning the League Cup by the single goal at Twerton, and then winning and drawing the league games, before Yeovil reached their second final by beating the Romans 4-2 in the Premier Cup. The final was won over two legs to little interest in the middle of May, by which time Yeovil had taken their place as founder members of the Alliance Premier League, just scraping home with a two season average position of tenth. With the likes of Tony Cottle and Terry Cotton, who had played 140 games between them, that season both in their mid-thirties, new blood would be sorely needed for the demands of trips to the likes of Barrow.

Amazingly Terry Cotton led the scoring charts alongside David Platt, with 26 goals, a tribute to his tenacity in coming back from relative obscurity with Salisbury and then reverting to centre-half after Christmas. Yeovil were to need men like him in the seasons which followed.

So after decades of chasing the elusive League membership, Yeovil were part of the Alliance set up which would eventually lead to automatic promotion. In effect, they had swapped domestic southern based football for the national version, with the extra travelling and wages, whilst in theory not moving any closer to League status. In fact with the likes of Altrincham and Scarborough coming in from the north, Yeovil were probably further away than for some time, although with the excitement of the new challenge, nobody was saying so.

The reaction of the supporters and the gate receipts would be a good indicator to how the league would take off, but it would be a wrench to leave the Southern League.

The club had been members since the formation of Yeovil and Petters United as a Limited Company, apart from one season in the London Combination. In all they had played 1,902 Southern League matches, winning 842, drawing 453 and losing 607. They had scored 3,566 goals whilst conceding 2,862. The last was scored by Terry Cotton at Hastings on May 9th 1979.

## Southern Premier League 1978 -1979

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Worcester City	42	27	11	4	92	33	67
Kettering Town	42	27	7	8	109	43	61
Telford United	42	22	10	10	60	39	54
Maidstone United	42	18	18	6	55	35	54
Bath City	42	17	19	6	58	40	53
Weymouth	42	18	10	13	70	57	51
AP Leamington	42	19	11	12	65	53	49
Redditch United	42	19	10	13	70	57	48
Yeovil United	42	15	16	11	59	49	46
Witney Town	42	17	10	15	59	51	44
Nuneaton Borough	42	13	17	12	59	50	43
Gravesend & N	42	15	12	15	56	55	42
Barnet	42	16	10	16	52	64	42
Hillingdon Borough	42	12	16	14	50	41	40
Wealdstone	42	12	12	18	51	69	36
Atherstone Town	42	9	17	16	46	65	35
Dartford	42	10	14	18	38	56	34
Cheltenham Town	42	11	10	21	38	73	32
Margate	42	10	9	23	44	75	29
Dorchester Town	42	7	11	24	46	86	25
Hastings United	42	5	13	24	36	83	23
Bridgend Town	42	6	6	30	39	90	18

## Western League Div 1 – 1978 -1979

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AFC B'mouth Res	36	25	6	5	101	41	81
Portway-Bristol	36	23	5	8	81	43	74
Bristol Manor Fm	36	20	5	11	59	47	65
Chippenham Town	36	19	7	10	56	43	64
Torquay Utd Res	36	20	4	12	82	47	62
Melksham Town	36	18	4	14	58	57	58
Devizes Town	36	16	9	11	71	54	57
Wellington	36	18	3	15	48	46	57
Chard Town	36	15	6	15	57	58	51
Brixham United	36	15	5	16	55	61	50
Elmore	36	15	3	18	48	65	48
Ottery St Mary	36	13	5	18	51	60	43
Larkhall Athletic	36	12	6	18	52	56	42
Westland Yeovil	36	11	9	16	43	53	42
Heavitree United	36	12	5	19	39	61	41
Swanage T & Her	36	11	6	19	51	60	39
Odd Down	36	10	5	21	38	71	35
Exmouth Town	36	8	9	19	41	72	33
Yeovil Town Res	36	5	10	21	30	65	24

## First Team Appearances 1978-79

Cotton 70(1), Parker, Thompson 69, Cottle 68, Morrall 67(1), Clancy 66(1), Jones 52(2), Harrison 52, Green 43(2), Platt 32(1), Flay 26(6), Dominey 24, Piper 21(1), Leigh 20(7), Russell 19(4), Finnigan 19(2), Turner 18(1), Hayward 16(1), Sturgess 14(4), Gold 10, Hubbard 8, Lloyd 4(3), Partridge 4(1), Baird 4, Shackell 3(2), Wray 2(1), Neate, Kember 1(2), Carvill 1

## First Team Goalscorers 1978-79

Cotton, Platt 26, Green 17, Leigh 10, Morrall 9, Clancy 8, Turner 6, Cottle, Piper 4, Thompson 3, Finnigan, Sturgess, og 2, Jones, Hubbard, Dominey, Flay, Harrison, Hayward 1

## *The Alliance starts at Barrow....*

As expected the weeks leading up to the start of the first ever Alliance campaign in August 1979 were extremely busy, with planning of away trips, selling of season tickets and arranging upgraded friendlies with the likes of Wimbledon and Port Vale. The move from the Southern League saw Edmund Templeman leave the board and join Dorchester Town, which enabled him to retain the presidency of the Southern League. Barry Lloyd began enlisting more players and after a lengthy chase obtained the signature of Jimmy Harmison from Ashington, recommended by Cecil Irwin. A plea from Yeovil to the FA to be exempted from the early rounds of the Cup on the basis of their fine record was rejected in July, shortly before the draw showed the club pitted against Bridgwater Town.

Season ticket sales were said to be soaring, as was the cost of watching Yeovil, which rose to 85p, with a further 20p to sit down. Before the season had even begun, Lloyd's plans were thrown into turmoil with the news that David Platt, talked about as a £20,000 player, was again having trouble with his ankles and would be in hospital and out of action until November. He was also likely to lose the unpredictable Trevor Finnigan, with whom he had fallen out and had transfer listed. One piece of good news was that experienced centre-half Glyn Broom signed from Bath City.

Yeovil began their Alliance career with an away trip to Barrow, one of the longest, which was made the day before, the squad staying over at a hotel on Lake Windermere. The cost of the journey of 315 miles came out of a shared pool amongst member clubs, which eased the financial burden, but despite that the expenses soon soared, although sadly the home gates did not take the sudden upturn that many had predicted.

Lloyd's squad included an old face who had made a surprise re-appearance after three years in Western League football at Westland Sports. Stuart Housley came back to earn a place alongside another long stayer, John Clancy, and they were joined by Jess Payne, a 22 year old with 25 League games behind him for Torquay United.

The Barrow trip ended in defeat, but five wins and four draws in the next nine games put the supporters in good spirits, especially as David Platt had returned after days rather than months as was expected. Further south Weymouth FC were busy buying a relatively unknown defender from Dorchester Town for £2,000. Graham Roberts was starting out on his own career which would bring him full circle back to the west country sixteen years later before moving on again. David Platt scored twice in three games, but sadly his ankle again gave out and he was replaced by Kevin Leigh who helped Clive Green to a hat-trick against Altrincham, Alex Stepany and all.

Bridgwater Town and Liskeard Athletic were both beaten, if unconvincingly, in the Cup which gave up another Cornish side in Saltash United. Lloyd signed Telford United midfielder Mark Williams around the same time to add to the squad, but it did not help numerically as an unsettled Kevin Leigh moved on to Dorchester Town for £1,500 at the same time. As well as the Cup, Yeovil's league position was rosy as November beckoned, with just Altrincham and Worcester City above them, but gates were continuing to be a worry, none of which had risen much above 2,000.

Off the field there was trouble within the Green and White Supporters' Club as the entire committee resigned, forcing an extra-ordinary general meeting. Re-styling of the club was called for in an attempt to head off any repetition of the mass grief which enveloped the club many years earlier when the original Supporters' Club was thrown out. Wealdstone and Nuneaton Borough inflicted heavy league

defeats which sent Yeovil back to mid-table, but the Cup run continued with a match in the final qualifying round against local rivals Weymouth, watched by 3,571 fans. A win would ensure Yeovil's exemption to the late stages for next season and a win they got, Gary Turner's brace giving the fans much to cheer about, made by none other than Stuart Housley.

The draw gave Town a match with Enfield in the First Round, but it would be without Brian Thompson, whose talents had been spotted and snapped up by Mansfield Town, who shelled out £7,000 to create a club record fee. Thompson played 311 games in all for Yeovil.

Three league wins before the Enfield game saw Yeovil shoot back up the table to second place and a Clive Green goal gave the club a fine win over a team who were thought to be superior to Slough Town, who were to visit in the Second Round. Surprisingly the famous Cup fever which used to engulf the town was simply not there any more, and little interest was generated as Mark Williams edged his side through to the Third Round and the big guns. It was the ninth time the club had reached that level and they were rewarded with a home tie with the club fifth in the top division. Norwich City came to Huish with a reputation for playing attractive football, and the club immediately began talking of a capacity 15,000 crowd, whilst at the same time setting the admission cost at £1.80p with no reductions, nearly a pound dearer than a usual game. The offer of entry to the next game free of charge to ticket holders did little to appease many who were furious at what was seen as the club using the supporters to ease pressure on the overdraft.

In the end just 8,523 turned up, paying record receipts of £18,400 for the privilege of watching the match which was covered by Match of the Day netting the club a further £1,500. Two late goals by Keith Robson and Justin Fashanu saved Norwich's blushes, but the chairman was non-plussed when challenged about the crowd. "If people are not interested in watching the fifth best team in the country, then what chance have we of expecting them to watch the likes of AP Leamington and Bangor City." Malcolm Gold was man of the match for Yeovil, playing against World Cup winner Martin Peters, just eighteen months after coming out of South Petherton FC.

A meeting immediately after the Norwich game, saw vice chairman Bryan Moore replaced by Geoff House. Moore remained on the board, indeed he was on the Alliance management committee and would have his time at Yeovil in later years long after David Hawker had moved on. On the field Lloyd's men had begun once again to attract too much attention from referees and the club was summoned by the FA to explain away two sendings off and 28 cautions. The very next game, a Trophy replay with Maidstone, saw David Platt sent off after a punch up, but goals from Payne, Green, Finnigan and Harmison saw Yeovil through to the 2nd Round, where they crushed Chorley 5-2, Joe Scott scoring a hat-trick. The draw gave Yeovil the longest domestic trip ever taken, to the northern outpost of Blyth Spartans. The round trip of 840 miles to play the Northern League leaders did not end in success, for a lone goal was enough to once again end dreams of Wembley. A special train had been laid on for some 400 fans at £9 return, but their support could not lift Town who went out and with it went their season.

The Alliance fixtures still had some arduous trips to places such as Bangor City, Northwich Victoria and Boston United, the latter ending in a 3-0 defeat and a row between Barry Lloyd and David Platt which saw him substituted. Jimmy Harmison asked to be allowed to go back home and with Bryn Jones out for the season with a depressed cheekbone, the squad appeared to be falling apart.

## Season 1979-1980

Aug	18th	Barrow	A	Alliance Premier	0-2	
	22nd	Maidstone United	H	" "	3-0	Leigh 2, Cottle pen
	25th	Boston United	H	" "	0-0	
Sept	1st	Telford United	A	" "	3-0	Clancy, Finnegan 2
	4th	Maidstone United	A	" "	1-0	Platt
	8th	Northwich Vics	H	" "	1-1	Platt
	15th	Bridgwater Town	A	FA Cup 1st Qual	0-0	
	19th	Bridgwater Town	H	Replay	2-0	Leigh 2
	22nd	Altrincham	H	Alliance Premier	3-2	Green 3
	29th	Nuneaton Borough	A	League Cup 1	1-3	Morrall
Oct	6th	Liskeard Athletic	A	FA Cup 2nd Qual	1-0	Green
	13th	Scarborough	A	Alliance Premier	0-0	
	17th	Kettering Town	H	" "	1-1	og
	20th	Saltash United	A	FA Cup 3rd Rd	3-3	Housley, Finnegan, Green
	24th	Saltash United	H	Replay	2-1	Finnegan 2
	27th	Wealdstone	A	Alliance	0-5	
Nov	3rd	Weymouth	H	FA Cup 4th Qual	2-1	Turner 2
	10th	Nuneaton Borough	A	Alliance Premier	0-3	
	13th	AP Leamington	A	" "	4-0	Green 2, Payne, Finnegan
	17th	Bath City	H	" "	1-0	Finnegan
	21st	Barnet	H	" "	5-0	Green, Morrall, Williams, Finnegan, Housley
	24th	Enfield	A	FA Cup 1st Rd	1-0	Green
Dec	1st	Worcester City	H	Alliance Premier	0-2	
	8th	Gravesend & N	H	Alliance Premier	1-1	Green
	15th	Slough Town	H	FA Cup 2nd Rd	1-0	Williams
	26th	Weymouth	H	Alliance Premier	0-1	
	29th	Stafford Rangers	A	" "	1-2	og
Jan	1st	Weymouth	A	" "	0-3	
	5th	Norwich City	H	FA Cup 3rd Rd	0-3	
	12th	Maidstone United	A	FA Trophy 1st Rd	2-2	Green 2
	19th	Gravesend & N	A	Alliance Premier	0-2	
	21st	Maidstone United	H	FA Trop 1 Rep	4-2	Pyne, Green, Finnegan, Harmison
	26th	Stafford Rangers	H	Alliance Premier	3-1	Scott 2, Green
	28th	Weymouth	A	West Co FI Cup	1-0	Scott
Feb	2nd	Chorley	H	FA Trophy 2nd Rd	5-2	Scott 3, Harmison 2
	6th	Redditch United	H	Alliance Premier	2-0	Platt, Payne
	16th	Bath City	A	" "	1-1	Payne
	18th	Dorchester Town	H	West Co FI Cup	4-2	Platt, Scott, Finnegan, Green
	23rd	Blyth Spartans	A	FA Trophy 3rd Rd	0-1	
Mar	1st	Boston United	A	Alliance Premier	0-3	
	5th	Poole Town	H	West Co FI Cup	1-0	Scott
	10th	Worcester City	A	Alliance Premier	0-2	
	15th	Kettering Town	A	" "	3-5	Finnegan, Scott, Green
	20th	Bristol City Res	H	Som Prem Cup 3	0-0	(aet)
	22nd	Telford United	H	Alliance Premier	0-2	
	29th	Bangor City	A	" "	0-1	
April	4th	Scarborough	H	" "	1-1	Williams
	7th	Altrincham	A	" "	1-1	Scott
	9th	Redditch United	A	" "	2-2	Green, Finnegan
	12th	Northwich Vics	A	" "	1-0	Williams
	13th	Bristol City Res	H	SPC 3rd Rd Rep	1-0	Green
	16th	Barrow	H	Alliance Premier	0-1	
	19th	Barnet	A	" "	3-0	Finnegan, Morrall, Williams
	21st	Bath City	H	West Co FI Cup	5-2	Williams 3, Finnegan, Platt
	23rd	AP Leamington	H	Alliance Premier	1-0	Williams
	26th	Bangor City	H	" "	1-2	Tindall
	28th	Bath City	H	Somerset Prem Cup	0-1	Semi-final (AET)

## Season 1979-1980 – continued

April	30th	Nuneaton Borough	H	Alliance Premier	2-1	Finnegan 2
May	1st	Bath City	A	West Co FI Cup	0-4	
	3rd	Wealdstone	H	Alliance Premier	1-1	Green
	7th	Plymouth Argyle	H	Testimonial	1-4	
		Salisbury City	A	West Co FI Cup		Cancelled

Terry Cotton had also moved on, having lost the commercial job due to the lottery being run by an outside agency, but one man who was wanted was midfielder Gary Borthwick from AFC Bournemouth, although Lloyd was at first unsuccessful. What seemed like an eternity finally ended with the last Alliance game, a draw against Wealdstone, by which time the retained list had been published. Lloyd had released John Clancy after 483 games and 78 goals, Stuart Housley again after one season back, Bryn Jones, Tony Cottle, and Terry Cotton, although the last two would return in different capacities.

Altrincham were crowned champions and Brian Parker was somewhat surprisingly made Player of the Year when the dust settled. Lloyd recouped the £5,500 he paid for Joe Scott when off loading him to Hungerford Town and Trevor Finnigan was listed at £7,000 as Lloyd determined to improve his squad and at the same time their discipline.

Tragically for Altrincham they missed entry to the Football League by just one vote at the AGM, with one club who had pledged their support allegedly missing the meeting altogether. There was more bad news closer to home as David

## Reserves – Season 1979-1980

Aug	18th	Brixham United	H	Western Div 1	1-3
	21st	Larkhall Athletic	A	" "	2-4
	25th	Elmore	A	" "	0-3
	27th	Chard Town	H	" "	2-1
Sept	1st	Chippenham Town	H	" "	3-1
	3rd	Glastonbury	H	" "	3-0
	8th	Liskeard Athletic	A	" "	1-3
	15th	AFC B'mouth Res	H	Western LC 1	0-3
	19th	Bath City Res	A	Western Div 1	0-5
	22nd	Shepton Mallet	A	" "	1-1
	24th	Westland Yeovil	H	" "	3-1
	29th	Wellington	A	" "	2-3
Oct	1st	Swanage T & Hers	H	" "	2-2
	6th	Bath City Res	H	" "	1-4
	8th	Torquay Utd Res	H	" "	3-6
	13th	Heavitree United	H	" "	2-0
	20th	Melksham Town	H	" "	1-1
	27th	Shepton Mallet	H	" "	3-2
Nov	3rd	Bristol Manor Fm	A	" "	0-2
	10th	Liskeard Athletic	H	" "	3-2
	14th	Melksham Town	A	" "	0-0
	24th	Elmore	H	" "	3-1
Dec	1st	Exmouth Town	A	" "	1-2
	8th	Odd Down	A	" "	4-4
	22nd	Devizes Town	A	" "	1-2
	26th	Chard Town	A	" "	2-2
Jan	12th	Radstock Town	A	" "	5-2
	19th	Odd Down	H	" "	0-2
	26th	Brixham United	A	" "	1-1
Feb	2nd	Ottery St Mary	A	" "	0-1
	9th	Glastonbury	A	" "	5-2
	16th	Bristol Manor Fm	H	" "	1-5
Mar	22nd	Westland Yeovil	A	" "	3-1
	24th	Ottery St Mary	H	" "	0-4
	29th	Radstock Town	H	" "	3-0
April	5th	Swanage T & Hers	A	" "	1-1
	9th	Chippenham Town	A	" "	2-3
	12th	Heavitree United	A	" "	0-4
	16th	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	0-1
	24th	Devizes Town	H	" "	1-0



Platt was again staring retirement in the face as his troublesome ankles were causing concern. Finnigan moved down the road to Weymouth for £5000 and Borthwick signed for Yeovil, as did a clutch of other names, most of whom made little impact on the squad or the club. Andy Bell, Kim Book, Jeremy Brown, Tony Levy, Steve Ritchie and Andy Leitch all moved into Huish during the summer as Lloyd searched for a winning formula, and Tony Cottle returned to run the reserves.

Lloyd also spent weeks chasing Salisbury striker Brian Ashton, and was helped by Mike Hughes, who had left Salisbury and joined Taunton Town before moving back to Huish later as number two.

There was one final piece of sad news, when Westland Sports brief flirtation with the Western League ended when they resigned for the Dorset Combination. The Combination had no room for them and refused them entry, throwing the whole club into a tail spin, which stopped when the Yeovil League took them on board.

#### Alliance Premier League 1979-1980

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Altrincham	38	24	8	6	79	35	56
Weymouth	38	22	10	6	73	37	54
Worcester City	38	19	11	8	53	36	49
Boston United	38	16	13	9	52	43	45
Gravesend & N	38	17	10	11	49	44	44
Maidstone United	38	16	11	11	54	37	43
Kettering Town	38	15	13	10	55	50	43
Northwich Vics	38	16	10	12	50	38	42
Bangor City	38	14	14	10	41	46	42
Nuneaton Borough	38	13	13	12	58	44	39
Scarborough	38	12	15	11	47	38	39
Yeovil Town	38	13	10	15	46	49	36
Telford United	38	13	8	17	52	60	34
Barrow	38	14	6	18	47	55	34
Wealdstone	38	9	15	14	42	54	33
Bath City	38	10	12	16	43	69	32
Barnet	38	10	10	18	32	48	30
AP Leamington	38	7	11	20	32	63	25
Stafford Rangers	38	6	10	22	41	57	22
Redditch United	38	5	8	25	26	69	18

#### Western League Div I - 1979-1980

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melksham Town	42	27	8	7	78	27	62
Devizes Town	42	25	9	8	91	42	59
Liskeard Athletic	42	23	10	9	70	31	56
Bath City Res	42	22	8	12	89	62	52
Exmouth Town	42	22	8	12	67	43	52
Torquay Utd Res	42	21	10	11	84	61	52
Elmore	42	20	9	13	63	45	49
Bristol Manor Fm	42	20	9	13	70	58	49
Ottery St Mary	42	16	12	14	64	52	44
Glastonbury	42	16	11	15	60	68	43
Chippenham Town	42	16	10	16	58	62	42
Radstock Town	42	15	10	17	63	75	40
Shepton Mallet Tn	42	15	9	18	75	78	39
Chard Town	42	14	11	17	51	59	39
Yeovil Town Res	42	14	10	18	71	85	38
Brixham United	42	14	9	19	60	70	37
Heavitree United	42	11	14	17	57	69	36
Larkhall Athletic	42	11	10	21	48	85	32
Odd Down	42	9	12	21	46	76	30
Wellington	42	8	13	21	38	59	29
Swanage T & Hers	42	6	13	23	45	91	24
Westland Yeovil	42	5	9	28	31	81	19

#### First Team Appearances 1979-80

C Green 55, B Parker 53, T Finnegan 49, G Broom 48, J Harmison 47, J Payne 46, M Williams, S Morrall 39, T Cottle 35, G Battams 31, B Jones 30, S Housley 28, M Gold 25, N Ryan 20, J Scott 18, B Thompson 17, D Platt 16, J Clancy 14, G Turner 13, T Cotton 11, K Leigh, P Tindall 7, E Carvill 3, B Knott 2, G Weeks, R Baird, C Westlake, Neate, Horton, S Hayward 1

#### First Team Goalscorers 1979-80

C Green 19, T Finnegan 16, M Williams 9, J Scott 10, D Platt 5, K Leigh, J Payne 4, S Housley, J Harmison, S Morrall 3, G Turner, og 2, J Clancy, P Tindall, T Cottle 1

## Season 1980-81

For the second time running, Yeovil played Barrow on the opening day, this time at Huish, and goals from Steve Morrall and Brian Durbin gave them the points. Barry Lloyd had spent over £15,000 during the close season in strengthening his squad, but he soon dropped Andy Bell, who he said did not suit his style of play. Gary Turner also bade farewell, joining Frank McMahon who had taken over at Taunton Town. Although the side had found the net six times in the first five matches, no forward had managed to score and Lloyd shuffled the line up to good effect as Frickley were beaten 5-3. David Platt was sorely missed and he slowly regained some measure of fitness, turning out for the reserves in October, and it would not be a moment too soon as Clive Green was the only one scoring with any degree of regularity.

Unfortunately, although Lloyd was seen in most quarters as far easier to correspond with and more media friendly than Stan Harland, one or two players had begun to exploit this and discipline took a down turn in Scarborough when Nigel Ryan, Gary Borthwick and Brian Parker were all fined a weeks wages for going on the town before the away match, which was lost. Parker was duly transfer listed.

The FA Cup began in the final qualifying round at Hayes, the club where Barry Lloyd himself had spent many happy times as a boy. Clive Green scored in both games, the replay being played out on what was the coldest night of the year. Isthmian League Farnborough Town were also beaten in the first round and two good league results put the club in a buoyant mood for the trip to Colchester United, who were said to be virtually unbeatable at Layer Road. Yeovil gave a fine display with Clive Green again scoring to bring the U's back to Huish. Over 500 travelled for the first game where Yeovil played in the second round for a record seventeenth time, a game covered by Match of the Day. The replay attracted only 5,800 to Huish, a fact which added to the already gloomy news concerning the balance sheet. Yet again the club had suffered a loss of around £6,000, a figure helped by the Norwich City game, without which it would have read nearer £20,000. Chairman David Hawker came under fire for presiding over a board which had seen seven consecutive years worth of losses, and ten years since the club last made a profit, after the Arsenal game.

The new year began in the worst possible way, with a 5-0 home thrashing by local rivals Weymouth, a performance described as 'pathetic'. Two days later the team bounced back by hammering Nuneaton Borough, but the crowd of 1,100 had showed what they thought of the goings on at the club. David Platt returned to the side, in a midfield role and he was soon joined by Jamie Ward, who had scored some 25 goals for Glastonbury before signing for Yeovil for a fee of £1000.

With the FA Cup out of the way the Trophy began, but it proved to be the final straw for the board, who after watching Yeovil struggle to a 1-1 draw at Badgers Hill,

## Season 1980-1981

Aug	16th	Barrow	H	Alliance Premier	2-1	Morrall, Durbin
	23rd	Boston United	A	" "	1-3	Levy
	30th	Northwich Vics	H	" "	1-2	Hayward
Sept	6th	Bangor City	A	" "	2-0	Brown, Borthwick
	13th	Nuneaton Borough	A	" "	0-3	
	20th	Frickley Athletic	H	" "	5-3	Green 2, Brown, Ashton, Ritchie
	24th	Kettering Town	H	Bob Lord 1 1st L	0-1	
	27th	Telford United	A	Alliance Premier	1-0	Brown
Oct	1st	Kettering Town	A	Bob Lord 1 2nd L	0-0	
	4th	AP Leamington	H	Alliance Premier	3-0	Green 3
	11th	Scarborough	A	" "	1-2	Broom
	18th	Altrincham	H	" "	1-1	Green pen
	25th	Kettering Town	A	" "	0-4	
Nov	1st	Hayes	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	1-1	Green
	5th	Hayes	H	Replay	2-0	Green, Bell
	8th	Bath City	H	Alliance Premier	1-2	Morrall
	22nd	Farnborough Town	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	2-1	Morrall, Ritchie
	29th	Stafford Rangers	A	Alliance Premier	1-1	Borthwick
Dec	6th	Maidstone United	H	" "	2-1	Morrall, Green pen
	13th	Colchester United	A	FA Cup 2nd Rd	1-1	Green
	17th	Colchester United	H	Replay	0-2	
	26th	Weymouth	A	Alliance Premier	1-0	Bell
	27th	Gravesend & N	H	" "	1-3	Green
Jan	1st	Weymouth	H	" "	0-5	
	3rd	Nuneaton Borough	H	" "	5-1	Morrall 2, Platt, Bell 2
	10th	Frome Town	A	FA Trop 1st Rd	1-1	Bell
	17th	Bath City	A	Alliance Premier	1-2	Green
	19th	Frome Town	H	FA Trop 1 Rep	2-1	Green, Platt
	24th	Barnet	H	Alliance Premier	1-2	Bell
	31st	Hastings United	H	FA Trop 2nd Rd	1-1	Green
Feb	3rd	Hastings United	A	Replay	1-2	Green
	7th	Stafford Rangers	H	Alliance Premier	3-4	Platt, Green, Williams
	10th	Barnet	A	" "	4-4	Ward, Williams, Green
	14th	Maidstone United	A	" "	2-4	Ward 2
	21st	Taunton Town	H	Som Prem Cup 3	3-0	Borthwick, Green pen, Platt
	28th	Gravesend & N	A	Alliance Premier	2-2	Green, Platt
March	7th	Kettering Town	H	" "	1-2	Bell
	17th	Wealdstone	A	" "	1-1	Green
	18th	Weymouth	H	West Co Floodlit	0-3	
	21st	Boston United	H	Alliance Premier	2-1	Ward, Green
	25th	Wealdstone	H	" "	4-0	Brown 2, Ward, Green
	28th	Barrow	A	" "	1-2	Ritchie
April	4th	Telford United	H	" "	1-2	Bell
	8th	Worcester City	H	" "	3-0	Ward, Platt 2 (1pen)
	11th	AP Leamington	A	" "	0-1	
	13th	Worcester City	A	" "	1-0	Bell
	18th	Bangor City	H	" "	1-0	Ward
	20th	Northwich Vics	A	" "	2-1	Ward, Bell
	22nd	Frome Town	H	Som Premier Cup Semi-final	2-1	Bell, Mitchell
	25th	Frickley Athletic	A	Alliance Premier	1-2	Williams
	27th	Bath City	A	Som Premier Cup Final 1st Leg	0-3	
	29th	Bath City	H	Final 2nd Leg	0-3	
May	2nd	Scarborough	H	Alliance Premier	0-0	
	4th	Altrincham	A	Alliance Premie	1-2	Giles

Frome and then edge past in the replay, decided to ask Barry Lloyd to go, on January 21st 1982 after two and a half years in the hottest of seats.

In a statement David Hawker said that the club would make a 'fair and honourable settlement to Barry Lloyd', in recognition of his hard work at the club. He also said that he would conduct a thorough investigation into the workings of

## Season 1980-1981

Aug	18th	Exmouth Town	H	Western Div 1	2-1
	23rd	Bristol Manor Fm	H	" "	0-0
	27th	Wellington	A	" "	0-0
	30th	Larkhall Athletic	A	" "	2-0
Sept	6th	Ottery St Mary	H	" "	3-1
	10th	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	2-2
	13th	Glastonbury	H	" "	0-2
	20th	Heavitree United	A	" "	1-1
	27th	Swanage T & Hers	H	" "	1-0
	29th	Bath City Res	H	" "	1-3
Oct	4th	Ottery St Mary	A	" "	4-3
	11th	Ilminster Town	H	" "	3-0
	18th	Radstock Town	A	" "	2-0
	20th	Torquay Utd Res	H	" "	2-0
	25th	Elmore	H	" "	3-0
Nov	1st	Falmouth Town	H	Western LC 1	2-0
	8th	Brixham United	A	Western Div 1	1-2
	15th	Heavitree United	H	" "	1-1
	22nd	Bath City Res	A	" "	4-1
	29th	Shepton Mallet	H	" "	4-1
Dec	26th	Chard Town	H	" "	0-0
	27th	Chippenham Town	A	" "	0-0
Jan	1st	Ilminster Town	A	" "	1-1
	10th	Odd Down	H	" "	0-3
	17th	Bideford	H	Western LC 2	4-5
	24th	Elmore	A	Western Div 1	2-0
Feb	14th	Wellington	H	" "	0-3
	28th	Radstock Town	H	" "	4-2
March	14th	Brixham United	H	" "	2-0
	21st	Swanage T & Hers	A	" "	0-0
	28th	Shepton Mallet	A	" "	1-0
April	4th	Chard Town	A	" "	2-1
	8th	Bristol Manor Fm	A	" "	1-2
	11th	Larkhall Athletic	H	" "	5-1
	18th	Odd Down	A	" "	1-2
	20th	Glastonbury	A	" "	2-1
	25th	Chippenham Town	H	" "	1-2

the club from top to bottom, which left him open to questions from some supporters as to why after seven years in charge, he did not know already.

He had been re-elected as chairman only the day before Lloyd's departure and his next task was to appoint Maurice O'Donnell as caretaker for the fourth time.

Whoever took charge would need to look at the defence, as twelve goals were conceded in three league games during February. Yeovil gleaned much useful publicity at the time when Malcolm Allison was taken on board to coach the side and to act in a consultancy role regarding the new manager. His presence had an immediate effect on a number of the players and despite rumours that his services would seriously add to the already burgeoning debt, it was not the case, and indeed moves were made to try to entice him to take the manager's job. Other names in line were Denis Smith and Larry Lloyd but in the end it was given to Jimmy Giles, a central defender who clocked up exactly 500 League appearances for five different clubs. He would have a difficult task, for Town were third bottom and out of everything except the Somerset Premier Cup, and with the prospect of more swingeing cuts to the budget, his managerial career could have had a smoother start. With three to go down, Yeovil were in dire trouble and they were not helped when they lost their most consistent player in Gary Borthwick. Having been fined at Scarborough he was again fined for attending a wedding instead of playing for Yeovil, and with indecent haste he was snapped up by Weymouth for £3,000. It was a very sad end to a short stay and a poor start to Giles' reign.

The potential disaster of relegation was finally averted at Easter but it was not the end of the turmoil in what was yet another horrible season. Bath City inflicted two 3-0 defeats on the side in a two legged Premier Cup final, but the players brought shame upon Yeovil Town by refusing to accept their runners up trophies. An already infuriated support, still smarting over Borthwick's departure, were angered further as Brian Parker alone made an appearance after ten minutes to collect his medal.

Giles reacted to his predicament by releasing Brian Ashton and Andy Leitch, both of whom had ineffectual seasons, along with Mark Williams. Clive Green was made Player of the Year after his 23 goals, one beacon in a sea of gloom and despondency.

#### Alliance Premier League 1980-1981

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Altrincham	38	23	8	7	72	41	54
Kettering Town	38	21	9	8	66	37	51
Scarborough	38	17	13	8	49	29	47
Northwich Vics	38	17	11	10	53	40	45
Weymouth	38	19	6	13	54	40	44
Bath City	38	16	10	12	51	32	42
Maidstone United	38	16	9	13	64	53	41
Boston United	38	16	9	13	63	58	41
Barrow	38	15	8	15	50	49	38
Frickley Athletic	38	15	8	15	61	62	38
Stafford Rangers	38	11	15	12	56	56	37
Worcester City	38	14	7	17	47	54	35
Telford United	38	13	9	16	47	59	35
Yeovil Town	38	14	6	18	60	64	34
Gravesend & N	38	13	8	17	48	55	34
AP Leamington	38	10	11	17	47	66	31
Barnet	38	12	7	19	39	64	31
Nuneaton Borough	38	10	9	19	49	65	29
Wealdstone	38	9	11	18	37	56	29
Bangor City	38	6	12	20	35	68	24

#### Western League Div I - 1980-1981

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chippenham Town	36	25	8	3	76	24	58
Wellington	36	22	8	6	80	36	52
Exmouth Town	36	22	7	7	74	37	51
Bath City Res	36	19	11	6	79	44	49
Odd Down	36	20	8	8	59	41	47
Yeovil Town Res	36	18	9	9	58	38	45
Torquay Utd Res	36	16	11	9	60	35	43
Swanage T & Hers	36	13	11	12	58	55	37
Chard Town	36	11	14	11	42	38	36
Bristol Manor Fm	36	14	8	14	53	57	36
Shepton Mallet Tn	36	13	8	15	68	75	34
Elmore	36	12	10	14	44	53	34
Glastonbury	36	9	10	17	44	60	28
Brixham United	36	11	5	20	50	70	27
Larkhall Athletic	36	5	12	19	44	76	22
Ottery St Mary	36	7	8	21	37	77	22
Heavitree United	36	7	8	21	40	86	22
Ilminster Town	36	7	6	23	39	70	20
Radstock Town	36	8	4	24	47	80	20

#### First Team Appearances 1980-81

Ritchie 52, Ryan 48, Parker 46, Bell, Green, Brown 44, Borthwick 37, Gold 36, Williams 34, Durbin, Morrall 32, Platt 30, Payne 26, Ward 18, Giles 17, Broom 16, Ashton 12, Hayward, Cottle 11, Levy 8, Book 7, Mitchell 3, Horton, Leitch 2.

#### First Team Goalscorers 1980-81

C Green 23, A Bell 11, J Ward 8, D Platt 7, S Morrall 6, J Brown 5, M Williams, G Borthwick, S Ritchie 3, B Durbin, T Levy, S Hayward, B Ashton, G Broom, J Giles, N Mitchell 1

#### Reserve Team Goalscorers 1980-81

Leitch 21, Bell 14, Ashton 8, Mitchell 6, Morrall 3, Levy, Maltravers, Williams, Ward, Green 2, Clancey, Lloyd, Westcott, Platt, Turner, Steel, Brown 1

## 1981-82 'Parker goes'...

Yeovil were stunned not long after the end of the season when Brian Parker quit the club to move back up north to Runcorn, having been made a free agent when the club offered him less money, a mistake which lost them a tidy sum for the international keeper in transfer fees. In to the club came Roy Ireland from Exeter City on a free transfer and Peter Hawkins, a winger who had been released by Weymouth. To replace Parker, Giles signed Glyn Jones from Bristol Rovers, and believed he had captured Ian Twitchin, a vastly experienced midfielder from Torquay United, only to find that his offer had been topped by Minehead. The bookies certainly did not think much of the club's chances of landing the coveted title and with it the chance of a place in the Football League, as they were made 66-1 with only Barnet and AP Leamington below them in the betting. Their shrewdness was borne out by the end of August as only Clive Green had managed to find the net and, with six games gone and three key defenders injured, Giles' squad was already struggling. Local boy Clive Westlake was soon off to Taunton Town but Trevor Finnigan was quoted as saying that he regretted leaving the club, and presumably with Barry Lloyd running Worthing FC, the coast was clear under Giles. Instead Giles signed Jimmy Scott, a midfielder from Newcastle United who had ten appearances for the Magpies to his name. Jess Payne finally returned to the fray after an absence of six months and, with Green and Platt back in tandem, September was as good as August was bad, beginning with two away wins in three days and nine goals, four from David Platt himself. By then young Steve Langley, a raw 17 year old keeper from Larkhall Athletic, had forced his way into the side in place of the struggling Jones and the side moved steadily up the table.

Meanwhile two ex-Glovers had joined forces a few miles away in the Dorset Combination as John Clancy and Stuart Housley had moved on to Sherborne Town, their senior careers completed, with a new face moving into Huish who had enjoyed his own playing career before moving into the commercial side with Bath City. Alan Skirton joined as Commercial Manager on September 14th 1981 and was joined on the playing side by Malcolm Beck, a 22 year old from Welton Rovers, whose midfield play soon attracted the scouts. Seventeen years later Alan is still holding the fort in the commercial department at Yeovil Town, whilst Malcolm is still playing, having taken over the hot seat at Keynsham Town in the Western League.

Jimmy Giles' side had enjoyed most of the autumn, despite the continued threat of a financial cut back and the win in the 4th qualifying round of the Cup over Merthyr Tydfil could have led to a money-spinning tie in the First Round, instead again it brought Dagenham. Before the tie was played Giles had attempted to sign Richard Bourne from Torquay United, only for the deal to be called off by chairman David Hawker who admitted that the club could not even afford his wages. The lottery had all but collapsed and gates had rarely struggled above 1000, prompting the local press to comment "Can Yeovil Town FC survive for much longer". Financial

## Season 1981-1982

Aug	15th	Scarborough	H	Alliance Premier	2-2	Green 2
	17th	Dagenham	A	" "	0-3	
	22nd	Kettering Town	H	" "	1-1	Green
	26th	Gravesend & North	H	Bob Lord 1 1st L	0-2	
	29th	Runcorn	H	Alliance Premier	1-3	Green
	31st	Gravesend & North	A	Bob Lord 1 2nd L	0-0	
Sept	5th	AP Leamington	A	Alliance Premier	5-2	Platt 3, Hawkins, Brown
	8th	Trowbridge Town	A	" "	4-2	Platt, Brown, Scott, Green
	12th	Frickley Athletic	H	" "	1-2	Green pen
	19th	AP Leamington	H	" "	3-2	Platt 2, Green
	23rd	Dagenham	H	" "	1-4	Payne
Oct	3rd	Maidstone United	A	" "	1-0	Ward
	10th	Northwich Vics	A	" "	1-1	Platt
	14th	Trowbridge Town	H	" "	2-0	Brown, Bell
	17th	Altrimcham	H	" "	2-1	Platt, Beck
	24th	Barnet	H	" "	4-1	Payne, Green, Ward, Griffiths
	31st	Merthyr Tydfil	H	FA Cup 4th Qual	3-0	Ward 2, Green
Nov	7th	Telford United	A	Alliance Premier	1-2	Platt
	14th	Stafford Rangers	A	" "	1-3	Beck
	21st	Dagenham	A	FA Cup 1st Rd	2-2	Green, Brown
	25th	Dagenham	H	Replay	0-1	(Aet)
	28th	Boston United	H	Alliance Premier	0-1	
Dec	5th	Dartford	A	" "	0-5	
	26th	Weymouth	A	" "	1-1	Platt
Jan	1st	Weymouth	H	" "	1-4	Platt
	16th	Bishop's Stortford	H	FA Trophy 1st Rd	2-3	Platt, Griffiths
	23rd	Enfield	A	Alliance Premier	0-2	
	30th	Barrow	H	" "	0-0	
Feb	6th	Frickley Athletic	A	" "	1-2	Griffiths
	10th	Worcester City	H	" "	3-0	Brown, Giles, Platt
	13th	Maidstone United	H	" "	1-0	Bell
	17th	Enfield	H	" "	1-2	Platt
	20th	Gravesend & North	A	" "	1-1	Platt
	24th	Dartford	H	" "	1-1	Ritchie
	27th	Barrow	A	" "	1-3	Platt
March	1st	Bath City	H	Som Prem Cup 3	1-1	Platt
	10th	Bath City	A	Alliance Premier	0-2	
	13th	Barnet	A	" "	0-0	
	20th	Telford United	H	" "	1-2	Platt
	22nd	Bath City	A	SPC 3 Replay	1-2	Payne
	27th	Worcester City	A	Alliance Premier	1-0	James
April	3rd	Stafford Rangers	H	" "	2-1	Platt, James
	10th	Runcorn	A	" "	1-2	Woollard
	12th	Bath City	H	" "	2-0	James, Brown (pen)
	19th	Altrincham	A	" "	1-7	Brown (pen)
	24th	Kettering Town	A	" "	1-1	Hawkins
	25th	Boston United	A	" "	0-0	
	28th	Northwich Vics	H	" "	4-1	Payne, Bell, Hawkins, Woollard

director Geoff Flack resigned as Vice-Chairman, having disagreed with the policies of Mr Hawker, stating that the club would have to radically change to survive. His belief that the club should have returned to the Southern League was echoed by some, but seen ultimately as a backward step when forward thinking was the only way out.

Hawker called for the club to be included in plans for a huge new sports complex, allowing Huish to be sold off and the funding made available to re-float the club, but his thoughts were soon taken over by yet more gloom, when Barry Lloyd's threat to sue the club for some £12,000 became a reality. Doubtless sensing Yeovil's plight, Maidstone United made a bid of £7,000 for Clive Green who had scored one of

## Reserves – Season 1981-1982

Aug	15th	Paulton Rovers	H	Western Div 1	0-0
	17th	Elmore	H	" "	0-1
	22nd	Swanage T & Hers	A	" "	2-1
	29th	Barnstaple Town	A	Western LC 1	0-2
Sept	2nd	Heavitree United	H	Western Div 1	0-1
	5th	Bristol Manor Farm	H	" "	1-2
	7th	Wimborne Town	H	" "	1-3
	12th	Tiverton Town	A	" "	0-5
	23rd	Torquay United Res	A	" "	1-1
Oct	3rd	Radstock Town	H	" "	0-3
	5th	Exmouth Town	H	" "	3-1
	10th	Tiverton Town	H	" "	4-2
	17th	Ottery St Mary	A	" "	4-2
	28th	Shepton Mallet	A	" "	1-3
Nov	7th	Glastonbury	H	" "	2-1
	16th	Larkhall Athletic	H	" "	2-0
	21st	Chard Town	A	" "	0-1
	29th	Heavitree United	A	" "	0-1
Dec	5th	Swanage T & Hers	H	" "	3-3
	19th	Torquay United Res	H	" "	0-1
Jan	23rd	Bath City Res	H	" "	1-0
	30th	Elmore	A	" "	0-2
Feb	6th	Ilminster Town	H	" "	1-0
	13th	Radstock Town	A	" "	2-2
	20th	Chard Town	H	" "	2-2
	27th	Ilminster Town	A	" "	3-0
March	6th	Odd Down	H	" "	0-1
	10th	Wimborne Town	A	" "	0-3
	13th	Exmouth Town	A	" "	1-1
	20th	Bristol Manor Farm	A	" "	1-2
	23rd	Paulton Rovers	A	" "	0-0
	27th	Ottery St Mary	H	" "	0-1
	31st	Glastonbury	A	" "	2-1
April	9th	Larkhall Athletic	A	" "	0-1
	10th	Shepton Mallet	H	" "	2-3
	12th	Bath City Res	A	" "	1-2
	17th	Odd Down	A	" "	0-0

the goals in the 2-2 draw with Dagenham. Yeovil lost a 2-0 lead before drawing 2-2, and then went down to an extra time goal in the replay, the fourth match without a win.

Predictably the league matches faded away with no wins from October 24th to February 10th, during which time David Hawker tendered his resignation, to become effective at the AGM. His tenancy had become a nightmare, with the remaining supporters angry at the way their club was fast disappearing into oblivion. The ground itself had become run down, with no refreshment huts open and a poor tannoy service along with the eternally sub standard pitch, and with the manager and players' foul abuse echoing around Huish, leading to letters in the press complaining of such.

Bad weather gripped the area during December, leaving the club without a home fixture for five weeks, adding to the already parlous financial state. Unsurprisingly there was little option but to sell Clive Green when Maidstone once again moved in like vultures, Yeovil being in their own words "on the brink of bankruptcy"... Stan Harland's teenage capture played 173 games in all, scoring 76 times before he was off to Maidstone United for £8,000. Up to then those close to the club had some inkling of the turmoil, but when news broke that they were losing over £1,000 a week and had a working loss over the year of £51,486, the shock waves reverberated around the town. The overdraft stood at £50,000 with £5,000 owed to creditors and a bank loan of £13,000 also losing money, all of which necessitated the sale of three more houses, leaving just one.

From then on players would travel to local matches by private car and there would be no hotels, using only cafes for refreshments.

#### Alliance Premier League 1981-1982

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Runcorn	42	28	9	5	75	37	93
Enfield	42	26	8	8	90	46	86
Telford United	42	23	8	11	70	51	77
Worcester City	42	21	6	13	70	60	71
Dagenham	42	19	12	11	69	51	69
Northwich Vics	42	20	9	13	56	46	69
Scarborough	42	19	11	12	65	52	68
Barrow	42	18	11	13	59	50	65
Weymouth	42	18	9	15	56	47	63
Boston United	42	17	11	14	61	57	62
Altrincham	42	14	13	15	66	56	55
Bath City	42	15	10	17	50	57	55
Yeovil Town	42	14	11	17	56	68	53
Stafford Rangers	42	12	16	14	48	47	52
Frickley Athletic	42	14	10	18	47	60	52
Maidstone United	42	11	15	16	55	59	48
Trowbridge Town	42	12	11	19	38	54	47
Barnet	42	9	14	19	36	52	41
Kettering Town	42	9	13	20	64	76	40
Gravesend & N	42	10	10	22	51	69	40
Dartford	42	10	9	23	47	69	39
AP Leamington	42	4	10	28	40	105	22

#### Western League Div I – 1981-1982

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shepton Mallet	36	25	8	3	88	30	58
Exmouth Town	36	24	8	4	74	31	56
Swanage T & Hers	36	21	5	10	90	47	47
Wimborne Town	36	19	9	8	67	35	47
Bath City Res	36	19	6	11	72	46	44
Elmore	36	19	6	11	58	45	44
Paulton Rovers	36	17	6	13	54	48	40
Bristol Manor Fm	36	15	9	12	58	50	39
Torquay Utd Res	36	15	9	12	50	44	39
Tiverton Town	36	13	8	15	62	63	34
Chard Town	36	12	10	14	43	55	34
Odd Down	36	14	5	17	51	57	33
Radstock Town	36	10	11	15	44	67	31
Glastonbury	36	12	6	18	63	69	30
Heavitree United	36	11	7	18	39	69	29
Yeovil Town Res	36	10	8	18	40	53	28
Larkhall Athletic	36	10	5	21	42	84	25
Ottery St Mary	36	6	3	27	28	79	15
Ilminster Town	36	3	5	28	20	70	11

Offers for the Huish site soon came in and with most directors angling for the club to play in a council owned stadium all of a sudden the 60 year old ground appeared to be in danger. On the field Giles manfully carried on, but his already thin squad lost to Bishop's Stortford in the FA Trophy and then moved into February still searching for a win. It came against Worcester City, but it was watched by just 747 die hards and was without Jamie Ward, who had moved to Folkestone Town, easing the financial burden. The season had become one simply of survival and offers of help and advice began to come in, one of which came from Roy Pitman, a former Supporters' Club committee man of thirteen years standing and reigning chairman of the England Football Supporters' Association. His idea was for

1000 supporters to pledge £1 a week through a bankers order, to assist the club in their fight. His scheme was backed by Bryan Moore who also suggested that donations be converted into shares.

With many looking for scapegoats in and around the club, the financial mess was blamed on rebuilding during the previous summer which was based on projected incomes through the lottery which did not materialise, plus the poor selection of players coming to Huish, and with no modern day Stanley Johnson to bail them out the situation had got out of control.

The exodus left opportunities for one or two of the local players who had been turning out for the wholly ignored Western League side to stake a claim, and Terry Francis from Westlands and Phil James from Keinton Mandeville both made their debuts. The press continued to look for reasons for the decline, not only of Yeovil but of football in general, stating that it had become bland and boring and with vastly inflated wages many clubs were going to the wall. They were not wrong, but excuses were of no use, and Giles continued to offload players, Ashley Griffiths going to Gloucester City. With relegation not an issue despite the dismal run, those who could be transferred were, as well as reserve boss Tony Cottle whose thankless task, so diligently performed for four years was not given any coverage at all, thereby denying one of the club's longest serving men any glory amidst the gloom. The lack of cup runs meant that yet another depressing season at Huish came to a merciful end on May 1st as planned with no chaotic fixture pile up. The statistics made grim reading with the average attendance of 1164 boosted by the Dagenham game. Steve Langley was made Player of the Year and new chairman Gerry Lock took over with a positive stance, saying "There has been enough whingeing about finance, now let us be positive". With Alan Skirton's commercial office beginning to bring in funds through a new lottery which netted £40,000 with a £1000 first prize and with match sponsorship becoming more prevalent, the financial mess at Huish was still salvageable, but it would be a long struggle.

#### First Team Appearances 1981-82

S Ritchie 47, A Bell, K Brown 44(5), J Payne, J Giles 45, S Langley 42, D Platt 41(1), J Scott 37(1), M Beck 37, A Griffiths 31, M Gold 23, C Green 21(1), P Hawkins 18(16), P James 14, R Ireland 13(1), J Ward 11(9), B Andrews 9, I Woodward 8, W Woollard 5(5), C Westlake, B Jones 5, T Francis 3, C Merrick 1, G Broom (2), K Book, B Ashton (1)

#### First Team Scorers 1981-82

D Platt 18, C Green 10, J Brown 5, J Payne, A Bell, J Ward 4, P Hawkins, M Beck, A Griffiths, P James 3, W Woollard, P Brown 2, J Scott, J Giles, S Ritchie 1

#### Reserve Team Scorers 1981-82

Woollard 10, Card 5, James, og 4, Day 3, Mitchell, Muir, Ritchie 2, Ashton, Brown, Hayward, Horton, Ireland, Payne, Platt, Ward 1

In June 1982 two not so old faces arrived back at Huish, with Malcolm Gold wanting to play for the club again and Roy Lambden returning as reserve team manager. Gold was taken on sufferance by Jimmy Giles, who was told that he was allowed just one signing, as the full quota of thirteen paid players had been reached. At the opposite end of the scale, Yeovil took on their first ever apprentice professional, sixteen year old Russell Moore, who along with training was to work alongside Jess Payne as a groundsman. The player merry-go-round continued with Weymouth offering Trevor Finnigan for David Platt, which was declined, not altogether



Season 1982-1983						
Aug	14th	Nuneaton Borough	A	Alliance Premier	1-3	Brown
	18th	Bath City	H	" "	1-0	Beck
	21st	Kettering Town	H	" "	2-1	Hawkins, Payne
	25th	Maidstone United	A	Bob Lord Tr 1 1L	1-4	Payne
	28th	Boston United	A	Alliance Premier	3-6	Beck, Hawkins, Benjafield
Sept	1st	Maidstone United	H	Bob Lord Tr 1 1L	1-3	og
	4th	Scarborough	H	Alliance Premier	2-1	James, Brown pen
	8th	Bath City	A	" "	0-2	
	11th	Barrow	A	" "	1-3	Williams
	18th	Enfield	H	" "	1-3	James
	25th	Altrincham	A	" "	1-4	James
Oct	2nd	Barnet	A	" "	4-4	Williams 2, Bell, Ritchie
	9th	Frickley Athletic	H	" "	2-1	Payne, Bell
	13th	Barnet	H	" "	4-2	Bell 3 (1 pen), Williams
	16th	Stafford Rangers	A	" "	3-1	James, Williams, Bell pen
	23rd	Bangor City	H	" "	3-2	James, Bell 2 pens
	30th	Bognor Regis Town	H	FA Cup 4th Qual	4-2	Bell 2, Beck, James
Nov	6th	Maidstone United	A	Alliance Premier	1-2	Platt
	13th	Telford United	H	" "	3-4	Beck, Bell 2
	20th	Chesham United	A	FA Cup 1st Rd	1-0	Bell
	27th	Stafford Rangers	H	Alliance Premier	2-0	(Abandoned)
	30th	Telford United	A	" "	2-3	James, Brown
Dec	11th	Southend United	A	FA Cup 2nd Rd	0-3	
	27th	Weymouth	H	Alliance Premier	0-2	
Jan	1st	Worcester City	H	" "	3-0	Bell pen, Payne, James
	4th	Trowbridge Town	A	" "	1-2	Bell
	8th	Nuneaton Borough	H	" "	6-2	Ritchie 3, Platt 2, James
	15th	Sutton United	H	FA Trop 1st Rd	2-4	Bell 2
	22nd	Dagenham	H	Alliance Premier	2-0	Payne, Bell pen
	26th	Maidstone United	H	" "	0-0	
	29th	Northwich Vics	A	" "	0-5	
Feb	15th	Taunton Town	A	Som Prem Cup 3	0-1	
	19th	Northwich Vics	H	Alliance Premier	2-4	Payne, og
	26th	Worcester City	A	" "	1-2	Bell
Mar	5th	Runcorn	H	" "	1-1	Smith
	12th	Wealdstone	A	" "	0-2	
	19th	Wealdstone	H	" "	1-5	Bell
	23rd	Altrincham	H	" "	2-1	Benjafield, Bell
	26th	Scarborough	A	" "	2-2	Bell 2
	27th	Frickley Athletic	A	" "	0-3	
	30th	Dagenham	A	" "	0-3	
April	2nd	Trowbridge Town	H	" "	0-1	
	4th	Weymouth	A	" "	0-2	
	9th	Enfield	A	" "	1-3	Bell
	12th	Bangor City	A	" "	2-2	Bell 2
	16th	Barrow	H	" "	2-2	Bell, Brown
	23rd	Boston United	H	" "	0-4	
	26th	Runcorn	A	" "	1-4	James
	30th	Kettering Town	A	" "	2-5	James, Payne
May	2nd	Stafford Rangers	H	" "	0-0	

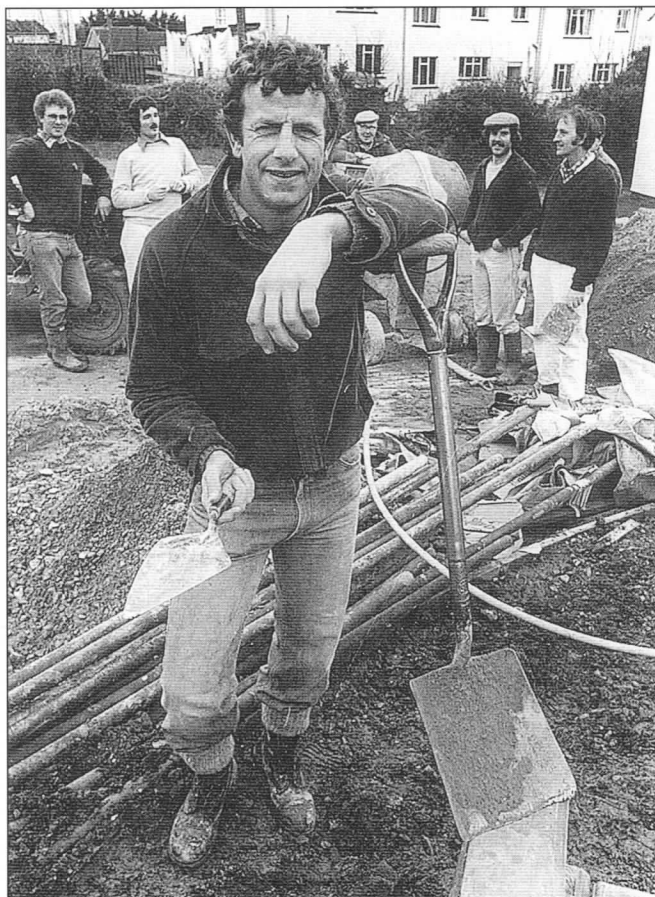
with any dignity as the two clubs were not on each other's christmas card list, but the problem was almost solved in July when Platt walked out in protest at his transfer to Weymouth for £5,000 being turned down. He was fined a fortnight's wages but was back in time for the friendlies, somewhat low key to signify the state of the club at the time. Glastonbury, Crewkerne United and Taunton Town provided the opposition for Yeovil, whose team was already quoted as favourites to go down. Bryan Moore was appointed chairman of the Green and White Supporters' Club at that time, taking over from the long serving Alwyn Lugg. Bryan originally joined the old Supporters' Club in 1959 and had

Reserves – Season 1982-1983						
Aug	21st	Tiverton Town	A	Western Div 1	2-0	
	28th	Swanage T & Her	H	" "	0-2	
Sept	1st	Glastonbury	A	" "	1-0	
	4th	Radstock Town	A	" "	1-0	
	11th	Heavitree Utd	H	" "	5-1	
	13th	Ottery St Mary	H	" "	4-0	
	18th	Bristol City Res	A	" "	1-3	
	25th	Bath City Res	H	" "	1-1	
	27th	Tiverton Town	H	" "	4-0	
Oct	2nd	Radstock Town	H	" "	3-1	
	9th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	Western LC 1	1-2	
	12th	Paulton Rovers	A	Western Div 1	0-1	
	20th	Weymouth Res	A	" "	1-3	
	23rd	Chard Town	A	" "	0-3	
	30th	Swanage T & Her	A	" "	1-5	
Nov	6th	Weymouth Res	H	" "	1-0	
	13th	Bristol Manor Fm	A	" "	1-4	
	20th	Mangotsfield Utd	H	" "	1-2	
	27th	Bath City Res	A	" "	0-2	
Dec	4th	Elmore	H	" "	4-0	
	11th	Ottery St Mary	A	" "	0-3	
	18th	Odd Down	H	" "	2-1	
	27th	Heavitree United	A	" "	0-1	
	28th	Larkhall Athletic	H	" "	1-0	
Jan	1st	Mangotsfield	A	" "	2-1	
	8th	Elmore	A	" "	0-1	
	29th	Glastonbury	H	" "	1-2	
Feb	12th	Bristol Manor Fm	H	" "	0-2	
	19th	Welton Rovers	A	" "	0-0	
	26th	Bristol City Res	H	" "	0-2	
Mar	7th	Welton Rovers	H	" "	4-0	
	12th	Paulton Rovers	H	" "	2-5	
	21st	Wimborne Town	H	" "	0-0	
April	2nd	Larkhall Athletic	A	" "	3-1	
	9th	Chard Town	H	" "	0-1	
	23rd	Odd Down	A	" "	1-2	
	26th	Wimborne Town	A	" "	1-4	

been part of the fabric of the club long before then, and he was to oversee a small committee whose help would continue to be of prime importance to Yeovil Town. Predictably the season began poorly with Dave Platt sustaining another ankle injury in a 3-1 defeat at Nuneaton Borough. There were two home wins to follow but then a heavy defeat at Boston United and a crushing aggregate defeat in the Bob Lord Trophy, soon had the home fans on Jimmy Giles' back. "It is no good blaming me, our players average £30 a week, and some clubs are playing three times that!", he pleaded with some justification. The defeats continued to come, without Platt who had chipped an ankle bone, and without Steve Langley who had been dropped after eight games. It was also without Steve Pitman who had signed for Bristol City youth thus depleting Giles' troops even further. Following another heavy defeat at Altrincham, the manager fielded the full first team for a Monday night Western League match against struggling Tiverton Town. The sprinkling of home fans showed just what they thought of the team, and quite possibly the board by jeering and booing throughout the 4-0 win, but the travelling die hards were almost certainly too stunned to boo on the following Saturday at Underhill, when the side contrived to throw away a 4-0 lead with half an hour to go. Giles could only utter the phrase "Unbelievable" Strangely it heralded the beginning of a remarkable turn around in fortunes, as the side with Andy Bell firing up front alongside Phil James and Mark Williams and Malcolm Beck providing good service,

suddenly produced a run of five straight wins, including a win over Bognor Regis in the FA Cup. It saw the side reach the dizzy heights of sixth in the league, but three defeats plunged them right back again, although Chesham United were beaten in the First Round on the Cup by Andy Bell's thirteenth goal in nine games.

Despite the dodgy form Jimmy Giles was still thought of positively by most and was almost always backed by the local press and when he persuaded former Welsh International Phil Roberts to sign at the relatively young age of 32, his star was in the ascendancy. Roberts had made 432 League appearances for Bristol Rovers, Portsmouth, Hereford United and Exeter City and his experience would be more than useful during the winter months in what was soon to deteriorate into another series of nightmares. Malcolm Gold scored his first ever goal in 111 outings in the game with Stafford Rangers, only to see the match abandoned, with Yeovil winning 2-0, and then the club was rocked, firstly by losing at Southend United in the Cup in front of a poor crowd which was to bring little compensation financially, and then by the end of year balance sheet showed them having lost a record £55,664, despite paring everything down to the bone. The shareholders were told that the position was steady but any more reductions would certainly mean a reduction in status, a posh way of saying they would be relegated. That possibility was looking ever more likely as with gates and the lottery falling away there were liabilities of £125,000. The AGM was a stormy one with the board asked to resign en-bloc, but there were few changes going into the new year. A Trophy run was soon nipped in the bud by Sutton United a week after the club's biggest ever win in the Alliance, 6-2 against Nuneaton Borough, but few, if any, of the supporters could have realised that but for a 2-1 win over Altrincham, there would be no further wins in the league during the rest of the season.



Manager Jimmy Giles was forced to return to brick-laying when he went to part-time management.

The supporters were in need of something to cling on to, as their club appeared to be lurching from one crisis to another, and it seemed to have arrived in the unlikely shape of former striker Doug Hickton who, since leaving the club, had done the rounds of AP Leamington, Altrincham and Telford United, as well as having a spell in Canada. Having taken work in Ilminster and moved back to Somerset to live, Jimmy Giles saw him as the ideal man to lend experience to an ailing team. Sadly Gerry Lock saw otherwise and vetoed the move, which made him less than popular with the supporters. Instead Giles signed Brian O'Donnell from Torquay United and later attempted to persuade Charlie George to come down. It failed but by then the writing was well and truly on the wall. At the beginning of April, after four defeats and no goals, Jimmy Giles' brave attempt to keep the club afloat ended when he was sacked by chairman Gerry Lock. Lock admitted that he would be forced to find £5,000 in compensation for Giles who had already gone part time and returned to bricklaying as a cost saving measure. The majority of the playing staff were incensed and Phil Roberts walked out stating that "he had no wish to continue playing for a club who treated a man in that fashion". There was much praise for Giles who had understood that the best they could hope for was survival, but sympathy was not enough and Mike Hughes was made caretaker manager for the remainder of the season.

#### Alliance Premier League 1982-1983

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	42	25	9	8	93	48	84
Maidstone United	42	25	8	9	83	34	83
Wealdstone	42	22	13	7	80	41	79
Runcorn	42	22	8	12	73	53	74
Boston United	42	20	12	10	77	57	72
Telford United	42	20	11	11	69	48	71
Weymouth	42	20	10	12	63	48	70
Northwich Vics	42	18	10	14	68	63	64
Scarborough	42	17	12	13	71	58	63
Bath City	42	17	9	16	58	55	60
Nuneaton Borough	42	15	13	14	57	60	58
Altrincham	42	15	10	17	62	56	55
Bangor City	42	14	13	15	71	77	55
Dagenham	42	12	15	15	60	65	51
Barnet	42	16	3	23	55	78	51
Frickley Athletic	42	12	13	17	66	77	49
Worcester City	42	12	10	20	58	87	49
Trowbridge Town	42	12	7	23	56	88	43
Kettering Town	42	11	7	24	69	99	40
Yeovil Town	42	11	7	24	63	99	40
Barrow	42	8	12	22	46	74	36
Stafford Rangers	42	5	14	23	40	75	29

Fortunately for all concerned, not least Gerry Lock, there were some worse off than Yeovil, whose run had taken them into the bottom three. Stafford Rangers seemed dead and buried but Kettering Town and Trowbridge Town were fighting, and in the end with Isthmian champions Harrow Borough showing no desire to be promoted, the third from bottom place was enough and was secured with a 0-0 draw with doomed Stafford, neatly summing up the whole situation.

Mr Lock promised the fans and the press 'better class players', showing a blinding lack of diplomacy and respect for those who had carried on despite the low wages on offer. His main aim was to employ someone who had experience at managership and could still play, yet could create a side capable of competing with those who were throwing money around like confetti. The job was entrusted to Trevor Finnigan, who had

expressed a desire to return to Huish on several occasions, and he was accompanied by Mike Hughes who was General Manager. The reduction in offered wages allowed David Platt to move down to Weymouth a year after that club offered £5,000 for him, but in return Finnigan snapped up keeper Keiron Baker, Gary Borthwick again and Billy Elliott, son of the old Huish favourite of the same name. Joining them were young Simon White, a winger who would go on in later years to enjoy a good career as a manager and Nigel Jarvis, a Devon boy released by Blackburn Rovers who would also go on to play at Wembley some eleven years later after a short League career.

Trevor Finnigan stated that he would sign eight or nine players and he did just that, but it was farewell to others to make way. Platt had gone after 148 games and 58 goals in an injury wrecked time at Huish, and Steve Ritchie and Malcolm Beck were also gone as the new management attempted to usher in a new dawn under Gerry Lock.

#### Western League Div I – 1982-1983

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol Manor Fm	36	26	7	3	85	31	59
Mangotsfield Utd	36	24	8	4	75	32	56
Paulton Rovers	36	20	12	4	75	37	52
Odd Down	36	19	9	8	56	41	47
Glastonbury	36	15	15	6	69	47	45
Swanage T & Hers	36	21	1	14	83	54	43
Wimborne Town	36	17	9	10	74	51	43
Bath City Res	36	14	9	13	64	49	37
Chard Town	36	15	5	16	54	50	35
Weymouth Res	36	12	8	16	43	56	32
Welton Rovers	36	12	8	16	46	61	32
Yeovil Town Res	36	14	3	19	49	55	31
Bristol City Res	36	9	11	16	57	77	29
Elmore	36	12	4	20	48	65	28
Heavitree United	36	11	5	20	40	66	27
Larkhall Athletic	36	9	8	19	40	64	26
Radstock Town	36	9	6	21	50	79	24
Tiverton Town	36	8	5	23	42	85	21
Ottery St Mary	36	8	1	27	35	85	17

#### First Team Appearances 1982-83

P James 47, J Brown, A Bell 45, M Gold 42, S Ritchie, J Payne 41, S Langley, R Andrews, D Platt 37, M Beck 33, T Benjafield 26, J Giles 24, P Roberts 22, D Smith 21, M Williams 14, P Rodgers 13, T Francis 12, B O'Donnell 11, P Hawkins 10, S Pitman 8, T Woodward 5, R Horton 4, J Shackell 1

#### First Team Goalscorers 1982-83

A Bell 27, P James 11, J Payne 7, M Williams 5, S Ritchie, M Beck, J Brown 4, D Platt 3, T Benjafield, og's 2, D Smith 1

#### Reserve Appearances 1982-83

A Stone 34, J Shackell 32, R Horton 31, T Francis 27, C Card 25, S Day, D Million 21, I Williams 18, C Barber, S Pitman 17, P Muir, T Benjafield 16, W Woollard 14, A Bullock 12, S Langley, A Bond 10, P Rodgers, N Stacy 9, M Thompson 7, T Pounder 6, P Oram 4, R Moore 2

#### Reserve team goalscorers 1982-83

T Benjafield 9, C Card 8, D Million 6, R Horton 4, A Bell, D Platt, A Stone, J Giles 3, Kerr, I Williams, Brown 2, N Stacy, P James, J Shackell, P Oram, Kerr 1

## Town cling on but managers come and go...

One significant area within the whole structure of Yeovil Town Football Club which had not changed to any degree during the preceeding couple of decades was Huish itself. The projected and expensive job of levelling the pitch and moving the playing area to accommodate the new road had both long been filed in the bin, as had the club's ambition to join the Football League. Huish was then well over sixty years old and had but a handful of seasons left, although at that time the new ground had not yet even reached planning stage. Little had changed inside the ground for many moons but in July the old directors stand, known as the Pigeon Loft, was finally pulled down stilts and all to open up another entrance. It was a sad but inevitable end to one of the last vestiges of the good old days at the ground.

Chairman Gerry Lock was delighted around the same time to announce that losses had dropped to under £5,000, prompting some to believe that the club had turned the corner of life in the Alliance. Certainly admission prices reflected the top status, with minimum charges set at £1.20.

Regulars would see no more of Dave Smith, the volatile young defender who had been sent off twice in his first dozen games, he having signed for Forest Green Rovers, and nor would they see Steve Langley, who had gone to Bristol City for a trial. Alan Skirton's lottery was proving a great success with takings up by £23,000. The ins and outs continued with Jess Payne reluctant to commit himself having begun a new career, but the staff said hello to ex-Clandown manager Steve Coles who took over the reserve side in July. There were more signings including Paul Charles from Chard Town and Neil Prosser a 23 year old striker from AFC Bournemouth via Tranmere Rovers. Finnigan thought his centre-half problems were over when he signed Grant Davies who, despite his tender age, had played over 150 League games, but his impending new career in the police force prevented him signing and Finnigan was forced to look elsewhere. His final capture was Dave Linney, a 23 year old full back from Oxford United, his availability confirmed when Malcolm Gold, the Player of the Year, again went AWOL during the close season. Having not been seen for weeks the club stopped any wages, and manager Finnigan stated "enough".

What all at the club so desperately needed was a good start to put the supporters in good heart and a 3-0 home win over Frickley Athletic on 20th August 1983 was just the job, Neil Prosser scoring on his debut. With Andy Bell and Jeremy Brown also joining in, the side were in good spirits for the two away games in a week at Scarborough and Wealdstone. They were both lost and Finnigan's side drifted through seven games netting twice, both from penalties, before three wins in five days lifted the gloom.

Malcolm Gold was once again forgiven and rejoined the side, but six consecutive games without a single goal through September and October was more than enough for Gerry Lock, who reacted by sacking Mike Hughes, having previously offered him a seat on the board. Trevor Finnigan soldiered on, but after unspecified incidents at Bangor City, three of his side were disciplined, Jeremy Brown and Andy Bell both being transfer listed. It was less than a week to the start of the FA Cup campaign and with unerring accuracy the Yeovil players had taken aim and shot themselves firmly in the foot.

They were fortunate to draw Minehead in the last qualifying round but they had not managed to score for 554 minutes before Jess Payne netted, but even then it took a Finnigan goal with seconds left to rescue Yeovil from the ignominy of defeat

## Season 1983-1984

Aug	20th	Frickley Athletic	H	Alliance Premier	3-0	Bell, Prosser, Brown
	23rd	Wealdstone	A	" "	0-1	
	27th	Scarborough	A	" "	0-3	
	31st	Nuneaton Borough	H	" "	1-0	Bell pen
Sept	3rd	Gateshead	H	" "	0-0	
	5th	Dagenham	A	Bob Lord Tr 1 1	0-0	
	10th	Maidstone United	A	Alliance Premier	0-4	
	14th	Dagenham	H	Bob Lord Tr 1 2	1-0	Bell pen
	17th	Enfield	H	Alliance Premier	3-2	Brown, Prosser 2
	19th	Kidderminster Harr	A	" "	2-1	Elliott, James
	24th	Frickley Athletic	A	" "	0-3	
	28th	Wealdstone	H	" "	0-0	
Oct	1st	Barnet	H	" "	0-1	(Abandoned - Goal Post broke)
	8th	Northwich Vics	A	" "	0-0	
	15th	Dagenham	H	" "	0-2	
	22nd	Bangor City	A	" "	0-3	
	29th	Minehead	H	FA Cup 4th Qual	2-2	Payne, Finnigan
Nov	2nd	Minehead	A	Replay	4-2	Brown, James, Bell, (aet) Ward
	5th	Telford United	H	Alliance Premier	1-0	Borthwick
	9th	Bath City	H	Bob Lord Tr 2 1	2-0	Ward, Finnigan
	12th	Altrincham	A	Alliance Premier	1-2	Payne
	19th	Harrow Borough	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	0-1	
	26th	Bath City	A	Alliance Premier	0-2	
	29th	Bath City	A	Bob Lord Tr 2 1	1-1	Ward
Dec	3rd	Trowbridge Town	A	Alliance Premier	0-1	
	10th	Scarborough	H	" "	1-2	Payne
	17th	Cheltenham Town	H	FA Trophy 3rd Q	5-2	Gold, Doherty 2, Brown, Linney
	26th	Weymouth	A	Alliance Premier	3-1	Doherty, James, Finnigan
	31st	Trowbridge Town	H	" "	3-1	James 2, Payne
Jan	2nd	Weymouth	H	" "	6-3	Brown 2, Finnigan 2, Doherty 2
	7th	Kettering Town	A	" "	3-2	Ward 2, Finnigan
	14th	Wealdstone	H	FA Trophy 1st Rd	4-3	James, Doherty 2, Ward
	21st	Runcorn	H	Alliance Premier	0-1	
Feb	4th	Dagenham	A	FA Trophy 2nd Rd	1-1	Finnigan
	8th	Dagenham	H	Alliance Premier	1-4	Doherty
	11th	Dagenham	A	FA Trophy 2 Rep	0-1	
	13th	Kidderminster Harr	A	Bob Lord Tr 3 1	2-1	Doherty, Finnigan
	15th	Kidderminster Harr	H	Alliance Premier	1-1	Ward
				Abandoned half time, fog		
	18th	Kidderminster Harr	H	" "	1-1	Doherty
	20th	Nuneaton Borough	A	" "	1-2	Charles
	25th	Bath City	A	" "	1-3	Doherty
	29th	Kidderminster Harr	H	Bob Lord Tr 3 2	3-1	Doherty, James, Brown pen
Mar	3rd	Maidstone United	H	Alliance Premier	1-3	Brown pen
	5th	Worcester City	A	" "	0-4	
	10th	Northwich Vics	H	" "	2-0	Doherty 2
	14th	Shepton Mallet Tn	A	Som Prem Cup 3	2-1	Elliott, Doherty
	17th	Runcorn	A	Alliance Premier	4-4	Finnigan, Brown 2, Doherty
	24th	Enfield	A	" "	0-3	
	28th	Barnet	H	" "	2-4	Gibson, Finnigan
	31st	Boston United	H	" "	4-2	Ward, Paparella 2, Brown
April	4th	Scarborough	H	Bob Lord Trophy Semi-final 1st Leg	0-2	
	7th	Gateshead	A	Alliance Premier	2-4	Doherty 2
	10th	Scarborough	A	Bob Lord Trophy Semi-final 2nd Leg	2-5	Doherty 2
	14th	Clevedon Town	H	Somerset Prem Cup Semi-final	1-3	Doherty

## Season 1983-1984 continued

	17th	Telford United	A	Alliance Premier	2-2	Finnigan, og
	21st	Altrincham	H	" "	1-2	James
	23rd	Barnet	A	" "	0-2	
	27th	Bangor City	H	" "	1-1	Doherty
	28th	Worcester City	H	" "	2-2	Doherty, Ward
May	2nd	Kettering Town	H	" "	2-0	Doherty, Brown pen
	5th	Boston United	A	" "	2-3	Doherty, White

by a Western League side, plus the nightmare of returning to the early stages once again. The replay was no less traumatic, going to extra time before victory, but it put the Glovers into the First Round for the 36th time, a non-League record, ironically from arguably one of the least impressive performances.

Sadly the match with Harrow Borough from the Isthmian League was noted for more crowd trouble, something for which Town, along with many others, had gained a reputation. Referee Lester Shapter was jostled and assaulted on the pitch after the defeat to a first minute goal but the damage had already been done with a home match with Newport County the prize. Keiron Baker had sadly suffered from a kidney ailment for a while, which was later diagnosed as glandular fever and he announced his retirement in December, shortly

## Reserves - Season 1983-1984

Aug	22nd	Elmore	H	Western Div 1	2-3
	27th	Swanage T & Hers	H	" "	4-1
Sept	3rd	Bristol City Res	A	" "	1-5
	10th	Backwell United	H	" "	1-1
	17th	Heavitree United	A	Western LC 1	3-4
	19th	Portway Bristol	H	Western Div 1	1-3
	24th	Warminster Town	H	" "	0-2
Oct	4th	Wimborne Town	A	" "	2-1
	8th	Tiverton Town	H	" "	4-0
	10th	Chard Town	H	" "	0-0
	15th	Odd Down	A	" "	1-1
	22nd	Heavitree United	H	" "	4-2
	24th	Keynsham Town	H	" "	3-1
Nov	5th	Warminster Town	A	" "	2-1
	12th	Welton Rovers	H	" "	4-0
	26th	Elmore	A	" "	4-3
	29th	Larkhall Athletic	A	" "	2-4
Dec	3rd	Bristol City Res	H	" "	2-2
	10th	Bath City Res	A	" "	3-3
	26th	Weymouth Res	H	" "	0-1
	31st	Heavitree United	A	" "	0-3
Jan	7th	Glastonbury	H	" "	2-2
	14th	Portway Bristol	A	" "	1-1
	28th	Larkhall Athletic	H	" "	1-1
Feb	4th	Chard Town	A	" "	1-1
	11th	Ottery St Mary	H	" "	5-1
	18th	Radstock Town	A	" "	0-0
	25th	Bath City Res	H	" "	0-1
	27th	Wimborne Town	H	" "	0-0
March 3rd		Backwell United	A	" "	0-2
	10th	Paulton Rovers	A	" "	0-2
	14th	Glastonbury	A	" "	1-2
	17th	Paulton Rovers	H	" "	2-5
	19th	Radstock Town	H	" "	2-2
	24th	Keynsham Town	A	" "	2-2
	27th	Swanage T & Hers	A	" "	0-3
April	14th	Tiverton Town	A	" "	5-2
	20th	Odd Down	H	" "	1-2
	21st	Weymouth Res	A	" "	0-1
	25th	Ottery St Mary	A	" "	2-1
	28th	Welton Rovers	A	" "	0-4



#### Yeovil Town 1983-84

Back Row (l to r): Maurice O'Donnell (trainer), Paul Charles, Billy Elliott, Andy Bell, Keiron Baker, Phil James, Simon Culliford, Malcolm Gold, Steve Pitman, Richie Horton.

Front Row: Nigel Jarvis, Simon White, Jeremy Brown, Trevor Finnigan (player/manager), Gary Borthwick, Tim Benjafield.

before the arrival of Mike Doherty, the former Reading striker who was released by Slough Town when they suffered financial troubles. Hughes had tried to sign him some time previously but his arrival soon changed the whole feeling within the side, albeit for a short period. It enabled Andy Bell to move down to Weymouth for £2,500 after scoring 46 goals in 145 games and he left the club in the bottom three once again. Doherty starred in a FA Trophy win over Cheltenham Town and then four exciting wins followed either side of Christmas before a crucial Trophy victory over Wealdstone.

Sadly there were just 781 at the Cheltenham game, and it was to be the last for Finnigan in charge, as he resigned on Boxing Day, complaining of constant interference from Mr Lock, who had blocked the loan transfer of former Huish favourite Clive Green. He became the third manager to leave Huish since April, and the press were quick to emphasise speculation that Yeovil Town had become the laughing stock of the non-League football world. Indeed from Alec Stock to laughing stock in thirty years. Reserve team manager Steve Coles quickly took over the reigns with Trevor Finnigan staying on as a player and with Doherty having breathed life into the side, Coles began with six straight wins and a goal glut which astonished and delighted even the most hard-bitten Huish follower. The best came at the end of the run when Wealdstone were beaten 4-3 having led 3-0 at one stage, a run which gave Coles the job for the remainder of the season. Sadly that was as good as it got for with three games against Dagenham, followed by three matches against Kidderminster Harriers, only one of which was won, relegation once again threatened, by now with monotonous regularity.

Yeovil and Weymouth were both in big trouble just above Bangor City and Trowbridge Town who were virtually down, and the fans disenchantment was shown when only 719 turned up for the 4-2 defeat by Barnet, the lowest for five years. Off the field every opportunity was looked at to save money, and Bryan Moore was praised for organising the Gateshead away trip using the special 50% offer jointly run by British Rail and Persil, with tokens being sent to the club in piles, showing that many still cared, despite the chaos which

was ever present at that time. Coles' side had reached the semi-final of the Bob Lord Trophy, the League Cup, but after losing the home leg 2-0 to Scarborough Coles surprised many by throwing in the towel, with chairman Gerry Lock once again being accused of interference. "It is just too much hassle and there are things going on that I don't want to discuss", said Coles a touch cryptically adding that he thought the club needed a huge clear out, starting from the top.

The paper was again critical, stating that the club had been nonentities for five years and now needed to reward the patient support that the club had left.

Coles returned to Clandown as manager leaving the squad to battle against relegation once again. Bangor City and Dagenham had won matches which put them back in with a shout of survival, but the Welshmen needed to win the last three games to leap over Yeovil, who by then knew that with no team again coming up from the Isthmian League they would likely survive. And survive they did with Gerry Lock once again searching for yet another manager to sit in a seat which had long since past being hot and had since reached boiling point. The Western Gazette named experienced and successful Nuneaton Borough boss Graham Carr as the new man at Huish, detailing his career and publishing his picture, but in fact Lock had chosen someone entirely different.

Gruff Scot Ian McFarlane had enjoyed a nomadic existence as a coach since his days as a player at Bath City, where he turned out over 400 times. "I have handled Stan Bowles, Rodney Marsh, Denis Law, Francis Lee and Mike Summerbee in my time and I am sure I can take care of things at Huish", he announced a touch rashly. His coaching skills had taken him to Sheffield Wednesday, Carlisle United, Middlesbrough, Manchester City, Sunderland and Leicester City, but it was doubtful whether he had encountered what was in store for him at the Huish battle ground.

McFarlane was to begin the last season in the Alliance for some time, but amidst the heartache of relegation came the beginning of a new dawn which would at last give the faithful at Huish something to cling to, but first they were to endure one final desperate season.....



**Alliance Premier League 1983-1984**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Maidstone United	42	23	13	6	71	34	70
Nuneaton Borough	42	24	11	7	70	40	69
Altrincham	42	23	9	10	64	39	65
Wealdstone	42	21	14	7	75	36	62
Runcorn	42	20	13	9	61	45	62
Bath City	42	17	12	13	60	48	53
Northwich Vics	42	16	14	12	54	47	51
Worcester City	42	15	13	14	64	55	49
Barnet	42	16	10	16	55	58	49
Kidderminster H	42	14	14	14	54	61	49
Telford United	42	17	11	14	50	58	49
Frickley Athletic	42	17	10	15	68	56	48
Scarborough	42	14	16	12	52	55	48
Enfield	42	14	9	19	61	58	43
Weymouth	42	13	8	21	54	65	42
Gateshead	42	12	13	17	59	73	42
Boston United	42	13	12	17	66	80	41
Dagenham	42	14	8	20	57	69	40
Kettering Town	42	12	9	21	53	67	37
Yeovil Town	42	10	6	26	54	82	29
Bangor City	42	10	6	26	54	82	29
Trowbridge Town	42	5	7	30	33	87	19

**Western League Div I - 1983-1984**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol City Res	40	26	8	6	96	36	60
Chard Town	40	22	8	10	82	44	52
Paulton Rovers	40	20	12	8	74	46	52
Swanage T & Hers	40	19	12	9	89	61	50
Keynsham Town	40	19	11	10	50	36	49
Backwell United	40	18	13	9	47	42	49
Glastonbury	40	15	9	16	68	61	39
Welton Rovers	40	13	13	14	49	56	39
Portway Bristol	40	13	12	15	57	49	38
Wimborne Town	40	14	10	16	51	60	38
Bath City Res	40	13	11	16	61	57	37
Warminster Town	40	15	7	18	61	67	37
Odd Down	40	12	13	15	60	66	37
Larkhall Athletic	40	12	12	16	50	55	36
Radstock Town	40	13	10	17	51	63	36
Heavitree United	40	14	8	18	66	80	36
Yeovil Town Res	40	11	13	16	65	72	35
Ottery St Mary	40	14	7	18	42	58	35
Elmore	40	11	12	7	47	57	34
Weymouth Res	40	12	7	21	43	64	31
Tiverton Town	40	5	10	25	37	95	20

**First Team Appearances 1983-84**

T Finnigan 55, G Borthwick 51, D Linney, P James 48, W Elliott 47, P Charles 46, J Brown 45, J Ward 42, M Gold 39, N Jarvis, M Horton 36, M Doherty 30, K Baker 21, J Payne 20, G Northover 19, N Prosser, A Bell 18, P McLaughlin 15, S Gibson 12, M Bartlett 10, S White, T Benjafield, G Plumley 8, A Papparella 5, Morris 4, P Roberts, D Meacock, A Stone, D Allen, S Coles, Mitchell 1

**First team goalscorers 1983-84**

M Doherty 25, J Brown 12, T Finnigan 11, J Ward 9, P James 8, J Payne, A Bell 4, N Prosser 3, W Elliott, A Papparella 2, S White, S Gibson, G Borthwick, M Gold, D Linney, P Charles 1, 1 og

**The Gerry Gow era...**

There were hopes that the professionalism of new manager Ian McFarlane might pull Yeovil out of the bleak run they and the supporters had endured since moving up into the Alliance Premier League. Consecutive seasons where other clubs' decisions had saved them had only postponed the inevitable, yet despite the managerial change and the upturn in finances, even by their standards the start of the 1984-85 campaign was a bizarre one. The Green and White Supporters' Club had handed over some £6,000 to chairman Gerry Lock. There was a shirt sponsor for the first time, Marney Sports of Yeovil, as well as match ball sponsors, and with Dave Platt back once again from Weymouth, the side began by conceding seven goals in the first two matches, with Jeremy Brown, Billy Elliott and Trevor Finnigan all left out of the side having been in dispute with either McFarlane or the club itself. Old favourites George Muir and Tony Pounder Snr were back at Huish, the latter with his seventeen year old son who was making his debut, but all was obviously not well. McFarlane had not endeared himself to many at the club, making just one signing during the summer, Shaun Wolff from Shepton Mallet who made only two appearances, before disappearance into obscurity. He also dismissed much liked and loyal long serving trainer, Maurice O'Donnell, who was to reappear back on the scene later, and after five consecutive league defeats which left the Glovers at the bottom, McFarlane was gone. His resignation was followed



Mick Doherty who was transferred to Weymouth for £8,000 seen celebrating a goal with Martyn Grimshaw who also moved to Weymouth for a £5,000 fee.

## Season 1984-1985

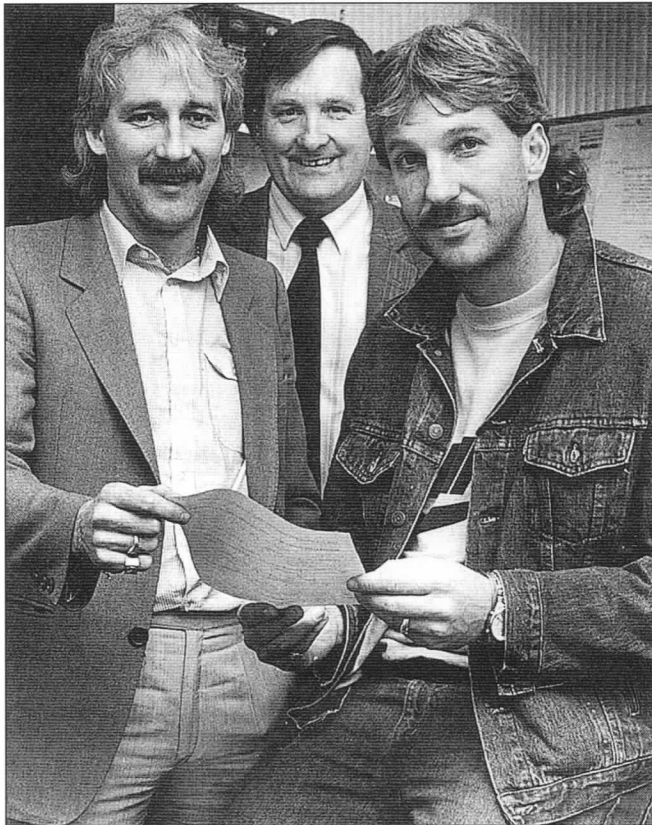
Aug	18th	Boston United	H	Gola League	2-4	Horton, Doherty
	21st	Telford United	A	" "	1-3	Doherty
	25th	Scarborough	A	" "	1-2	Ward
	27th	Worcester City	H	" "	1-2	Doherty
Sept	1st	Barrow	H	" "	1-2	Brown
	4th	Dartford	A	Bob Lord Tr 1 1	3-1	Horton, Platt, Doherty
	8th	Nuneaton Borough	A	Gola League	0-5	
	12th	Dartford	H	Bob Lord Tr 1 2	0-1	
	15th	Altrincham	A	Gola League	0-2	
	19th	Wealdstone	H	" "	0-2	
	22nd	Maidstone United	H	" "	3-0	James 2, Gibson
	24th	Kidderminster Harr	A	" "	0-3	
	29th	Dagenham	A	" "	0-2	
Oct	6th	Frickley Athletic	H	" "	1-2	James
	13th	Barnet	A	" "	1-4	James
	20th	Dagenham	H	" "	2-1	Brown pen, Lilygreen
	27th	Witney Town	H	FA Cup 4th Qual	3-1	Gold, Barnes, Gibson
Nov	3rd	Scarborough	H	Gola League	2-2	Thorpe, Barnes
	7th	Worcester City	H	Bob Lord Trop 2	3-2	Barnes 2, Thorpe
	10th	Northwich Vics	A	Gola League	0-2	
	17th	Torquay United	A	FA Cup 1st Rd	0-2	
	24th	Maidstone United	A	Gola League	3-3	Barnes 2, Thorpe
Dec	1st	Altrincham	H	" "	1-2	Thorpe
	8th	Worcester City	A	" "	2-0	James 2
	15th	Gloucester City	A	FA Trop 3rd Qual	0-2	
	22nd	Dartford	H	Gola League	2-2	Gold, James
	26th	Weymouth	H	" "	0-0	
	29th	Runcorn	A	" "	0-3	
Jan	1st	Weymouth	A	" "	2-4	Barnes, Cheesley
	5th	Kettering Town	H	" "	1-1	Ritchie
	12th	Weston-s-Mare	A	Som Prem Cup 3	3-1	Gold, Economou, Ritchie
	26th	Northwich Vics	H	Gola League	0-1	
	28th	Maidstone United	A	Bob Lord Trop 3	1-3	Botham
Feb	2nd	Kidderminster Harr	H	Gola League	0-0	
	9th	Bath City	H	" "	3-2	Thorpe, Barnes pen, James
	16th	Runcorn	H	" "	1-3	James
	23rd	Dartford	A	" "	1-1	Ritchie
	27th	Bristol City	H	SPC Semi-final	2-1	James, Brown
Mar	2nd	Gateshead	A	Gola League	1-1	James
	9th	Barnet	H	" "	2-1	Gold, Ritchie
	16th	Gateshead	H	" "	0-4	
	19th	Wealdstone	A	" "	3-0	Barnes, Botham, James
	23rd	Frickley Athletic	A	" "	1-3	Cheesley
	30th	Telford United	H	" "	3-3	Tooze, McGinlay 2
April	2nd	Bath City	A	Somerset Prem Cup Final 1st Leg	0-1	
	8th	Kettering Town	A	Gola League	0-3	
	10th	Bath City	H	Somerset Prem Cup Final 2nd Leg	1-3	McGinlay
	18th	Boston United	A	Gola League	0-3	
	20th	Enfield	H	" "	0-0	
	23rd	Bath City	A	" "	0-1	
	27th	Nuneaton Borough	H	" "	1-2	McGinlay
	30th	Enfield	A	" "	0-4	
May	4th	Barrow	A	" "	2-2	Linney, James

by a stony silence as both press and supporters tried to explain it away. What was sure was the instant arrival of Gerry Gow, on a two year contract, who had the task of sorting out the playing staff. Former Fulham and Luton Town star Alan Slough had been and gone and former Leicester City and Aldershot defender Adrian Green was banished to the reserves. Experienced keeper Steve Smith came in for shell-shocked Grant Northover and after less than six weeks Yeovil had got

## Reserves – Season 1984-1985

Aug	18th	Ilfracombe Town	A	Western Div 1	1-3
	20th	Swanage T & Hers	H	" "	3-3
	25th	Westbury United	H	" "	0-0
Sept	1st	Portway Bristol	A	" "	1-2
	3rd	Odd Down	H	" "	2-0
	8th	Larkhall Athletic	H	" "	1-0
	15th	Radstock Town	H	" "	1-1
	22nd	Backwell United	A	Western LC 2	ae14-3
	29th	Ilfracombe Town	H	Western Div 1	3-2
Oct	6th	Elmore	A	" "	3-2
	13th	Backwell United	H	" "	1-0
	20th	Torrington	A	" "	0-1
	22nd	Portway Bristol	H	" "	2-0
	27th	Heavitree United	A	" "	1-3
	29th	Weymouth Res	H	" "	2-1
Nov	3rd	Tiverton Town	H	" "	2-2
	5th	Wellington	H	" "	2-2
	10th	Warminster Town	H	" "	1-0
	20th	Wimborne Town	A	Western LC 3	1-2
	24th	Elmore	H	Western Div 1	3-1
Dec	1st	Ottery St Mary	A	" "	1-1
	8th	Torrington	H	" "	2-2
	22nd	Warminster Town	A	" "	2-0
Jan	1st	Ottery St Mary	H	" "	1-0
	26th	Swanage T & Hers	A	" "	1-1
	28th	Weymouth Res	A	" "	0-3
Feb	2nd	Radstock Town	A	" "	0-1
	18th	Tiverton Town	H	" "	1-2
	23rd	Keynsham Town	H	" "	1-3
Mar	2nd	Bath City Res	H	" "	0-1
	4th	Welton Rovers	H	" "	1-2
	11th	Glastonbury	H	" "	1-0
	16th	Westbury United	A	" "	1-2
	18th	Wimborne Town	H	" "	0-1
	23rd	Wellington	A	" "	1-3
	30th	Keynsham Town	A	" "	0-0
April	1st	Glastonbury	A	" "	2-2
	6th	Odd Down	A	" "	3-1
	10th	Backwell United	A	" "	0-2
	16th	Wimborne Town	A	" "	0-4
	20th	Bath City Res	A	" "	1-3
	29th	Welton Rovers	A	" "	1-2
May	1st	Larkhall Athletic	A	" "	0-2

through two managers and twenty seven different players. One signing which grabbed the attention of the national media led to an inauspicious start against Ilfracome Town in the reserves, when one Ian Botham made his debut for the club. He had played eleven times for Scunthorpe United before signing on loan but it was some time before he made the first team due to other commitments. Dave Roberts, Paul Cheesley and Paul Thorpe all came to the club as did Colin Barnes from Torquay United, for whom Yeovil paid £3,000 after Weymouth had taken Mick Doherty for £8,000, Gow expressing the belief that he had not wanted to play for the club and was just 'going through the motions'. It showed the supporters that he meant business and, by adding Jon Economou to his squad, the prospects were becoming less desperate. It could hardly get worse with twelve defeats from thirteen games in the run in to the FA Cup tie with in form Witney Town from the Southern League. The Oxfordshire side were beaten, giving Yeovil an away tie with Torquay United but a defeat and a crowd of well under 3,000 did nothing for morale or the bank balance. Nor did it do anything for public relations as the era of segregation, heavy handed policing and fenced off areas with little in the way of a view was in full swing.



Gerry Gow captures the signature of Ian Botham on January 25th 1985 with chairman Gerry Lock in the background.

The most surprising aspect at Huish was the support through the turnstiles, which was staggering. Despite being on, or very near, the bottom Yeovil remained the best supported non-League club in the country and their

admission money was spent on a series of former professionals such as Wayne Hughes, Chris Lilygreen and Tom Ritchie, whose presence still failed to galvanise a team which looked doomed to relegation as early as December. Ian Botham quit Scunthorpe and made his first team debut against Northwich Victoria on January 26th 1985, thus adding a thousand to the Huish gate, but by the time he had played his last game, at Frickley Athletic, the Glovers were all but down. Gow began a clear out, releasing Elliott, Ward, Bartlett and Brown, but with the help of Cec Irwin he unearthed a gem in John McGinlay, a raw and exciting Scot from Nairn in the Highland League.

Nigel Jarvis was also released, but he proved everybody wrong by gaining a contract at Torquay and going on to play League football. One player to make an impression was Martin Tooze, a striker from Western League Heavitree United, whose debut, in a 3-3 draw with Telford United, prompted one of the finest headlines in John Lukins' long career at the Gazette. 'Tooze and Company Freeze a Crowd!' deserved some kind of an award, lightening what was an increasingly heavy atmosphere as all but the foolhardy and the ultimate optimists conceded to the return of Southern League football. The side did reach the final of the Premier Cup, beating Weston super Mare and Bristol City, but Bath City were comfortable winners as they gloated from the other end of the Gola League table. Gerry Gow's first season had ended with the first relegation in the club's long history, but there were few who blamed him.

It had been a period of misery compounded by internal wranglings, a series of ill-suited managers and a horrendous financial situation which had been rectified, albeit at a cost. The eternal travelling to distant outposts was at an end for the time being and a return to old haunts was looked forward to, along with a few wins and the possibility of staring down the league table rather than up it. Then, with



**Yeovil Town 1984-85**

Back Row (l to r): Jamie Ward, Marc Bartlett, Stuart Gibson, Grant Northover, Phil James, Malcolm Gold, Richie Horton.

Front Row: Dave Platt, Dave Linney, Mick Doherty, Tony Pounder, Nigel Jarvis, Simon White.

most expecting visits from the likes of Aylesbury and Basingstoke Town, the club applied for and got a place in the Isthmian League, taking the place of Wycombe Wanderers. It was a bold move and a sensible one, for although there would be no local derbies, the travelling would be easier and promotion was considered easier as fewer clubs in that league wanted it. The league itself was to be called the Vauxhall Opel League and with the name came a sponsorship deal worth some £250,000. Every penny of the bonus money would be gratefully received by Yeovil in the months ahead, for before the embers of their final Gola campaign had died down, they received news that the main stand had been deemed unsafe after the Bradford fire report, and a cool £25,000 was needed to rectify it.

### Gola League 1984-1985

	P	HW	AW	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wealdstone	42	8	12	10	12	64	54	62
Nuneaton Borough	42	13	6	14	9	85	53	58
Dartford	42	7	10	13	12	57	48	57
Bath City	42	15	6	9	12	52	49	57
Altrincham	42	13	8	6	15	63	47	56
Scarborough	42	10	7	13	12	69	62	54
Enfield	42	11	6	13	12	84	61	53
Kidderminster H	42	8	9	6	17	79	77	51
Northwich Vics	42	9	7	11	15	50	46	50
Telford United	42	10	5	14	13	59	54	49
Frickley Athletic	42	12	6	7	17	65	71	49
Kettering Town	42	9	6	12	15	68	59	48
Maidstone United	42	10	5	13	14	58	51	48
Runcorn	42	6	7	15	14	48	47	48
Barnet	42	9	6	11	16	59	52	47
Weymouth	42	13	2	13	14	70	66	45
Boston United	42	10	5	10	17	69	69	45
Barrow	42	6	5	16	15	47	57	43
Dagenham	42	8	5	10	19	47	67	41
Worcester City	42	7	5	9	21	55	84	38
Gateshead	42	5	4	12	21	51	82	33
Yeovil Town	42	4	2	11	25	44	87	25

3 points for away win, 2 points for a home win, 1 point for a draw

### Western League Div I – 1984-1985

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portway-Bristol	42	30	3	9	97	42	63
Torrington	42	27	8	7	83	35	62
Wimborne Town	42	26	7	9	81	37	59
Swanage T & Hers	42	23	13	6	86	50	59
Wellington	42	20	12	10	78	57	52
Radstock Town	42	23	5	14	79	47	51
Backwell United	42	21	9	12	59	42	51
Keynsham Town	42	20	9	13	70	54	49
Ottery St Mary	42	17	14	11	58	51	48
Larkhall Athletic	42	18	7	17	51	46	43
Heavitree United	42	14	11	17	81	84	39
Glastonbury	42	14	11	17	55	63	39
Bath City Res	42	16	7	19	60	69	39
Elmore	42	16	6	20	69	95	38
Yeovil Town Res	42	14	10	18	53	63	37
Welton Rovers	42	14	9	19	61	72	37
Tiverton Town	42	11	12	19	61	66	34
Weymouth Res	42	14	3	25	67	96	31
Warminster Town	42	8	13	21	54	93	29
Westbury United	42	10	7	25	57	99	27
Ilfracombe Town	42	6	7	29	47	101	19
Odd Down	42	5	7	30	38	83	17

### First team appearances 1984-85

P James 43, D Linney, M Gold 42, P Thorpe 41, S Smith, C Barnes 36, J Economou 32, R Horton 31, S Gibson 27, P Charles, P Cheesley 25, T Ritchie, J Brown 24, W Hughes 23, G Gow 22, M Bartlett, G Northover 17, J Ward 16, M Doherty 14, I Botham 12, A Green, D Platt 10, M Tooze, J McGinlay 9, N Jarvis 6, D Roberts, C Lilygreen 5, I Williams, A Slough, D Holtham 4, T Pounder, J Butler, I Davies 3, S Wolff 2, C Card, A Stone, T Laughlan, L Chappell, P Muir 1

### Goalscorers 1984-85

P James 13, C Barnes 9, P Thorpe 5, M Doherty, M Gold, T Ritchie, J McGinlay 4, J Brown 3, R Horton, S Gibson, P Cheesley, I Botham 2, J Ward, D Platt, C Lilygreen, J Economou, M Tooze, D Linney 1

## 1985-86

It seems incongruous that Gerry Gow was lauded as a breath of fresh air and that the club had turned the corner, when they had in fact been relegated, but in truth there was not the long post-mortem that there might have been under other managers. With automatic promotion to the League still in the pipe line, many saw the change of league as a sideways move, although the first relegation in the club's entire history hurt. Too many years of coping with football rather than enjoying it had taken its toll, but the board and the management were soon to learn that the support was still there despite all. Towards the start of the new Vauxhall-Opel League campaign of 1985-86 Gerry Gow had his first controversial decision to make when he dispensed with the services of keeper Grant Northover after he went against the manager and played cricket rather than attend the club. A furious Gow asked how a goalkeeper could realistically expect to play cricket and risk damaging his hands so close to the season, perhaps forgetting that possibly one of the greatest all-rounders of all time had risked injury playing at Frickley just twelve hours before flying off to face the West Indies not so long before. With Northover gone the mantle passed to Exeter University student Tim Bintley, who had been at Peterborough United and had played for Matlock Town in recent times.

After friendlies against the likes of Torquay United and Shrewsbury Town, Bintley lined up with one newcomer, the exotically named Forbes Philipson-Masters. The side which took the field against Hayes for the first ever game in the Isthmian League was: Bintley, Linney, Gold, Craig, Philipson-Masters, Hughes, Economou, Gow, Ritchie, James, McGinlay, with Lilygreen sub. The whole atmosphere around Huish was one of optimism and hope and it was borne out by the figures which Gerry Lock was proud to produce at the AGM which showed a profit of £7,500, the first since the days of the Arsenal FA Cup tie. His words were carefully picked and hit the mark "I feel that I cannot let the season pass without putting on record the tremendous support this club has been favoured with, making it the best supported semi-professional club in the country". With the commercial side going well and a new sponsor in Wincanton Garages the club had regained its pride and, with three straight wins and a clean sheet in all three, Gow's troops had begun to perform. It was not however with Colin Barnes, who had left to join Maidstone United for £4,000.

The wins were followed surprisingly by three defeats, Gow reacting by bringing in Gary Kember at full back and drafting in Phil Shrimpton and Gary Wright to the squad. The reserves had begun reasonably well but the keeper problem had forced them into playing Gary French against Backwell United, at the tender age of just 13 years old. Former Glover George Bruzas was a mere seventy six years older than French when news





*Tony Ricketts debates whether to shower or not before having a beer!*

came through that he had passed away in his home town of Glastonbury. Bruzas was one of the very last survivors of the early days of football, having been wounded at the Battle of the Somme he later played for Yeovil and Petters United from 1922. Elsewhere the trend for relocating to out of town sites had begun in earnest with Weymouth FC receiving outline planning permission to build a new stadium on the site of the old speedway track at Radipole. It would not be long before Dorchester Town were thinking along the same lines and, unbeknown to most, tentative talks had already begun at Yeovil as supermarket chain Tesco were coveting Huish. Although Gow's side had steadied the ship and had in fact scored in every game, he boosted his forward line by signing Gary Smith from Bath City and Gerry Pearson from Maidstone United, both of whom made the side. It was Pearson who made the biggest impact, with a hat-trick against Bognor Regis, the first by any Glover for 145 matches. The squad would need to stay healthy though, as the line up was to change due to suspensions as a spree of sendings off did little to help the cause. With an unbeaten run of six games behind them, Yeovil and around 100 supporters travelled to the top of the table



*Dave Walter who signed from Torrington for £2,000 in goalmouth action.*

evening game at Farnborough and returned with a superb victory which made many within the league sit up and take notice. It came after an FA Cup victory over a rugged Barry Town which pitted the club with Hereford United, themselves cup heroes of not so long ago. 4,533 saw Yeovil battle to within four minutes of a draw before two late goals sealed victory for the Bulls. Sadly crowd trouble before and during the game escalated and a large section of boundary wall gave way, and the legacy of it all was extra crowd control barriers going in around the ground. Gow was beginning to use his influence and his network of contacts to attract players, and he managed to gain the services of former England striker Kevin Reeves, whose League career with AFC Bournemouth, Manchester City, Norwich City and Burnley had been curtailed through arthritis. His eight appearances in mid-season were a boost but Gow was looking for more permanent fixtures and he began to try to prize Paul Randall away from Bristol Rovers, although without success. He was successful in signing giant keeper Dave Walter from Torrington for £2,000 as well as young full-back Neil Coates who scored on his debut at Tooting. The unbeaten run had gained Gow a pay rise and a new contract and had seen the side placed second behind Sutton United in the table and with support rising along with the excitement, more players arrived seemingly at one a week. Alan Pardew signed from Dulwich Hamlet in March along with Randall and Tony Ricketts after a long drawn out saga which ended with some £10,000 changing hands, but, despite all that, Sutton won the head to head taking away Yeovil's record of twenty matches unbeaten. They were immediately made favourites but with long serving Phil James back amongst the goals it was not until a 4-3 defeat at home by Slough Town that it looked unlikely that Town were going to do it. They were five points ahead but Sutton had four games in hand and they made them pay. There was a twist in the story however, for on April 22nd 1986 at Huish nearly 5,500 gathered to watch Gerry Gow's side destroy Sutton's 24 match run with goals from Dave Spencer and John McGinlay. The crowd was the biggest for 23 years apart from the Worcester City match when people were queuing for Cup tickets and it was described as the finest Huish night for years. Watched by Alec Stock and Basil Hayward under stormy skies the result sadly was not



## Season 1985-1986

Aug	24th	Hayes	A	Vaux Opel Prem	1-0	Economou
	28th	Farnborough Town	H	Gola League	1-0	McGinlay
	31st	Bishop's Stortford	H	" "	2-0	McGinlay, James
Sept	2nd	Croydon	A	" "	1-4	Gold
	7th	Bognor Regis Town	A	" "	1-3	Economou
	11th	Kingstonian	H	" "	1-2	McGinlay
	14th	Billericay Town	H	" "	1-0	McGinlay
	17th	Harrow Borough	A	" "	2-3	Craig, Ritchie
	21st	Walthamstow Ave	A	" "	2-2	Craig, Ritchie
	25th	Wokingham Town	H	" "	3-0	Pearson 2, Smith
	28th	Bognor Regis Town	H	" "	3-2	Pearson 3
Oct	5th	Windsor & Eton	A	" "	2-2	Lilygreen, Pearson
	12th	Hendon	H	" "	2-1	Ritchie 2
	16th	Maidenhead Utd	H	AC Delco Cup 1	2-2	McGinlay, Pearson
	19th	Carshalton Athletic	A	Vaux Opel Prem	1-1	James
	22nd	Maidenhead Utd	A	AC Delco 1 Rep	1-3	McGinlay
	26th	Barry Town	H	FA Cup 4th Qual	4-1	Smith, Pearson, McGinlay, James
	29th	Farnborough Town	A	Vaux Opel Prem	2-1	Pearson, Smith
Nov	9th	Hitchin Town	A	Gola League	3-1	Pearson pen, Ritchie, McGinlay
	16th	Hereford United	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	2-4	Smith, McGinlay
	23rd	Epsom & Ewell	A	Vaux Opel Prem	2-2	McGinlay, Pearson pen
	30th	Saltash United	H	FA Trop 3rd Qual	1-2	James
Dec	2nd	Dulwich Hamlet	A	Vaux Opel Prem	1-1	Reeves
	7th	Barking	H	Gola League	3-1	Ritchie, James, McGinlay
	14th	Tooting & Mit Utd	A	" "	2-0	Coates, McGinlay
Jan	1st	Harrow Borough	H	Vaux Opel Prem	2-2	Reeves, James
	8th	Windsor & Eton	H	Gola League*	2-1	Reeves, McGinlay
	11th	Bishop's Stortford	A	" "	1-0	Pearson
	18th	Hayes	H	" "	2-1	McGinlay, Craig
	25th	Billericay Town	A	" "	2-0	James 2
Feb	1st	Walthamstow Ave	H	" "	2-1	Ricketts, McGinlay
	12th	Radstock Town	H	Som Prem Cup 3	2-1	Craig, McGinlay
	15th	Carshalton Athletic	H	Vaux Opel Prem	5-1	Spencer, McGinlay 2 (1pen), James, Dymond
Mar	1st	Hitchin Town	H	Gola League	3-1	Spencer 2, James
	8th	Sutton United	A	" "	1-3	McGinlay
	11th	Hendon	A	" "	2-1	Randall, Pardew
	15th	Epsom & Ewell	H	" "	3-0	James, Randall 2
	18th	Bristol City	H	Somerset Prem Cup Semi-final	4-2	Randall 2, Thorpe, Muir
	22nd	Barking	A	Vaux Opel Prem	0-0	
	29th	Tooting & Mit Utd	H	Gola League	3-0	James, McGinlay, og
	31st	Worthing	A	" "	5-2	Pardew, James 2, Randall, McGinlay
April	2nd	Bath City	A	Somerset Prem Cup Final 1st Leg	0-1	
	5th	Kingstonian	A	Vaux Opel Prem	1-0	Pardew
	9th	Slough Town	H	Gola League	3-4	James 2, Ritchie
	12th	Croydon	H	" "	5-0	James 3, Spencer, Ricketts
	19th	Dulwich Hamlet	H	" "	3-1	McGinlay 2, Pardew
	22nd	Sutton United	H	" "	2-0	McGinlay, Spencer
	26th	Wokingham Town	A	" "	1-2	Randall
	29th	Bath City	H	Somerset Prem Cup Final 2nd Leg	0-2	
May	1st	Slough Town	A	Vaux Opel Prem	3-2	Spencer 2, og
	3rd	Worthing	H	Gola League	5-0	McGinlay 2, James 2, Pardew

enough as Sutton ultimately took the title and a place in the Gola League.

Gerry Gow had used his skill on the field and off it to fashion the club into something to be respected and feared

## Reserves 1985-1986

Aug	17th	Ilfracombe Town	H	Western Div 1	2-2
	21st	Tiverton Town	A	" "	1-2
	24th	Odd Down	H	" "	2-0
	26th	Saltash United	A	Western LC 2	3-1
	31st	Welton Rovers	A	Western Div 1	0-0
Sept	2nd	Swanage T & Hers	H	" "	2-1
	7th	Backwell United	H	" "	6-3
	14th	Ilfracombe Town	A	" "	1-1
	16th	Bath City Res	H	" "	2-3
	21st	Elmore	H	" "	0-0
	28th	Westbury United	A	" "	0-2
Oct	5th	Heavitree United	H	" "	3-0
	12th	Devizes Town	A	" "	2-0
	19th	Tiverton Town	H	" "	2-0
	26th	Larkhall Athletic	A	" "	1-2
Nov	2nd	Ottery St Mary	A	" "	0-1
	9th	Portway-Bristol	H	" "	0-4
	18th	Larkhall Athletic	H	" "	2-0
	20th	Weston-s-Mare	H	Western LC 3	3-1
	23rd	Welton Rovers	H	Western Div 1	1-2
	30th	Wellington	A	" "	0-1
Dec	14th	Radstock Town	H	" "	3-0
	21st	Swanage T & Hers	A	" "	1-1
	26th	Weymouth Res	H	" "	4-0
Jan	4th	Elmore	A	" "	2-3
	11th	Wellington	H	" "	1-0
	25th	Westbury United	H	" "	4-1
Feb	1st	Wimborne Town	A	" "	2-0
	3rd	Keynsham Town	H	" "	4-1
	22nd	Wimborne Town	H	" "	3-1
	26th	Warminster Town	H	" "	2-0
March	1st	Portway-Bristol	A	" "	1-1
	3rd	Ottery St Mary	H	" "	3-0
	8th	Warminster Town	A	" "	4-0
	15th	Weymouth Res	A	" "	2-0
	24th	Devizes Town	H	" "	2-0
	28th	Keynsham Town	A	" "	1-0
	29th	Odd Down	A	" "	2-0
April	5th	Exmouth Town	H	Western LC 4	0-1
	9th	Radstock Town	A	Western Div 1	2-0
	16th	Glastonbury	H	" "	5-1
	22nd	Heavitree United	A	" "	0-1
	26th	Glastonbury	A	" "	2-1
	29th	Bath City Res	A	" "	1-1
May	3rd	Backwell United	A	" "	1-0

and the widely held view was that one more season in the Vauxhall-Opel League would not do any harm. Off the field during the second half of the season talks had continued as to the future of Huish. There seemed little doubt that the proposals to sell off the land to Tesco and start afresh at Houndstone were not still born like so many others around the country and, although there were the inevitable protesters from outside the club, the news created much excitement and renewed thoughts of Football League status.

The press were soon on the case and after putting two and two together came up with many more than four when the manager and chairman were at Luton Town, home of the notorious artificial pitch. The press talked of the advantages although there had been no mention by the club, indeed the board remained tight lipped, attracting some criticism by fans wanting to know what was happening through the club, and not via Tesco and the press.

With the average gate having risen by 35%, and with runners up medals in the league and the Premier Cup, Yeovil Town were back and were seemingly on a roll.



Phil James in action against Epsom and Ewell.

#### Vauxhall-Opel Premier 1985-1986

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sutton United	42	29	8	5	109	39	95
Yeovil Town	42	28	7	7	92	48	91
Farnborough Town	42	23	8	11	90	50	77
Croydon	42	23	7	12	70	50	76
Harrow Borough	42	21	8	13	76	66	71
Slough Town	42	18	8	16	66	68	62
Bishop's Stortford	42	17	10	15	55	61	61
Kingstonian	42	15	15	12	57	56	60
Dulwich Hamlet	42	17	9	16	64	79	60
Wokingham	42	16	10	16	67	64	58
Windsor & Eton	42	17	7	18	58	75	58
Tooting & Mit Utd	42	14	11	7	65	76	53
Walthamstow Ave	42	12	14	16	69	70	50
Worthing	42	13	10	19	72	82	49
Bognor Regis Town	42	15	6	21	63	70	48
Hayes	42	10	17	15	36	42	47
Hitchin Town	42	11	14	17	53	69	47
Barking	42	11	13	18	45	55	46
Hendon	42	10	13	19	59	77	43
Carshalton Athletic	42	9	13	20	56	79	40
Billericay Town	42	9	12	21	59	78	39
Epsom & Ewell	42	8	12	22	63	90	36

#### Great Mills Division I - 1985-1986

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portway-Bristol	42	27	9	6	100	42	63
Radstock Town	42	26	9	7	116	54	61
Yeovil Town Res	42	25	7	10	79	36	56
Wimborne Town	42	18	13	11	77	51	49
Larkhall Athletic	42	18	11	13	72	56	47
Backwell United	42	19	9	14	63	47	47
Ottery St Mary	42	18	11	13	61	46	47
Swanage T & Hers	42	18	9	15	91	79	45
Weymouth Res	42	18	8	16	84	78	44
Heavitree United	42	17	10	15	60	69	44
Bath City Res	42	16	10	16	74	86	42
Wellington	42	14	12	16	70	70	40
Tiverton Town	42	16	7	19	68	74	39
Devizes Town	42	10	18	14	43	58	38
Elmore	42	12	13	17	56	78	37
Keynsham Town	42	9	18	15	37	53	36
Welton Rovers	42	13	9	20	61	84	35
Glastonbury	42	12	11	19	52	79	35
Ilfracombe Town	42	10	14	18	55	69	34
Westbury United	42	10	10	22	55	82	30
Odd Down	42	9	12	21	57	90	30
Warminster Town	42	9	6	27	40	93	24

#### First Team Appearances 1985-86

J McGinlay 47, D Craig, P James 44, T Ritchie 41, D Linney 40, G Pearson 39, G Gow 35, N Coates, D Walter 24, G Kember 23, M Gold 22, F Phillipson-Masters 19, A Pardew, T Ricketts 17, G Smith 16, T Bintley, J Economou, P Thorpe 15, P Randall 14, P Muir 13, P James 11, W Hughes, K Reeves, A Dymond 8, C Lilygreen, D Spencer 6, M Tooze 2, G Wright, T Chutter, P Shrimpton 1

#### First Team Goalscorers 1985-86

J McGinlay 26, P James 21, G Pearson 12, T Ritchie, P Randall, D Spencer 7, A Pardew 5, D Craig, G Smith 4, K Reeves, og's 3, J Economou, T Ricketts 2, N Coates, A Dymond, M Gold, C Lilygreen, P Muir, P Thorpe 1

#### Reserve Goalscorers 1985-86

Thorpe 20, Card, Shrimpton, Spencer 7, Pounder 6, Stone 5, Chutter, Glentworth, McGinlay, Smith, Tooze 3, Hughes, Lilygreen, Pearson 2, Craig, Dymond, Economou, Horley, Kember, Phillipson-Masters, Ricketts, T Ritchie, Wright, og 1



## CHAPTER EIGHT

# Goodbye Huish? ... the first steps are taken – Summer 1986

With the prospects of a new ground in the pipeline, which many believed was just around the corner, and with a strong squad which included Carl Zachhau, a £3,000 buy from Walthamstow Avenue and Phil Ferns, a full back from Aldershot, the club was once again buoyant. Gow had bought wisely, as Zachhau's hat-trick in the Charity Shield match

against Sutton United on 25th August 1986 brought the first trophy to Huish for ten years. Ferns' two goals in the first league game from the spot were also a bonus as August and September signalled the beginning of a possible return to the big time.

Over three thousand saw the match with Wycombe



*John McGinlay, who was given a free transfer by Yeovil, before going on to play in the Premier League and Scotland.*

## Season 1986-1987

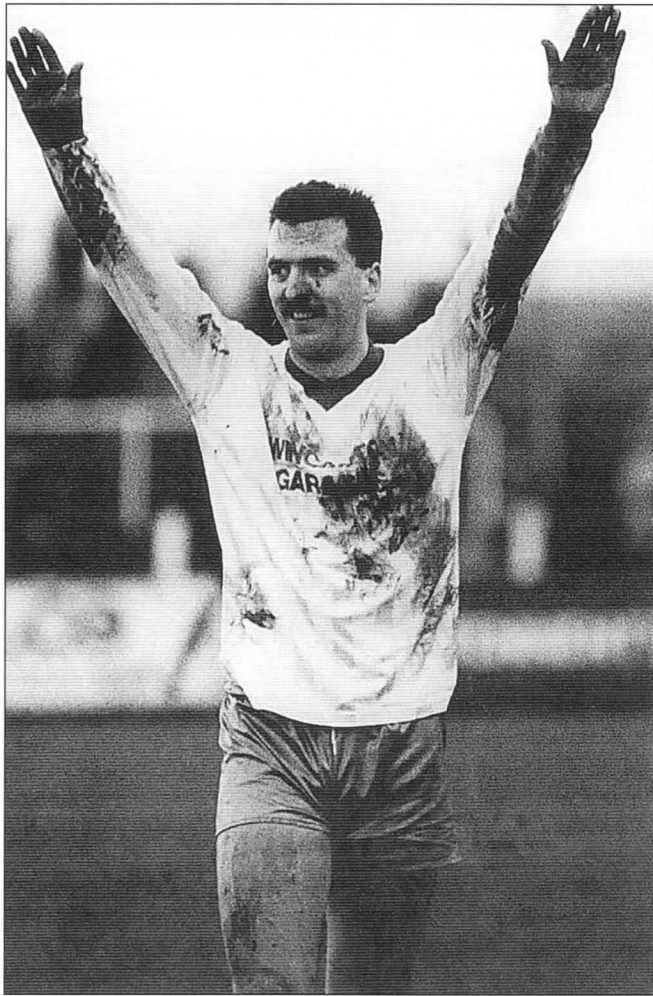
Aug	16th	Hendon	H	Vaux Opel Prem	2-1	Ferns 2 pens
	18th	Croydon	A	" "	1-0	Zachhau
	23rd	St Albans City	A	" "	0-0	
	25th	Sutton United	A	Vaux Char Shield	5-1	Zachhau 3, Pardew, Coates
	30th	Bishop's Stortford	H	Vaux Opel Prem	2-0	Ricketts, James
Sept	2nd	Wokingham Town	A	" "	1-1	Randall
	6th	Kingstonian	A	" "	1-0	Zachhau
	13th	Windsor & Eton	H	" "	3-1	Pearson, Zachhau, McGinlay
	16th	Farnborough Town	A	" "	2-1	Randall 2
	20th	Hitchin Town	A	" "	2-0	Zachhau, Ferns pen
	24th	Kingsbury Town	H	ACDelco 1 1st L	3-3	Randall, Pardew, Ricketts
	27th	Wycombe Wand	H	Vaux Opel Prem	2-1	James, Pardew
	30th	Kingsbury Town	A	ACDelco 1 2nd L	2-1	Pearson, og
Oct	4th	Worthing	A	Vaux Opel Prem	2-2	Spencer, og (at Yeovil Town FC)
	8th	Farnborough Town	H	" "	1-2	James
	11th	Bognor Regis Town	H	" "	0-0	
	15th	Clandown	H	Som Prem Cup 2	4-0	McGinlay, Randall, Zachhau, James
	18th	Barking	A	Vaux Opel Prem	1-1	James
	25th	Bath City	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	1-2	Pardew
Nov	1st	Hayes	H	Vaux Opel Prem	2-0	Ferns pen, Pardew
	5th	Wokingham Town	H	" "	3-0	Tanner 3
	8th	Tooting & Mit Utd	A	" "	1-0	Tanner
	11th	Wycombe Wand	A	GMAC Cup 1	4-1	Ferns pen, Zachhau, James, Tanner
	15th	Harrow Borough	H	Vaux Opel Prem	3-2	McGinlay 2, Pardew
	19th	Chesham United	H	ACDelco Cup 2	7-1	McGinlay 3, Zachhau 2, Tanner, James
	22nd	Walthamstow Ave	A	Vaux Opel Prem	4-0	Tanner, James, Perdeu, Linney
	29th	Dulwich Hamlet	H	" "	0-2	
Dec	6th	Carshalton Athletic	H	" "	1-0	Ferns
	9th	Slough Town	A	" "	1-0	Zachhau
	13th	Hayes	A	" "	3-1	Thorpe, Zachhau, Pearson
	16th	Wycombe Wand	A	ACDelco Cup 3	2-1	McGinlay, Pearson
	20th	Kettering Town	A	FA Trop 1st Rd	3-2	Zachhau, Pearson, James
	27th	Croydon	H	Vaux Opel Prem	0-1	
Jan	1st	Harrow Borough	A	" "	1-1	Pardew
	3rd	Hendon	A	" "	1-1	Randall
	10th	St Albans City	H	" "	1-1	Pounder
	24th	Runcorn	H	FA Trop 2nd Rd	0-0	
	27th	Runcorn	A	Replay	1-2	Pearson
	31st	Windsor & Eton	A	Vaux Opel Prem	0-1	
Feb	4th	Radstock Town	H	Som Prem Cup 3	4-1	Sayers 2, Randall, Shrimpton
	7th	Hitchin Town	H	Vaux Opel Prem	2-1	Randall, Miller
	11th	Farnborough Town	H	AC Delco Cup 4	6-3	Randall 2, Coates, Zachhau, Pearson, Miller
	14th	Wycombe Wand	A	Vaux Opel Prem	1-0	Thorpe
	17th	Slough Town	A	GMAC Cup 2	4-3	McGinlay 2, Randall, Miller
	25th	Bath City	H	Somerset Prem Cup	1-1	Miller Semi-final
	28th	Bognor Regis Town	A	Vaux Opel Prem	0-1	
Mar	2nd	Maidstone United	A	GMAC Cup 3	1-5	Pardew
	7th	Barking	H	Vaux Opel Prem	3-0	Miller 2, Pardew
	11th	Hendon	H	AC Delco Cup	0-2	 Semi-final 1st Leg
	14th	Tooting & Mit Utd	H	Vaux Opel Prem	3-0	Miller 2, Randall

## Season 1986-1987

	18th	Worthing	H	Vaux Opel Prem	5-0	Randall 2, Donnellan, Wallace, Ferns
	21st	Bromley	A	" "	2-0	Zachhau 2
	28th	Dulwich Hamlet	A	" "	1-0	Wallace
April	2nd	Hendon	A	AC Delco Cup	0-2	 Semi-final 2nd Leg
	4th	Slough Town	H	Vaux Opel Prem	2-0	Donnellan, Randall
	8th	Kingstonian	H	" "	2-0	Rutter, og
	15th	Bath City	A	Somerset Prem Cup	1-1	Wallace Semi-Final Replay AET
	18th	Carshalton Athletic	A	Vaux Opel Prem	3-2	Zachhau, Ferns pen, Randall
	25th	Walthamstow Ave	H	" "	2-1	McGinlay, Rutter pen
	26th	Bath City	A	Somerset Prem Cup	2-1	Randall 2 Semi Final 2nd Replay
	28th	Bishop's Stortford	A	Vaux Opel Prem	0-1	
May	2nd	Bromley	H	" "	4-1	Donnellan, Randall, Coates, Wallace

## Reserves - Season 1986-1987

Aug	16th	Welton Rovers	A	Great Mills Div 1	3-0	
	18th	Swanage T & Hers	H	" "	0-2	
	23rd	Wellington	H	" "	5-0	
	25th	Larkhall Athletic	H	" "	2-2	
	30th	Wimborne Town	A	" "	3-4	
Sept	1st	Westbury United	H	" "	5-0	
	6th	Keynsham Town	H	" "	4-1	
	15th	Portway-Bristol	H	" "	2-1	
	17th	Weymouth Res	H	Great Mills LC 1	3-0	
	27th	Elmore	A	Great Mills Div 1	1-1	
Oct	1st	Ottery St Mary	H	Great Mills LC 2	6-0	
	4th	Glastonbury	A	Great Mills Div 1	1-0	
	11th	Ottery St Mary	A	" "	0-2	
	13th	Odd Down	H	" "	4-0	
	18th	Bath City Res	H	" "	0-0	
	25th	Ilfracombe Town	H	" "	1-1	
Nov	1st	Westbury United	A	" "	1-1	
	8th	Elmore	H	" "	2-0	
	22nd	Welton Rovers	H	" "	1-0	
	29th	Odd Down	A	" "	2-0	
Dec	6th	Tiverton Town	A	" "	1-1	
	13th	Warmminster Town	H	" "	4-1	
	20th	Glastonbury	H	" "	3-0	
	26th	Weymouth Res	H	" "	1-1	
	27th	Backwell United	A	" "	2-1	
Jan	1st	Heavitree United	H	" "	6-1	
	3rd	Swanage T & Hers	A	" "	1-3	
	10th	Bath City Res	A	" "	2-1	
	24th	Ilfracombe Town	A	" "	4-2	
Feb	9th	Bristol City Res	H	Great Mills LC 3	2-0	
	14th	Wimborne Town	H	Great Mills Div 1	4-3	
	16th	Devizes Town	H	" "	0-2	
	23rd	Calne Town	H	" "	2-0	
Mar	9th	Ottery St Mary	H	" "	3-2	
	14th	Portway-Bristol	A	" "	1-3	
	17th	Swanage T & Hers	A	Great Mills LC 4	3-2	
	21st	Tiverton Town	H	Great Mills Div 1	2-2	
	25th	Wellington	A	" "	0-2	
	28th	Backwell United	H	" "	1-0	
April	11th	Calne Town	A	" "	1-2	
	17th	Weymouth Res	A	" "	1-1	
	18th	Devizes Town	A	" "	0-2	
	20th	Heavitree United	A	" "	4-0	
	26th	Larkhall Athletic	A	" "	2-2	
	29th	Saltash United	H	Great Mills LC S/F	0-2	
May	2nd	Warmminster Town	A	Great Mills Div 1	1-3	
	4th	Keynsham Town	A	" "	2-3	



Top scorer Paul Randall in typical pose.

Wanderers where the undefeated Glovers went top of the table and Gerry Gow was given the Manager of the Month award, but October saw the good start turn sour, with points thrown away in the league and an exit from the Cup at the hands of Bath City. Ricky Chandler had signed from Bath City and was making an impact, as did Micky Tanner, an unpredictable but talented forward from Bristol City.



Alan Pardew

Off the field the town council had recommended plans for an eight and a half acre site to be demolished and replaced with a supermarket after the casting vote of the council planning committee's Roger Baker went the right way. Not only Huish, but Living Homes, Huish Primary School and a number of other smaller buildings would be swept away for the transformation.

The fifteen match unbeaten record had gone which heralded a slump, but with Pardew, McGinlay and Tanner all finding their scoring boots,

November was a success, seeing the side beat Chesham United 7-1, the biggest win for eight years. The influx of new faces had seen a number go the other way, but Phil James continued to be an important member of the squad and he clocked up his 200th game during that time, no easy task as the team were described by Alan Parry, the valuable Wycombe Wanderers and BBC man as "the best non-League side he had ever seen", after Town had won 4-1 in the GMAC Cup. Wycombe were beaten again in the AC Delco Cup but by then Tony Ricketts was out for the season following a bad tackle. Gow had shuffled his troops, which included Gerry Pearson, once Micky Tanner's successful loan period was up, and he enjoyed a superb spell of twelve wins in thirteen matches, until the wheels came off in emphatic style, when losing to Croydon just a week after turning around a 2-1 deficit to win 3-2 at Kettering Town in the FA Trophy. Wycombe had turned the title race into a two horse affair but Yeovil did their best to throw away their chances with a disastrous run either side of the new year. Three 1-1 draws and a defeat in a Trophy replay at a bleak Canal Street Runcorn meant that in all probability there would be no promotion and no trophies. By then Gerry Gow had bowed to the pressure the more hard line supporters had put him under, and citing personal reasons, he departed, having put the club back on track but having failed to give the terrace fans promotion back to the top league which had dragged them down not so long before. Naturally the fans hankered for promotion, but the perfect solution was for the club to move up at the new ground, and that was a long way off and in the planning stage. Gerry Gow's leaving paved the way for the usual round of applicants, one of whom was Mick Channon, the ex-England forward, whose lack of managerial experience was in direct contrast to the man chosen to lead Yeovil into the big time. 47 year old Brian Hall, a police trainer from London, had played in the Southern League for Dunstable and having gained his full coaching badge worked under Allan Batsford at Walton and Hersham and Wimbledon and then later at



Tom Ritchie receiving the Green & White Supporters' Club player of the year award for season 1986/87 from supporters' club chairman, Dave Parsons





August 25th 1986 – Yeovil have won the Charity Shield at Sutton, Tony Ricketts shows the fans the Shield.

Wealdstone, where having taken over the chair, fashioned an uncompromising side which won the Southern League and then swept the board doing the Gola League and FA Trophy double, adding the Middlesex Senior and Capital League Cups for good measure.

Soon Yeovil Town would be swarming with men whose CV's would included Wealdstone, but Huish did say farewell to Doug Hunt, the popular club physio, who at the age of 72 finally retired after thirty years at Huish. It soon became clear that everybody would be saying goodbye to Huish as the directors and the South Somerset District Council discussed a twenty acre site at Houndstone which was formerly MOD land and had been designated as open for public recreation.

The Huish personnel was soon changed to suit manager Hall, with Paul Miller on loan, Steve Rutter and Gary Donnellan all coming down to the west country. Indeed at one point it seemed that they might all be playing at Huish indefinitely as chairman Gerry Lock was quoted as saying "We may stay at Huish", a reaction to the fact that the Houndstone move all hinged on a planning enquiry which had been postponed to the end of the year. To remain would mean spending upwards of £150,000 on Huish over five years, a frightening prospect for all concerned. Although Wycombe never truly ran away with the league, most attention was on the team's impressive defensive run through March and April where they went eight league matches without Dave Walter conceding a goal. With Neil Coates, Phil Ferns, Tom Ritchie, Steve Rutter and Paul Thorpe dominating, all looked good for a concerted go at the league beginning in August. Sadly the influx of new blood left Phil James out in the cold and the long serving forward left the club after 209 appearances and 65 goals. Alan Pardew's somewhat shorter career ended when, after much speculation, he joined Crystal Palace for £7,000. The season ended with the Somerset Premier Cup semi-final against Bath City degenerating into farce, as after two draws and a replayed game due when Bath City successfully appealed that a Yeovil player had not been signed before the original tie. The SFA decreed that the teams played for a fourth time at the beginning of May, a situation made impossible by contractual problems for both sides. Having both declined to play again the FA threw both clubs out and awarded the cup to Clevedon Town, depriving them of a healthy pay day in the final.

**First Team Goalscorers 1986-87**

P Randall 19, C Zachhau 18, J McGinlay, A Pardew 11, P James 9, P Ferns, P Miller 8, G Pearson, M Tanner 7, A Wallace 4, N Coates, G Donnellan 3, S Rutter, og's 2, T Ricketts, H Sayers, P Thorpe, D Linney, T Pounder, P Shrimpton, D Spencer 1

**Vauxhall-Opel Premier 1986-1987**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wycombe Wand	42	32	5	5	103	32	101
Yeovil Town	42	28	8	6	71	27	92
Slough Town	42	23	8	11	70	44	77
Hendon	42	22	7	13	67	53	73
Bognor Regis Tn	42	20	10	12	85	61	70
Harrow Borough	42	20	10	12	68	44	70
Croydon	42	18	19	14	51	48	64
Barking	42	16	14	12	76	56	62
Farnborough Town	42	17	11	14	66	72	62
Bishop's Stortford	42	15	15	12	62	57	60
Bromley	42	16	11	15	63	72	59
Kingstonian	42	16	9	17	58	50	57
Windsor & Eton	42	13	15	14	47	52	54
St Albans City	42	14	9	19	61	70	51
Carshalton Athletic	42	13	9	20	55	68	48
Hayes	42	12	12	18	45	68	48
Wokingham Town	42	14	6	22	47	61	48
Dulwich Hamlet	42	12	10	20	62	71	46
Tooting & M Utd	42	12	9	21	41	53	45
Hitchin Town	42	13	5	24	56	69	44
Worthing	42	8	9	25	58	107	33
Walthamstow Ave	42	4	6	32	36	113	18

**Great Mills Division I – 1986-1987**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swanage T & Hers	42	25	12	5	93	52	62
Portway-Bristol	42	25	8	9	103	51	58
Bath City Res	42	25	6	11	85	58	56
Yeovil Town Res	42	21	10	11	85	53	52
Wimborne Town	42	23	6	13	96	58	51
Devizes Town	42	21	10	11	62	43	51
Larkhall Athletic	42	21	8	13	71	53	50
Welton Rovers	42	20	6	16	66	53	46
Backwell United	42	15	15	12	55	53	45
Warminster Town	42	18	10	14	72	71	44
Ottery St Mary	42	17	6	19	66	68	40
Odd Down	42	13	13	16	57	65	39
Keynsham Town	42	16	7	19	57	69	39
Elmore	42	14	10	18	60	69	38
Tiverton Town	42	12	12	18	66	79	36
Weymouth Res	42	12	12	18	75	87	35
Wellington	42	14	7	21	55	67	35
Westbury United	42	12	10	20	78	87	34
Calne Town	42	11	12	19	54	73	34
Ilfracombe Town	42	11	8	23	40	68	30
Heavitree United	42	9	9	24	48	96	26
Glastonbury	42	5	7	30	38	109	17

**Appearances 1986-87**

D Walter 61, P Ferns 59, G Pearson 53, T Ritchie 52, C Zachhau 48, A Pardew, J McGinlay 44, R Chandler 41, P Randall, P Thorpe 39, P James 38, N Coates 34, D Linney 33, D Gillies 28, T Ricketts 25, G Donnellan 14, S Rutter 12, A Wallace, A Stone 11, P Miller 9, M Tanner, D Holland 7, D Spencer, C Warmington 5, P Muir, H Sayers 4, G Gow, R Horton, T Pounder 2, G Kember, B Andrews, D Chalmers, T Chutter, P Shrimpton 1

**Reserve goalscorers 1986-87**

P Shrimpton 17, P Randall, T Pounder 16, D Spencer 8, A Stone, J McGinlay 6, P Thorpe, P Hooper 5, P Muir 4, G Kember 3, S French, og 2, F Phillipson-Masters, D Craig, D Linney, P James, S Legg, C Zachhau, M Stevens, T Ricketts 1



#### Vauxhall-Opel League Champions 1988

Back Row: Jeff Sherwood, Paul Thorpe, Andy Wallace, Steve Rutter, Bob Iles, Tony Ricketts, Martyn Grimshaw, Paul Randall. Middle Row: Tony Rafferty (physio), Steve Ritchie (reserve team manager), Wayne Noble, Phil Ferns, John McGinlay, Dave Linney, Gerry Pearson, Mick Doherty, Paul Rogers (coach), Paul Hillard (asst. manager). Front Row: Gordon Prosser (groundsman), Alan Bergman, John Fleetwood, Denis Montague, Jeff House (directors), Gerry Lock (chairman), Brian Hall (manager), Mike Spearpoint, Bryan Moore, Allan Houghton (directors), Roger Brinsford (general manager).

### *Brian Hall, the Houndstone go ahead, and promotion again...*

The close season of 1987-88 was dominated by reports on the Bradford Fire which left a trail of clubs looking at alarming bills for safety work at their grounds and Huish was no exception. The official planning application for the Houndstone ground finally went in, including hockey and cricket pitches and a 10,000 capacity ground. It coincided with the shareholders agreeing to sell Huish, their overwhelming 91% backing at an extraordinary general meeting being greeted with a cry of "let's get moving". The cost to the contractors was £2.5m which meant that Yeovil Town would own some twenty plus acres freehold, bought with aid for some £100,000. Back at Huish Brian Hall had added Bob Iles, the former Chelsea keeper, to the squad, initially as cover for Walters but he sold Carl Zachau to Bishop's Stortford before buying Jeff Sherwood from Bath City for £5,000. As the new season dawned the friendlies were uninspired and Hall, having got rid of a number of forwards, found himself light in that department, and having failed to gain complete support throughout the club found himself fielding criticism for his abrasive nature even before the term had begun. It mattered little although his thinner squad, having won the first three matches, lost the next two away which provoked a barrage of abuse. When the next two were lost also at Bognor and Windsor, Gerry Lock was forced to defend his manager calling some supporters "mindless idiots who had driven Gerry Gow away would not do the same to Brian Hall". The Cup run began at Gosport and continued down the road from there at Waterlooville where

trouble developed during the game. Further wins over Wimborne Town and Weymouth saw the club yet again into the 1st Round proper. It brought problems as a safety limit of just 3,100 confirmed to all that Huish needed to be history. League form was stuttery but with the other leading clubs beating each other the poor away results were compensated for. In October Brian Hall left the police force and went full time at Yeovil, to be joined later in the month by Roger Brinsford, who became General Manager the same day as Gordon Prosser joined the club as groundsman. They oversaw Hall's side with Tony Ricketts dominant and Neil Cordice, another Wealdstone signing, and Andy Wallace subdue and then beat Fourth Division Cambridge United at



Neil Cordice, John McGinlay, Gerry Pearson, Paul Thorpe and Paul Randall

## Season 1987-1988

Aug	22nd	Barking	A	Vaux Opel Prem	2-1	Coates, Ricketts
	26th	Wokingham Town	H	" "	1-0	Ricketts
	29th	Leytonstone-Ilford	H	" "	2-1	Randall, Wallace
Sept	1st	Basingstoke Town	A	" "	0-1	
	5th	Bromley	A	" "	1-2	Rutter
	9th	Slough Town	H	" "	2-1	Donnellan, Ricketts
	12th	Gosport Borough	A	FA Cup 1st Qual	1-0	Randall
	19th	Bognor Regis Town	A	Vaux Opel Prem	1-2	McGinlay
	23rd	Walthamstow Ave	A	AC Delco Cup 1	5-0	McGinlay 2, Ferns, Rutter, Pearson
	26th	Waterlooville	A	FA Cup 2nd Qual	1-1	McGinlay
	30th	Waterlooville	H	Replay	3-2	Wallace, McGinlay 2
Oct	3rd	Dulwich Hamlet	H	Vaux Opel Prem	4-0	Pearson 2, Wallace, Randall
	10th	Wimborne Town	A	FA Cup 3rd Qual	4-0	McGinlay 3 (1pen), Thorpe
	13th	Windsor & Eton	A	Vaux Opel Prem	1-3	Donnellan
	17th	Hendon	H	" "	3-0	Donnellan, Ferns pen, Cordice
	20th	Bath City	A	Som Prem Cup 1	2-2	Donnellan, Pearson
	24th	Weymouth	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	3-1	McGinlay 2, Pearson
	26th	Farnborough Town	A	GMAC Cup 1	2-1	Ferns pen, Wallace
Nov	4th	Bath City	H	Som PC 1 Rep	2-1	Ferns pen, Pearson
	7th	Leyton-Wingate	H	Vaux Opel Prem	2-0	Randall, Thorpe
	14th	Worcester City	A	FA Cup 1st Rd	1-1	Pearson
	18th	Worcester City	H	Replay	1-0	McGinlay
	21st	Basingstoke Town	H	Vaux Opel Prem	2-0	Wallace 2
	25th	Chesham United	A	AC Delco Cup 2	3-0	Ferns 2 (1pen), Randall
	28th	Barking	H	Vaux Opel Prem	0-0	
	30th	Weston-s-Mare	A	Som Prem Cup 2	0-2	
Dec	2nd	Wokingham Town	H	GMAC Cup 2	2-1	Ricketts, McGinlay
	5th	Cambridge United	A	FA Cup 2nd Rd	1-0	Wallace
	8th	Slough Town	A	Vaux Opel Prem	2-2	Pearson, Wallace
	12th	Carshalton Athletic	H	" "	4-1	Pearson, Rutter, Donnellan, Cordice
	16th	Leytonstone-Ilford	H	AC Delco Cup 3	2-0	Pearson, Donnellan
	19th	Gloucester City	A	FA Trophy 1	3-1	Pearson, McGinlay 2
	26th	Farnborough Town	H	Vaux Opel Prem	2-0	Pearson, Rutter
	28th	St Albans City	H	" "	0-0	
Jan	2nd	Wokingham Town	A	" "	0-3	
	9th	Queens Park Rng	H	FA Cup 3rd Rd	0-3	
	16th	Windsor & Eton	H	Vaux Opel Prem	2-0	Ferns, Wallace
	19th	Kingstonian	A	" "	3-2	Randall 3
	23rd	Witton Albion	A	FA Trophy 2	1-3	Randall
	30th	Kingstonian	H	Vaux Opel Prem	2-0	Randall 2
Feb	6th	St Albans City	A	" "	2-1	Randall 2
	9th	Hampton	A	AC Delco Cup 4	2-0	Randall, Pearson
	13th	Bognor Regis Town	H	Vaux Opel Prem	1-0	Randall
	17th	Harrow Borough	H	" "	2-0	Noble, Thorpe
	20th	Croydon	A	" "	2-1	Chandler, Ferns pen
	24th	Welling United	A	GMAC Cup 3	0-1	
	27th	Hitchin Town	H	Vaux Opel Prem	1-1	Ferns
Mar	1st	Leytonstone-Ilford	A	" "	0-1	
	5th	Dulwich Hamlet	A	" "	1-1	Pearson
	9th	Kingstonian	H	AC Delco Cup Semi-final 1st Leg	2-0	Randall 2
	12th	Hayes	H	Vaux Opel Prem	2-0	Rutter, Doherty
	19th	Hendon	A	" "	0-0	
	23rd	Tooting & Mit Utd	H	" "	2-3	Wallace 2
	26th	Bishop's Stortford	H	" "	1-1	Wallace
	28th	Kingstonian (at Hampton FC)	A	AC Delco Cup Semi-final 2nd Leg	1-0	Donnellan
April	2nd	Farnborough Town	A	Vaux Opel Prem	1-0	Randall
	4th	Leyton-Wingate	A	" "	1-2	Grimshaw
	6th	Hayes	A	" "	0-0	

## Season 1987-1988 continued

	9th	Bromley	H	Vaux Opel Prem	3-0	Doherty 3
	16th	Bishop's Stortford	A	" "	2-1	Donnellan, Cordice
	19th	Tooting & Mit Utd	A	" "	2-1	Randall 2
	23rd	Croydon	H	" "	3-1	Randall 2, Wallace
	26th	Carshalton Athletic	A	" "	0-0	
	30th	Hitchin Town	A	" "	4-0	Randall 2, Quinn 2
May	2nd	Hayes	A	C Delco Cup Final (at Basingstoke Town FC)	3-1	Wallace, Randall, Doherty
	4th	Harrow Borough	A	Vaux Opel Prem	0-1	

## Reserves 1987-1988

Aug	15th	Westbury United	A	Gt Mills Div 1	0-3
	19th	Ottery St Mary	A	" "	2-3
	22nd	Keynsham Town	H	" "	1-2
	24th	Tiverton Town	H	" "	2-3
	29th	Larkhall Athletic	A	" "	1-2
	31st	Elmore	A	" "	1-2
Sept	5th	Odd Down	H	" "	2-3
	8th	Heavitree United	A	" "	2-4
	12th	Warminster Town	A	" "	1-0
	19th	Welton Rovers	H	" "	1-1
	26th	Chard Town	H	" "	1-1
Oct	3rd	Ilfracombe Town	A	" "	1-3
	10th	Calne Town	H	" "	0-0
	13th	Exmouth Town	A	Western LC 1	1-4
	17th	Tiverton Town	A	Gt Mills Div 1	0-1
	24th	Glastonbury	H	" "	0-0
Nov	7th	Wellington	A	" "	1-4
	14th	Odd Down	A	" "	1-1
	21st	Devizes Town	A	" "	1-3
	28th	Chard Town	A	" "	1-2
Dec	5th	Heavitree United	H	" "	1-1
	19th	Keynsham Town	A	" "	0-1
Jan	23rd	Bath City Res	H	" "	1-1
Feb	6th	Devizes Town	H	" "	0-1
	8th	Backwell United	H	" "	3-0
	20th	Ottery St Mary	H	" "	1-0
	27th	Welton Rovers	A	" "	1-0
March	5th	Ilfracombe Town	H	" "	1-1
	7th	Elmore	H	" "	1-0
	12th	Calne Town	A	" "	2-1
	16th	Glastonbury	A	" "	3-1
	19th	Warminster Town	H	" "	1-1
April	2nd	Wellington	H	" "	1-1
	16th	Larkhall Athletic	H	" "	0-1
	18th	Westbury United	H	" "	1-3
	23rd	Backwell United	A	" "	3-3
	26th	Bath City Res	A	" "	0-3

the Abbey, the first League scalp for fifteen years. Christmas came with tickets for the 3rd Round tie with Queens Park Rangers on sale at the match with St Albans City. Jimmy Quinn, the volatile Bognor Regis midfielder signed before the match but was Cup tied, but some £50,000 was earned, easily the biggest receipts in the club history, increased by HTV showing the match on Saturday night.

The near 10,000 crowd saw an expected home defeat, but Hall had fashioned a side which was capable of challenging for promotion and the defeat was not as heart rending as it might have been. The side were a lowly tenth in the table, but with five games in hand and with Paul Randall finding his touch, January and February saw the club move steadily up challenged by Windsor and Eton. Hall signed Steve Tapley from Enfield before selling Neil Coates to Dorchester Town but he played his trump card when enticing Mick





Action from the F.A. Cup 3rd Qualifying Round tie at Wimborne Town (10th October).

Doherty back to Huish from Maidstone United for a five figure sum. Ricky Chandler moved back to Bath City in a swap move for striker Martyn Grimshaw but, just as things were running smoothly, controversy hit Yeovil again. Having already been accused of being 'animals' in the press of one provincial town, Kingstonian player John Martin threatened court action against Tony Ricketts following an incident which left him with a fractured skull. K's manager called for Ricketts to be banned for life but Hall won few friends by blaming a linesman for missing an offside which started the incident. It was a strange time for Brian Hall who was managing a team which had reached the third round of the Cup, were still in two other competitions and were favourites to win the league and gain promotion. His team, based on solid defence were not a free scoring side and were incurring the wrath of officials and the press alike for the disciplinary problems, much as Stan Harland's side had done a decade before. Despite all that, with seven games to go Yeovil Town were a point behind Bromley with two games in hand and when 3,500 saw Mick Doherty destroy Bromley on his own the title was all but won. Further wins at Bishop's Stortford and Tooting and Mitcham finally saw promotion clinched at long last. It had been a fraught season both on and off the field but it was topped off by a fine win in the AC Delco, the League Cup, to complete the double. Phil Ferns had the honour of hoisting both trophies within

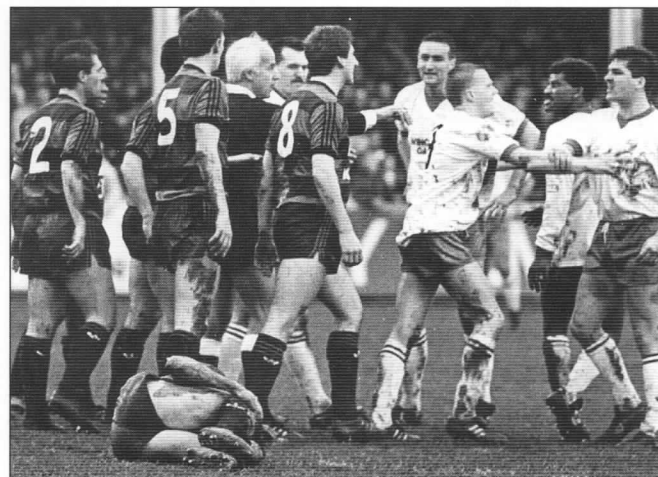
days of each other. Hall began his building for the Conference by releasing John McGinlay after he had made little impact under the new boss. The young Scotsman was to go on and prove everybody wrong in the years ahead by playing in the Premier League and also gaining Scottish international caps.



A quarter to twelve and queues begin at Huish for the match against QPR.



Paul Thorpe, Gary Donnellan and Neil Cordice in action on 24th October when Yeovil beat Weymouth 3-1 in the FA Cup. This was Weymouth's first defeat at their new Wessex Stadium.



Referee Lester Shapter trying to restore order after a midfield flare-up in the Queens Park Rangers Cup-tie.

**First Team Appearances 1987-88**

P Ferns 66, P Randall 65, J Sherwood 64, A Wallace, G Pearson 63, T Ricketts 59, R Iles 57, S Rutter 55, G Donnellan 54, J McGinlay 47, N Cordice 33, W Noble 32, R Chandler 30, J Quinn 25, N Coates, P Thorpe 23, M Doherty 15, M Grimshaw 11, D Walter 9, D Linney 9, T Ritchie, N Marshall, D Graves 3, A Ford 2, D Sheppard, S Tupley 2, A Stone 1

**First Team Goalscorers 1987-88**

P Randall 25, J McGinlay 15, G Pearson, A Wallace 14, P Ferns 9, G Donnellan 8, M Doherty, S Rutter 5, T Ricketts 4, N Cordice, P Thorpe 3, J Quinn 2, R Chandler, N Coates, M Grimshaw, W Noble 1

**Reserve Team Reserve scorers 1987-88**

P Meare 8, N Marshall 5, A Stone 4, A Ford, P Randall, D Shepard, P Thorpe 3, P Shrimpton 2, P Everitt, D Graves, G Kember, S Ritchie, A Street, C Turner, og 1



Manager Brian Hall lifts the Isthmian Championship Shield which was presented before the Hitchin Town game on 30th April 1988.

**Vauxhall-Opel Premier 1987-1988**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil Town	42	24	9	9	66	34	81
Bromley	42	23	7	12	68	40	76
Slough Town	42	21	9	12	67	41	72
Leytonstone Ilford	42	20	11	11	59	43	71
Wokingham Town	42	21	7	14	62	52	70
Hayes	42	20	9	13	62	48	69
Windsor & Eton	42	16	17	9	59	43	65
Farnborough Town	42	17	11	14	63	60	62
Carshalton Ath	42	16	13	13	49	41	61
Hendon	42	16	12	14	62	58	60
Tooting & M Utd	42	15	14	13	57	59	59
Harrow Borough	42	15	11	16	53	58	56
Bishop's Stortford	42	15	10	17	55	58	55
Kingstonian	42	14	12	16	465	3	54
St Albans City	42	15	6	21	60	69	51
Bognor Regis Town	42	14	9	19	41	57	51
Leyton-Wingate	42	14	8	20	58	64	50
Croydon	42	11	13	18	40	52	46
Barking	42	11	12	19	44	57	45
Dulwich Hamlet	42	10	11	21	46	64	41
Hitchin Town	42	10	8	24	46	79	38
Basingstoke Town	42	6	17	19	37	71	35



Secretary Dick Donovan in the Vice President's Lounge at Huish.



The main entrance at Huish.



## Great Mills Div. One – 1987-1988

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Welton Rovers	36	21	12	3	74	36	54
Chard Town	36	21	11	4	75	41	53
Tiverton Town	36	21	7	8	82	46	49
Bath City Res	36	18	11	7	61	46	47
Larkhall Athletic	36	17	8	11	72	49	42
Devizes Town	36	15	9	12	44	38	39
Keynsham Town	36	16	7	13	53	54	39
Westbury United	36	15	7	14	61	56	37
Ottery St Mary	36	16	5	15	43	41	37
Backwell United	36	11	13	12	49	52	35
Warminster Town	36	15	5	16	46	55	35
Wellington	36	14	6	16	60	67	34
Calne Town	36	11	10	15	45	59	32
Odd Down	36	10	11	15	51	62	31
Ilfracombe Town	36	11	7	18	45	59	29
Heavitree United	36	11	6	19	49	62	28
Yeovil Town Res	36	7	11	18	39	57	25
Elmore	36	7	6	23	46	81	20
Glastonbury	36	5	8	23	39	73	18

## 1988-89 Back to the Alliance

Brian Hall spent the few weeks of the summer of 1988 scouring the lists for suitable players and found Tiv Lowe, an experienced 30 year old serviceman from Saltash United. Off the field season ticket sales for the first term back in the top flight were going well and over 3,000 saw the first game against Wycombe, which was drawn, as were the next two. August ended with Mick Doherty hitting a hat-trick in the Vauxhall Opel Charity Shield match against Bromley, but by September 17th the team were still looking for their first win which came at Telford and began a run which saw the side briefly reach seventh place. The forward power was strengthened by a loan period for Archie Stephens from Carlisle United. October began with two contrasting games. A surreal Clubcall Cup encounter with Newport County was first, which saw five men sent off and six booked. Town were 3-0 up with seventeen minutes to go, only to lose 5-4 after extra time having missed a penalty. Three days later the side went to third placed Macclesfield and won 3-2.



Mick Doherty lifts the Isthmian League Charity Shield after the 4-0 victory against Bromley on 24th August 1988

The sendings off highlighted the growing concern shown over the disciplinary problems on the pitch which were further shown when Jimmy Quinn began a ban after having been cautioned six times and sent off once before the end of September. One run which came to an end was that by Dave Linney, who joined Basingstoke Town after 179 appearances over six years, enough to gain him a testimonial at the end of the season. Two heavy defeats in Kent followed as Hall's side

## Season 1988-1989

Aug	20th	Wycombe Wand	H	GMV Conference	1-1	Sherwood
	22nd	Kidderminster Harr	A	" "	2-2	Doherty, Randall
	27th	Sutton United	H	" "	0-0	
	29th	Bromley	H	Vaux Char Shield	4-0	Doherty 3 (1pen), Grimshaw
Sept	3rd	Runcorn	A	GMV Conference	1-2	Doherty
	7th	Enfield	H	" "	1-2	Doherty pen
	10th	Boston United	H	" "	1-1	Wallace pen
	13th	Newport County	A	" "	1-1	Quinn
	17th	Telford United	A	" "	1-0	Randall
	21st	Welling United	H	" "	4-0	Wallace, Quinn, Doherty 2 (1pen)
	24th	Aylesbury United	H	" "	1-0	Pearson
	28th	Kettering Town	H	" "	2-2	Doherty, Randall
Oct	5th	Newport County	H	Clubcall Cup 1 (aet)	4-5	Stephens, Pearson, Randall 2
	8th	Macclesfield Town	A	GMV Conference	3-2	Wallace pen, Randall, og
	15th	Runcorn	H	" "	2-2	Grimshaw, Randall
	19th	Cheltenham Town	H	" "	1-3	Quinn pen
	22nd	Maidstone United	A	" "	0-5	
	24th	Fisher Athletic	A	" "	2-4	Randall, Donnellan
	29th	Worcester City	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	2-1	Doherty, Thorpe
Nov	5th	Northwich Vics	H	GMV Conference	2-1	Cordice, Wallace
	12th	Chorley	H	" "	2-1	Doherty, McCarthy
	19th	Merthyr Tydfil	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	3-2	Wallace 2, Doherty
	26th	Barnet	A	GMV Conference	0-2	
Dec	3rd	Altrincham	H	" "	2-3	Whittingham, Randall pen
	6th	Stafford Rangers	A	" "	6-2	Whittingham 2, Tonge 2, Randall pen, Cordice
	10th	Torquay United	H	FA Cup 2nd Rd	1-1	Randall
	14th	Torquay United	A	Replay	0-1	
	17th	Sutton United	A	GMV Conference	2-5	Whittingham, Pearson
	26th	Weymouth	H	" "	2-3	Lowe, Cordice
	28th	Paulton Rovers	H	Som Prem Cup 2	9-0	Whittingham 2, Randall, McCarthy, Munde, Grimshaw, Donnellan, Quinn 2
	31st	Kidderminster Harr	H	GMV Conference	1-3	Donnellan
Jan	2nd	Weymouth	A	" "	2-0	Grimshaw, Whittingham
	7th	Aylesbury United	A	" "	2-3	Whittingham, Grimshaw
	14th	Fareham Town	A	FA Trophy 1	2-1	Rutter, Grimshaw
	21st	Telford United	H	GMV Conference	4-3	Whittingham 3, Wallace
	31st	Mangotsfield Utd	A	Som Prem Cup 3	0-1	
Feb	4th	Telford United	H	FA Trophy 2	1-4	Thorpe
	11th	Fisher Athletic	H	GMV Conference	1-2	Spencer
	18th	Cheltenham Town	A	" "	1-1	Wallace pen
Mar	4th	Wycombe Wand	A	" "	1-1	Donnellan
	11th	Maidstone United	H	" "	1-2	Spencer
	18th	Northwich Vics	A	" "	2-1	Whittingham, Shail
	25th	Macclesfield Town	H	" "	2-0	Donnellan, Spencer
April	1st	Enfield	A	" "	1-1	Whittingham
	4th	Kettering Town	A	" "	0-1	
	8th	Boston United	A	" "	1-1	Whittingham
	15th	Barnet	H	" "	2-1	Spencer, Whittingham
	22nd	Chorley	A	" "	3-2	Wallace pen, Spencer, Whittingham
	29th	Stafford Rangers	H	" "	2-0	Conning, Spencer
May	1st	Altrincham	A	" "	2-2	Quinn, Wallace
	6th	Welling United	A	" "	2-0	Whittingham

struggled to show any consistency, and he responded by signing soldier Guy Whittingham, a strong forward from Waterlooville who was destined to move on to great things. His fire power brought four goals in four games, but they

## Reserves – Season 1988-1989

Aug	20th	Keynsham Town	A	Gt Mills Div 1	0-1
	22nd	Ottery St Mary	H	" "	0-0
	27th	Warminster Town	A	" "	0-0
	29th	Barnstaple Town	A	League Cup 1	1-2
Sept	3rd	Westbury United	H	Gt Mills Div 1	1-0
	6th	Bridport	A	" "	0-0
	10th	Melksham Town	A	" "	1-1
	12th	Clandown	H	" "	6-0
	17th	Larkhall Athletic	H	" "	2-3
	24th	Ilfracombe Town	A	" "	2-1
	28th	Tiverton Town	A	" "	0-1
Oct	1st	Odd Down	H	" "	1-1
	3rd	Wellington	H	" "	1-2
	8th	Bath City Res	H	" "	1-0
	15th	Backwell United	A	" "	1-1
	17th	Heavitree United	H	" "	1-1
	22nd	Devizes Town	H	" "	0-1
	29th	Westbury United	A	" "	0-2
Nov	5th	Elmore	A	" "	1-4
	12th	Ottery St Mary	A	" "	0-1
	19th	Larkhall Athletic	A	" "	2-1
	26th	Glastonbury	H	" "	1-0
	28th	Keynsham Town	H	" "	4-1
Dec	3rd	Clandown	A	" "	1-3
	10th	Odd Down	A	" "	0-2
	12th	Bridport	H	" "	0-1
	18th	Bath City Res	A	" "	3-6
Jan	2nd	Wellington	A	" "	4-0
	7th	Tiverton Town	H	" "	1-2
	21st	Devizes Town	H	" "	1-2
	28th	Backwell United	H	" "	1-3
Feb	11th	Glastonbury	A	" "	3-0
	18th	Calne Town	H	" "	0-1
Mar	4th	Ilfracombe Town	H	" "	0-0
April	1st	Melksham Town	H	" "	0-1
	8th	Elmore	H	" "	3-1
	10th	Warminster Town	H	" "	0-0
	18th	Calne Town	A	" "	0-3
	22nd	Heavitree United	A	" "	0-2

were not enough to prevent three defeats and fifteenth place spelled trouble. Another soldier, Mickey Spencer, also joined the club, signing from Wokingham and buying himself out of the army. Yeovil were to regret later that Whittingham did not follow this course of action and, despite being offered a big contract, he later joined Portsmouth on a free transfer. By then Yeovil had again beaten Worcester City in the Cup and followed it by winning at home to Merthyr Tydfil in front of 4,000, but one player who would not be part of the 2nd Round tie with Torquay United was Tony Ricketts, who returned to Bath City for £10,000 in December.

As usual the Yeovil public did the club proud on Cup day, 5,612 was the fourth biggest gate of the round and far exceeded the attendance for the replay, where Yeovil were stunned to be given just 400 tickets to distribute. The Torquay winner was scored by Richard Thompson, a lanky striker who was to join the club later.

The up and down nature of the season continued with Whittingham scoring regularly around Christmas, but after a stunning 4-3 win over Telford United the gloom descended again when the same team crushed Yeovil in the Trophy. It effectively killed the season and with the crowds dwindling alarmingly and rumours that all was not well behind the scenes, a number of supporters began querying the move to Houndstone. Outside problems had delayed the project which helped to escalate costs and with a heavy wage bill there were headaches ahead for Gerry Lock and his club.

Down the road Weymouth were also struggling and they appointed Gerry Gow as manager and he soon sold Peter Conning to the Glovers for £13,000, a club record at the time, Martyn Grimshaw going in the opposite direction for £5,000. An unbeaten run of six games at the tail end of the season saw Hall's men finish in an improbable ninth position, with Maidstone United as champions collecting a coveted place in the Football League. Sadly Newport County failed to finish their season and went under and, as time showed, Maidstone were to follow them.

Of all the sadnesses both nationally and locally, nothing could remotely equal the devastation felt throughout football when so many lost their lives at the FA Cup semi-final at Hillsborough. It was that more than anything anywhere else that the season will be remembered for.

## G.M. Vauxhall Conference 1988-1989

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Maidstone United	40	25	9	6	92	46	84
Kettering Town	40	23	7	10	56	39	76
Boston United	40	22	8	10	61	51	74
Wycombe Wanderers	40	20	11	9	68	52	71
Kidderminster Harriers	40	21	6	13	68	57	69
Runcorn	40	19	8	13	77	53	65
Macclesfield Town	40	17	10	13	63	57	61
Barnet	40	18	7	15	64	69	61
Yeovil Town	40	15	11	14	68	67	56
Northwich Victoria	40	14	11	15	64	65	53
Wellington	40	14	11	15	45	46	53
Sutton United	40	12	15	13	64	54	51
Enfield	40	14	8	18	62	67	50
Altrincham	40	13	10	17	51	61	49
Cheltenham Town	40	12	12	16	55	58	48
Telford United	40	13	9	18	37	43	48
Chorley	40	13	6	21	57	71	45
Fisher Athletic	40	10	11	19	55	65	41
Stafford Rangers	40	11	7	22	47	74	40
Aylesbury United	40	9	9	22	43	71	36
Weymouth	40	7	10	23	37	70	31

## Great Mills Div. One – 1988-1989

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Larkhall Athletic	38	25	11	2	88	40	61
Tiverton Town	38	27	6	5	108	33	60
Bridport	38	24	7	7	90	35	55
Calne Town	38	17	14	7	58	34	48
Devizes Town	38	19	9	10	55	39	47
Odd Down	38	17	12	9	57	45	46
Wellington	38	17	11	10	72	56	45
Ilfracombe Town	38	16	13	9	59	47	45
Backwell United	38	15	8	15	49	46	38
Keynsham Town	38	11	13	14	55	55	35
Heavitree United	38	13	9	16	54	58	35
Melksham Town	38	11	13	14	43	49	35
Ottery St Mary	38	12	8	18	46	71	32
Clandown	38	10	11	17	47	63	31
Bath City Res	38	11	7	20	60	67	29
Westbury United	38	10	9	19	59	66	29
Yeovil Town Res	38	10	9	19	42	49	29
Warminster Town	38	5	11	22	34	84	21
Glastonbury	38	6	9	23	38	97	21
Elmore	38	8	2	28	38	118	18

**First Team Appearances 1988-89**

N Cordice 48, J Sherwood 46, S Rutter, A Wallace 42, T Lowe, P Randall 38, G Donnellan 36, J Quinn 33, S Tapley 26, M Grimshaw 24, L Bond, G Pearson, G Whittingham 23, M Doherty 22, P Thorpe 19, R Iles, D Mundeel 18, T Ricketts 14, P Conning, M Spencer 12, M Shail, P McCarthy 10, M Gwinnett 9, R Thompson 8, A Stephens 7, K Tonge 4, A Townsend 3, P Ferns, P Meare, P Muir 2, P Copeland, D Shepherd 1

**First Team Goalscorers 1988-89**

G Whittingham 18, P Randall, M Doherty 12, A Wallace 10, M Grimshaw, M Spencer 6, G Donnellan, J Quinn 5, N Cordice, G Pearson 3, P Thorpe, P McCarthy, K Tonge 2, J Sherwood, S Rutter, T Lowe, D Mundeel, P Conning, M Shail, A Stephens, og 1

**Reserve Team ~Goalscorers 1988-89**

P Meare 15, D Shepherd 8, A Ford 5, C Rice, P Muir, D Mann 2, C Mullins, M Turner, A Stone, S Ritchie, P Copeland, P Watts, S Panes, W Flint, M Grimshaw 1

**Season 1989-90**

Guy Whittingham had ended the season as top scorer, and he was soon off to Portsmouth to begin a lucrative League career, having bought himself out of the Army. There were five new faces for what by then had been decreed as the last season at Huish. All the necessary permits and agreements had been signed and work was due to commence at Houndstone in November 1989. Brian Hall was as determined as ever to make it a memorable one, and to that end he signed Barry Blackman, Richard Thompson, Robbie Carroll, Paul Wilson and Simon Gowans. Wilson, a £13,000 buy from Boston United was soon injured, as was Gowans, as once again the inconsistencies soon showed that the first game at Huish Park, as it was almost certainly to be named, would not be in the League. Five league defeats included a 4-0 home humiliation by Welling, on 13th September 1989 described as abysmal, and by October Brian Hall had used no less than twenty two players in trying to fashion a winning side. It included Andy Wallace who had been given a three year full time contract and had left the police, and Derek Dawkins, a 29 year old midfielder from Weymouth.

Once again the team excelled at Macclesfield and with yet another money signing in striker Nicky Dent from Bristol Manor Farm the club was looking to the Cup to boost interest. Sadly after triumphing at Staines Town they were drawn to play Maidstone United at Watling Street, Dartford and departed.

October and November saw the land at Houndstone cleared in preparation for the steelwork to be delivered, but the supporters were less than pleased to discover that there would be no provision for covered standing behind the goals and no social facilities, at least for the foreseeable future.

Despite that, chairman Gerry Lock's ambitious project was up and running and was further boosted by the news that the construction company, Bartletts, had agreed to pay an additional sum of £400,000 for the land at Huish as a gesture of goodwill. There were more than a few anxious clubmen as time wore on through the winter, with additional costings manifesting themselves almost daily, but on the pitch Hall was still tinkering and he placed the volatile Jimmy Quinn on the transfer list and sold Phil Ferns to Poole Town for £3,000.

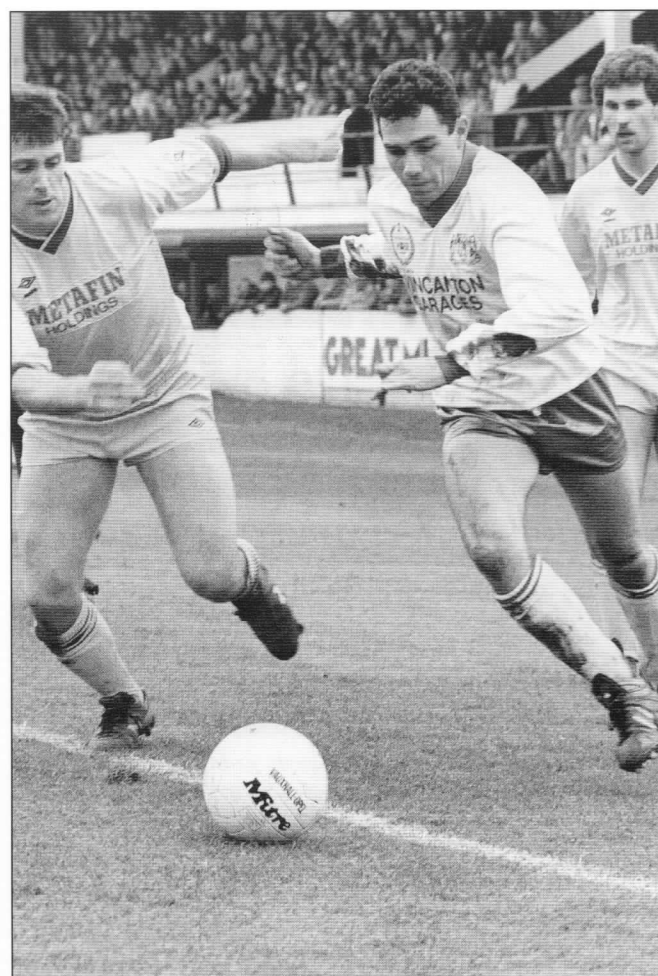
Robbie Carroll's goals around the new year brought a bonus of two good away wins and with work going well at Houndstone there was a fresh air of optimism. The club explained through the press that cover behind the goals

**Season 1989-1990**

Aug	26th	Stafford Rangers	A	GMV Conference	1-0	Carroll
	28th	Sutton United	H	" "	3-1	Carroll 2, og
Sept	2nd	Northwich Vics	H	" "	1-2	Spencer
	5th	Merthyr Tydfil	A	" "	2-2	Carroll, Spencer
	9th	Boston United	A	" "	1-0	Spencer
	13th	Welling United	H	" "	0-4	
	16th	Darlington	H	" "	0-2	
	20th	Cheltenham Town	A	" "	1-2	Carroll
	23rd	Chorley	A	" "	2-3	Carroll, Conning
	27th	Kidderminster Harr	H	" "	3-1	Shail, Lowe, Blackman
	30th	Altrincham	H	" "	0-0	
Oct	7th	Macclesfield Town	A	" "	2-1	og, Conning
	18th	Barnet	H	" "	3-2	Spencer, Sherwood, Blackman pen
	21st	Barrow	A	" "	1-2	Blackman
	28th	Staines Town	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	3-0	Conning, Gowans, Carroll
Nov	1st	Mangotsfield Utd	H	Som Prem Cup 1	0-1	
	4th	Macclesfield Town	H	GMV Conference	0-0	
	7th	Wycombe Wand	A	" "	2-1	Conning, Donnellan
	11th	Kettering Town	A	" "	0-1	
	19th	Maidstone United	A	FA Cup 1st Rd (played at Dartford)	1-2	Spencer
	25th	Wycombe Wand	H	GMV Conference	4-2	Wallace, Spencer, Dent 2
Dec	2nd	Sutton United	A	" "	1-3	Shail
	26th	Farnborough Town	H	" "	0-0	
	30th	Fisher Athletic	A	" "	2-1	Spencer, Carroll
Jan	1st	Farnborough Town	A	" "	4-2	Cordice, Wallace, Carroll 2
	13th	Dartford	A	FA Trophy 1	2-1	Gill, Carroll
	20th	Runcorn	H	GMV Conference	1-1	Spencer
	24th	Welling United	A	Bob Lord Trop 2	2-1	Carroll, Quinn
	27th	Altrincham	A	GMV Conference	1-2	Spencer
	31st	Merthyr Tydfil	H	" "	4-0	Wallace pen, Carroll, Gill
Feb	10th	Cheltenham Town	H	" "	1-1	Wallace pen
	12th	Aylesbury United	H	FA Trophy 2	2-0	Carroll, Spencer
	17th	Stafford Rangers	H	GMV Conference	0-0	
	24th	Barrow	H	FA Trophy 3	1-1	Wallace pen
	27th	Barrow	A	Replay	1-2	Donnellan
Mar	3rd	Barrow	H	GMV Conference	2-2	Lowe, Dent
	5th	Barnet	H	Bob Lord Trop 3	3-2	Dent 2, Spencer
	10th	Darlington	A	GMV Conference	0-1	
	17th	Northwich Vics	A	" "	4-1	Dent, Wallace 2 (1pen), Blackman
	24th	Boston United	H	" "	2-1	Wilson, Conning
	26th	Kidderminster Harr	A	" "	2-3	Spencer, Wallace
	31st	Kettering Town	H	" "	0-2	
April	4th	Wycombe Wand	H	Bob Lord Trophy Semi-final 1st Leg	2-1	Wallace, Carroll
	7th	Barnet	A	GMV Conference	0-1	
	10th	Wycombe Wand	A	Bob Lord Trophy Semi-final 2nd Leg	2-3	Gill, Dent
	14th	Enfield	A	GMV Conference	1-1	Wallace
	16th	Chorley	H	" "	2-1	Spencer 2
	21st	Fisher Athletic	H	" "	2-2	Wallace, Wilson
	23rd	Kidderminster Harr	H	Bob Lord Trophy Final 1st Leg	3-0	Wallace, Spencer, Wilson
	25th	Welling United	A	GMV Conference	1-0	Conning
	28th	Runcorn	A	" "	1-1	Spencer
	30th	Enfield	H	" "	3-1	Wallace, Conning, Carroll
May	2nd	Kidderminster Harr	A	Bob Lord Trophy Final 2nd Leg	1-1	Conning
	5th	Telford United	H	GMV Conference	1-0	Cordice

## Reserves – Season 1989-1990

Aug	19th	Calne Town	A	Gt Mills Div 1	1-3
	21st	Warminster Town	H	" "	5-3
	26th	Odd Down	H	" "	0-3
	28th	Glastonbury	A	" "	2-1
Sept	2nd	Backwell United	A	" "	1-1
	4th	Bridport	H	" "	1-1
	9th	Elmore	H	" "	0-0
	13th	Bath City Res	A	" "	0-2
	23rd	Keynsham Town	H	" "	0-0
	30th	Clandown	A	" "	1-2
Oct	14th	Wellington	A	" "	1-1
	21st	Larkhall Athletic	H	" "	0-4
	25th	Ottery St Mary	A	" "	2-3
	28th	Westbury United	A	" "	0-1
	30th	Backwell United	H	" "	1-1
Nov	18th	Odd Down	A	" "	0-1
	25th	Warminster Town	A	" "	1-1
Dec	2nd	Ilfracombe Town	H	" "	2-4
	4th	Tiverton Town	H	Les Phill Cup 1	1-3
	9th	Elmore	A	Gt Mills Div 1	3-2
	16th	Minehead	A	" "	1-0
	30th	Wellington	H	" "	2-1
Jan	6th	Devizes Town	A	" "	1-2
	8th	Bath City Res	H	" "	3-1
	20th	Keynsham Town	A	" "	4-0
Feb	17th	Larkhall Athletic	A	" "	1-2
Mar	7th	Devizes Town	H	" "	0-1
	10th	Ottery St Mary	H	" "	0-1
	12th	Calne Town	H	" "	2-2
	17th	Clandown	H	" "	1-2
	28th	Westbury United	H	" "	1-4
	31st	Heavitree United	A	" "	1-3
April	2nd	Melksham Town	H	" "	2-1
	7th	Glastonbury	H	" "	3-0
	18th	Heavitree United	H	" "	1-1
	21st	Melksham Town	A	" "	0-3
	28th	Ilfracombe Town	A	" "	0-1
	30th	Bridport	A	" "	1-6
May	3rd	Minehead	H	" "	1-2



Guy Whittingham, centre, who moved to Portsmouth without Yeovil receiving a penny in compensation



Gary Donnellan's scissor-kick is penalised by the referee in a match at Huish.





Paul Wilson, who signed from Boston United for £13,000 became a firm Huish favourite and also served the club as the YTS Officer and was also caretaker manager for a spell.

would cost around £250,000 and in truth they would rather supporters sat anyway, as the risk of trouble was lessened. The ground was officially called Huish Park from January, a name universally favoured, and with the terrace going in and the first of 5003 seats soon to be in place, supporters were given the chance of a guided tour.

Around that time the death was announced of arguably one of the greatest of all Yeovil's managers, Basil Hayward at the age of 60. He was responsible for bringing record goalscorer Dave Taylor to the club, as well as Bill Albury, Terry Foley and Alan Herrity, all of whom stayed at Huish for many years. Of the modern day players Paul Thorpe and Gerry Pearson were to leave the club soon after, finally severing the last connection with another popular ex-manager Gerry Gow.

The club was also delighted to hear of the progress made by young reserve team player Andy Stone, who had succumbed to cancer months earlier and had lost a leg. His bravery had been a lesson to all and the news that he had agreed to run the London Marathon on crutches was lauded in the press.

The FA Trophy run which began at Dartford and continued with a home win over Aylesbury United had reached the third round, and Barrow made the long trip down to go away with a draw. The arduous mid-week replay, played in a howling gale, was lost, as was Bryan Moore's record of not having missed a game since 1969. In all Bryan had seen 1,308 games since missing his last and had been involved at the club for over thirty years. He was not to know just how much further his commitment would take him in the next eighteen months.

Jimmy Quinn had been on the transfer list for months but he finally went to Enfield for £10,000, as did Gary Donnellan. One man to enjoy the run in was striker Craig Gill, who had been signed from Bashley and was capped at non-League level by Wales. The final chance of silverware in the last two months at Huish came in the Bob Lord Trophy, the League Cup. Yeovil had reached the semi-final stage and had scraped a 2-1 win at home in the first leg. With Wycombe 3-1



Tiv Lowe raises the cup aloft after beating Kidderminster Harriers 4-1 in the final of the Bob Lord Trophy 2nd May 1990.

up in the second leg Craig Gill stabbed home a goal to take the tie to extra time after which Yeovil made the final on away goals. With only a handful of matches left at Huish the final was all but won in the first leg against Kidderminster Harriers and a 1-1 draw and a Peter Conning goal at Aggborough was enough to take the cup.

Disappointingly the penultimate league game at home to Enfield was a grudge game, the Londoners coming with several ex-Glovers in the side, including Jimmy Quinn who, unsurprisingly, was sent off along with two others. It was all forgotten though on May 5th 1990, as all eyes were moistened when Telford United came to town for the last game at the famous old ground. 4,237 filed in to pay their last respects on a broiling day.

Presentations were made, the flag was lowered by Len Harris who played there more times than any other, and John Sercombe, grandson of Ernie Sercombe who was a founder member of Yeovil Casuals nearly 100 years previously. The singing of Abide With Me was too much for some men who wept openly, but at the end the inevitability of Tescos and the bulldozers was all that was left.

#### First Team Appearances 1989-90

M Shail 55, M Spencer 54, T Lowe 52, R Carroll, P Conning 49, N Cordice 44, D Dawkins 41, D Fry 37, A Wallace 36, B Blackman 33, J Sherwood 32, S Gowans 27, G Donnellan 26, N Dent 24, S Rutter 21, L Bond 17, J Quinn 19, C Gill 18, P Wilson 16, G Pearson, R Thompson 10, P Thorpe 7, P Ferns 5, P Copeland 2, C Rice, M Stephens 1



**First Team Goalscorers 1989-90**

R Carroll, M Spencer 16, A Wallace 14, P Conning 8, N Dent 6, B Blackman, C Gill, P Wilson 4, N Cordice, G Donnellan, T Lowe, M Shail, og 2, S Gowans, J Quinn, J Sherwood 1

**Reserve Goalscorers 1989-90**

C Baddoo, M Boulton 6, P Meare 4, D Mann, R Thompson, C Rice, P Thorpe 3, P Copeland, N Dent, G Donnellan, A Ford, N Marshall, C Mullins, J Quinn 2, B Blackman, R Carroll, S Gowans, G Pearson, M Stephens 1

**G.M. Conference 1989-1990**

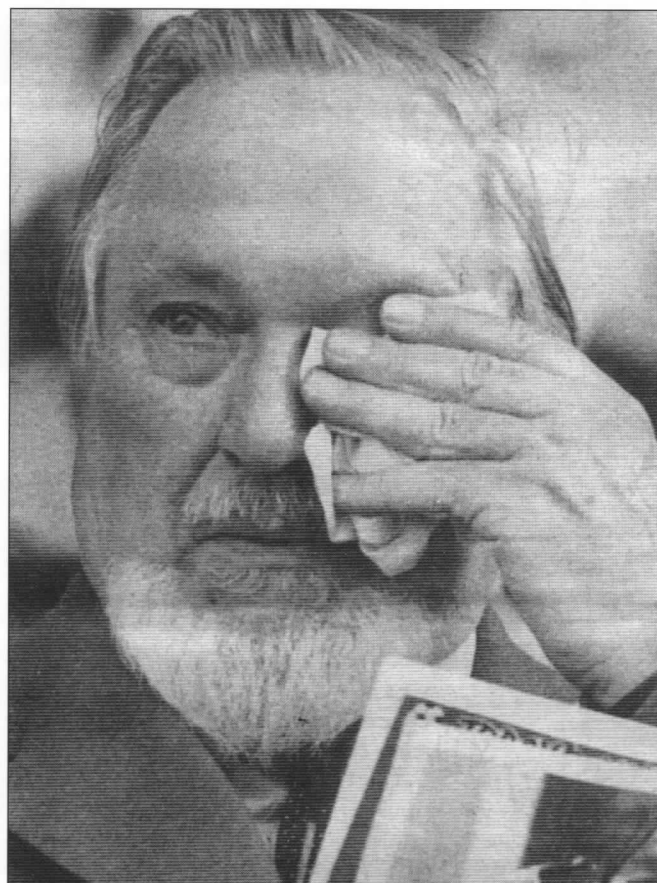
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Darlington	42	26	9	7	76	25	87
Barnet	42	26	7	9	81	41	85
Runcorn	42	29	13	10	79	62	70
Macclesfield Town	42	17	15	10	56	41	66
Kettering Town	42	18	12	12	66	53	66
Welling United	42	18	10	14	62	50	64
Yeovil Town	42	17	12	13	62	54	63
Sutton United	42	19	6	17	68	64	63
Merthyr Tydfil	42	16	14	12	67	63	62
Wycombe Wanderers	42	17	10	15	64	56	61
Cheltenham Town	42	16	11	15	58	60	59
Telford United	42	15	13	14	56	63	58
Kidderminster Harriers	42	15	9	18	64	67	54
Barrow	42	12	16	14	51	67	52
Northwich Victoria	42	15	5	22	51	67	50
Altrincham	42	12	13	17	49	48	49
Stafford Rangers	42	12	12	18	50	62	48
Boston United	42	13	8	21	48	67	47
Fisher Athletic	42	13	7	22	55	78	46
Chorley	42	13	6	23	42	67	45
Farnborough Town	42	10	12	20	60	73	42
Enfield	42	10	6	26	52	89	36

**Great Mills League Div. I – 1989-1990**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ottery St Mary	38	27	4	7	72	36	85
Backwell United	38	21	10	7	63	32	73
Ilfracombe Town	38	20	11	7	67	38	71
Bridport	38	20	8	10	69	46	68
Odd Down	38	20	6	12	53	44	66
Larkhall Athletic	38	19	8	11	73	57	65
Westbury United	38	17	8	13	66	55	59
Keynsham Town	38	15	11	12	57	46	56
Melksham Town	38	16	7	15	46	41	55
Devizes Town	38	14	12	12	38	44	54
Heavitree United	38	15	8	15	53	44	53
Calne Town	38	14	11	13	52	45	53
Clandown	38	14	8	16	45	45	50
Elmore	38	14	5	19	46	60	47
Warminster Town	38	10	12	16	43	54	42
Yeovil Town Res	38	9	9	20	46	67	36
Wellington	38	7	13	18	40	60	34
Bath City Res	38	9	4	25	37	82	31
Glastonbury	38	7	7	24	35	72	28
Minehead	38	5	12	21	29	62	27



Two of the most famous of all Yeovil's players, Alec Stock and Eric Bryant, together signing commemorative covers issued to mark the final match at Huish.



Powerful memories for Yeovil Town President Norman Burfield



How the Huish ground will be remembered. Inset: The last scene on the last day. The flags are lowered to mark the end of 70 years of football on Yeovil Town's Huish ground on 5th May 1990.



70 years of history disappeared in just a few days when demolition started.





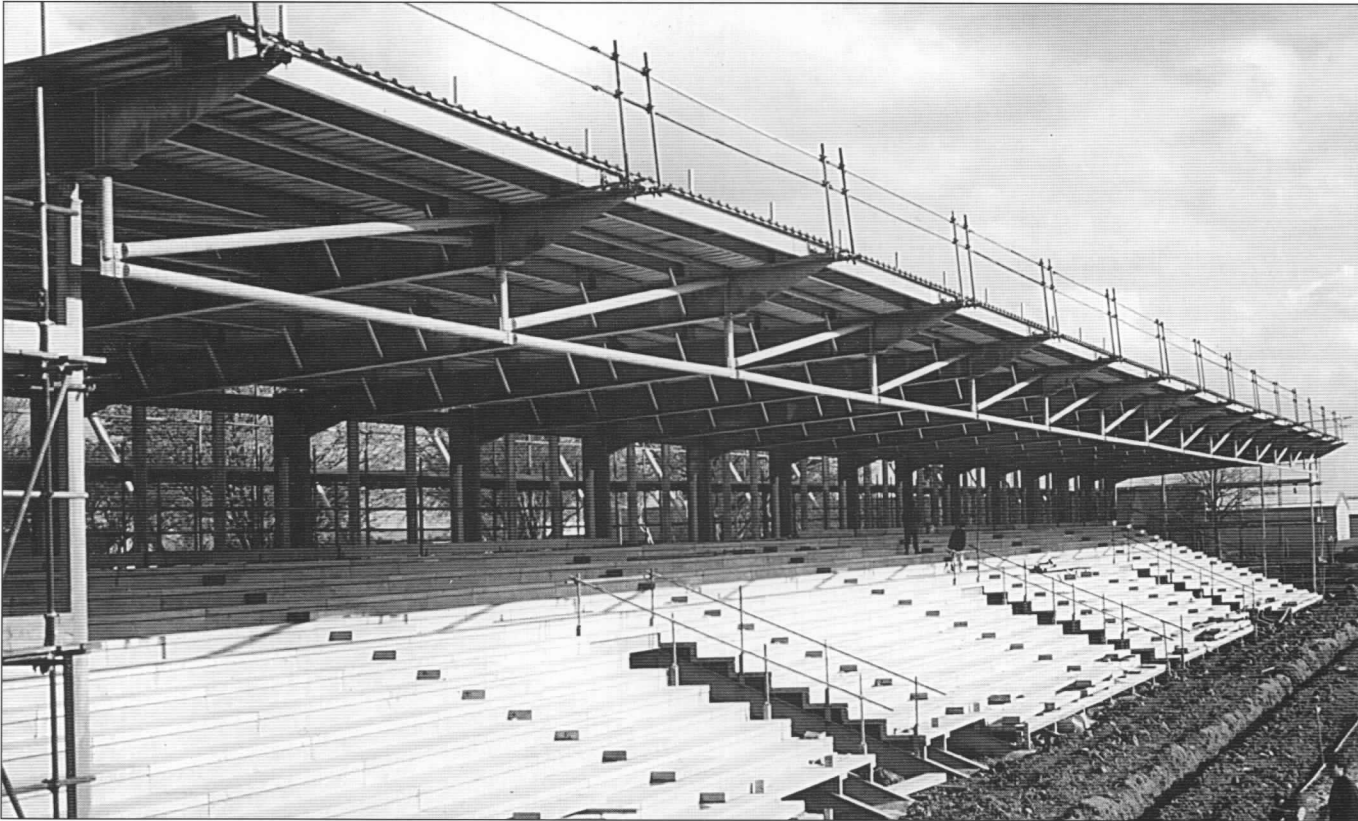
An aerial shot of the Huish ground before demolition.



An aerial shot of the Huish Park ground at Houndstone before work began.



The Huish Park ground under construction.





The demolition of Huish during the summer of 1990







## Huish Park – A New Beginning

To many it seemed in indecent haste, but in fact it had taken the best part of five years from the first seed of an idea to germinate. Gerry Lock's work, backed up by his board had come to fruition, but at a cost. The superb near 10,000 capacity stadium was praised throughout the country, but a number were still angry at the lack of cover and more still were concerned at the spiralling cost which had yet to be disclosed. With Brian Hall still trying to build a side to take the club into the Football League, but seemingly struggling to make an impact, it was a trying time for Lock and Hall. The manager had done good business in the past, the Donnellan transfer had netted £20,000, a club record, and he splashed out £15,000 on Joe Jackson from Worcester City, who went full time and moved to Yeovil on a lucrative contract.



The new Huish Park Stadium was opened with a friendly game against Newcastle United on 4th August 1990, the first competitive match following on 18th August, which saw a fine 2-0 victory over recently relegated Colchester United. The euphoria of playing at what was then described as a space age stadium percolated to the team who, after the Colchester match, won the two next games and drew the following four which was a fine start and one which fired the imagination. Sadly the run ended with three defeats and no goals, but what followed rocked the club to the fore and set the scene for a chaotic season, the like of which had not been experienced since the dark days of the Seventies. Brian Hall was sacked by Gerry Lock on October 11th, Lock having been mandated by the board to negotiate a new contract with the manager. Exeter City coach Clive Whitehead being given the job immediately without knowledge of the directors. The supporters and the press were stunned. Opinion on Hall was, as always in his superb career, divided. Many thought him to be the man who would ultimately take the club into the League, but equally there were those who found his style too brusque both on and off the field and were glad to see him go. Certainly the press were not pleased, and all manner of grief rained down upon the head of Gerry Lock.

Whitehead found himself in an impossible situation, for many of the squad were Hall men and there was soon unrest and hostility in the dressing room and on the terraces. Hall's assistant Paul Hillard resigned, as did coach 'Budgie' Rodgers and several men were placed on the list as Whitehead struggled to take control.

Off the field there were big financial problems looming too, as news of the massive over spend at Huish Park had leaked out. Rodgers' one game as caretaker manager saw a

win over Runcorn, but with little effort on the pitch, a run of seven defeats saw the club plummet down the table. The Cup match at Brentford was nothing more than an embarrassment and in an effort to stop the rot, Yeovil paid £10,000 for Brian McDermott from Exeter City who came as assistant manager. Jeff Sherwood and Derek Dawkins went to Gloucester City for roughly the same amount and when the Glovers were drawn at City in the Trophy, the outcome was a foregone conclusion. The squad continued to change with an ageing Nigel Stevenson coming from Merthyr Tydfil

**CLUB SPONSOR**

COMMEMORATIVE OPENING GAME AT HUISH PARK  
WITH FULL PRE-MATCH ENTERTAINMENT

# YEOVIL TOWN

v

# NEWCASTLE UTD

**SAT 4th AUGUST**                      **Kick Off 3.00 p.m.**

GATES OPEN 1.00 p.m.  
TICKETS NOW ON SALE FROM HUISH PARK  
GERRY LOCK STAND - ADULTS £4    CHILDREN u14/OAP    £2.50  
SECONDARY STAND & TERRACES -  
ADULTS £3.30    CHILDREN u14/OAP    £1.80  
BY POST: SEND REMITTANCE PLUS S.A.E.  
FAMILY TICKETS AVAILABLE AT EXCELLENT RATES

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v

# COLCHESTER UTD

**SAT 18th AUGUST**                      **Kick Off 3.00 p.m.**  
**FIRST LEAGUE MATCH AT HUISH PARK**

*A poster from July 1990 advertising the grand opening of the Huish Park ground. It was opened with a commemorative game against the then Nationwide League Division Two team Newcastle United, on the 4th August. It was then followed up by the first ever League game at Huish Park, on the 18th August against Colchester United, which ended in a 2-0 win for Yeovil.*

Season 1990-1991					
Aug	18th	Colchester United	H	GMV Conference	2-0 Spencer, Conning
	25th	Telford United	A	" "	2-1 Dent, og
	27th	Kidderminster Harr	H	" "	2-0 Wallace, Dent
Sept	1st	Boston United	H	" "	1-1 Wallace
	4th	Merthyr Tydfil	A	" "	1-1 Wallace
	9th	Gateshead	A	" "	1-1 Spencer
	15th	Stafford Rangers	H	" "	0-0
	22nd	Northwich Vics	A	" "	0-2
	25th	Sutton United	A	" "	0-1
	29th	Kettering Town	H	" "	0-1
Oct	6th	Altrincham	A	" "	2-2 Spencer 2
	13th	Runcorn	H	" "	1-0 Rutter
	20th	Fisher Athletic	A	" "	1-2 Sherwood
	22nd	Keynsham Town	H	Som Prem Cup 1	2-2 Wilson, Carroll
	27th	Marlow	H	FA Cup 4th Qual	3-1 Lowe 2, Spencer
	31st	Keynsham Town	A	Som PC 1 Rep	6-1 Wilson 3, Conning, Carroll, Spencer
Nov	10th	Wycombe Wand	A	GMV Conference	0-2
	12th	Sheffield United	H	Testimonial	0-2
	17th	Brentford	A	FA Cup 1st Rd	0-5
	24th	Barrow	A	GMV Conference	0-1
Dec	1st	Barnet	H	" "	1-4 Carroll
	4th	Paulton Rovers	A	Som Prem Cup 2	3-1 McDermott 3
	10th	Kidderminster Harr	A	Bob Lord Tr 1	2-3 Carroll 2
	15th	Slough Town	A	GMV Conference	0-2
	22nd	Altrincham	H	" "	2-3 Carroll, McDermott
	26th	Bath City	A	" "	1-2 Dent
	29th	Wycombe Wand	H	" "	2-2 Dent, McDermott
Jan	1st	Bath City	H	" "	3-2 Dent, McDermott, Carrol
	5th	Welling United	A	" "	3-0 Stevenson, Hirons 2
	12th	Gloucester City	A	FA Trophy 1	0-1
	19th	Merthyr Tydfil	H	GMV Conference	3-3 Dent, McDermott, Hirons
	22nd	Bristol City	A	Som Prem Cup 3	3-4 Conning, Pritchard, Wilson
	26th	Boston United	A	GMV Conference	0-4
Feb	2nd	Fisher Athletic	H	" "	0-1
	16th	Northwich Vics	H	" "	1-1 Carroll
	23rd	Barnet	A	" "	2-3 Wilson 2
	27th	Cheltenham Town	H	" "	4-0 Conning, Wilson 2, Hirons
Mar	2nd	Kidderminster Harr	A	" "	0-0
	9th	Barrow	H	" "	0-3
	23rd	Cheltenham Town	A	" "	0-1
	27th	Telford United	H	" "	1-2 Conning
	30th	Colchester United	A	" "	1-0 Batty
April	1st	Sutton United	H	" "	2-1 Carroll 2
	6th	Slough Town	H	" "	7-2 Wilson 2, Fry, Batty, Conning, McDermott, og
	13th	Stafford Rangers	A	" "	1-1 Conning
	16th	Runcorn	A	" "	3-0 Carroll 2, Wilson
	20th	Gateshead	H	" "	4-1 Carroll, McDermott, Batty, Wilson
	22nd	Macclesfield Town	A	" "	1-2 McDermott
	27th	Macclesfield Town	H	" "	2-1 Spencer, Conning
May	1st	Welling United	H	" "	0-1
	4th	Kettering Town	A	" "	1-1 McDermott

and another veteran Howard Pritchard returning to the west country from Maidstone United both for £5,000 transfer fees as the club moved further towards a full time playing squad.


Amidst all the grief, the stricken Andy Stone enjoyed his testimonial against Sheffield United, Dave Bassett and all. Even that did not go without a hitch, as the promised appearance of Vinnie Jones did not take place.




Alex Stock together with Ralph Davis, Bob Hamilton, Dickie Dyke, Arthur Hickman, Les Blizzard, Eric Bryant and Jonny Hartburn all former players of the famous 'Stock era,' who were present at the opening of Huish Park.

Boxing day saw Tiv Lowe run out at Bath City in the home team colours much to the astonishment of the Yeovil fans, and there was no Neil Cordice, who had returned to Wealdstone, who had re-appointed Brian Hall.

January passed with Nicky Dent, Paul Hirons and Brian McDermott finding the net, but February again saw the club rocked to its newly laid foundations, when Gerry Lock was ousted as chairman. He was asked to step down but he resigned from the board together with Vice-Chairman Geoff House and Financial Director Alan Bergman. He countered by defiantly stating that he "has a new board waiting to seize power", but President Norman Burfield emphasised that the "Lock era was over, the directors don't want him and there is relief on the terraces".

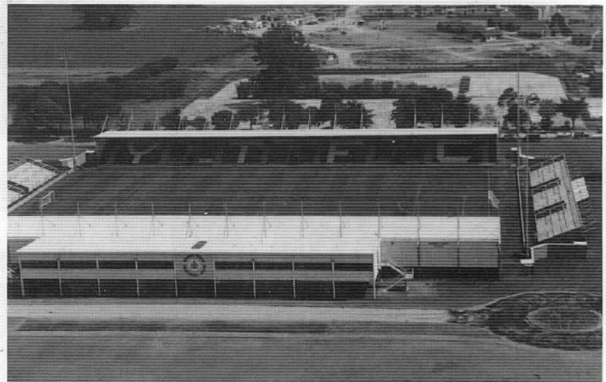



**YEOVIL TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB**



**NEWCASTLE UNITED**

**YEOVIL TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB**  
 Official Souvenir Programme  
 to commemorate the opening of the new  
**HUISH PARK STADIUM**  
 In the presence of Mr. B. Millichip  
 on Saturday 4th August 1990  
 PROGRAMME COMMENCES 1.10 pm






**GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE**

**YEOVIL TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB**  
 v  
**NEWCASTLE UNITED**  
 MATCH KICK OFF 3.00 pm

**MATCH SPONSORS**  
 Arlington

**£1.50**



**FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

## Reserves – Season 1990-1991

Aug	18th	Melksham Town	A	Gt Mills Div 1	1-1
	20th	Torquay Utd Res	H	" "	3-0
	25th	Crediton United	H	" "	3-3
	29th	Warminster Town	A	" "	3-4
Sept	1st	Backwell United	A	" "	1-3
	3rd	Bath City Res	H	" "	0-5
	12th	Bridport	A	" "	2-1
	15th	Odd Down	A	" "	0-2
	17th	Glastonbury	H	" "	1-1
	22nd	Devizes Town	H	" "	2-4
	25th	Westbury United	A	" "	4-5
	29th	Larkhall Athletic	A	" "	1-2
Oct	1st	Heavitree United	H	" "	2-0
	6th	Clandown	H	" "	1-3
	13th	Bath City Res	A	" "	1-1
	17th	Wellington	A	" "	0-3
	20th	Elmore	H	" "	0-2
Nov	3rd	Calne Town	A	" "	0-2
	5th	Clandown	H	Les Phill Cup 1	1-2
	10th	Torquay Utd Res	A	Gt Mills Div 1	2-1
	17th	Elmore	A	" "	0-2
	19th	Minehead	H	" "	0-6
Dec	1st	Heavitree United	A	" "	2-3
	8th	Crediton United	A	" "	1-2
	15th	Ilfracombe Town	H	" "	1-2
	17th	Odd Down	H	" "	1-1
Jan	12th	Devizes Town	A	" "	3-3
	19th	Minehead	A	" "	1-2
	26th	Westbury United	H	" "	0-2
Mar	9th	Keynsham Town	A	" "	3-4
	18th	Backwell United	H	" "	4-2
	23rd	Wellington	H	" "	0-4
	30th	Larkhall Athletic	H	" "	2-0
April	1st	Ilfracombe Town	A	" "	0-3
	6th	Clandown	A	" "	0-2
	8th	Keynsham Town	H	" "	2-1
	10th	Bridport	H	" "	2-1
	13th	Melksham Town	H	" "	0-1
	15th	Warminster Town	H	" "	6-3
	20th	Glastonbury	A	" "	3-2
	22nd	Calne Town	H	" "	1-2

It was a sad end to the most fascinating nine years for Gerry Lock, who had overseen the minefield that was the move to Houndstone, but had sacked a whole collection of managers in his time.

The new chairman was long serving and popular Bryan Moore who was pushed into the chair having held most positions on the board and on the Supporters' Club over the years. Remaining with him as directors were Allan Houghton, who became vice-chairman, Mike Spearpoint and John Fleetwood and they were quickly joined by Tony Williams and George Smith. Moore's first task was to prepare the shareholders and the general public for the bombshell that was to come with the financial situation. To this end a public meeting was called at the Mecca Bingo Hall which was attended by close to 1,000 people. Several passionate speeches were made and buckets came out for a collection. The buckets stayed in use at every home game until the end of the season and several thousands of pounds were donated which helped greatly to keep the club alive. He had predicted a deficit of around £500,000, but the headlines screamed at one and all that the figure was over £750,000. The move to Huish Park, spiralling, transfer fees had got so out of hand that the future of the club, far from looking rosy six months earlier, looked grim with little hope for recovery. For all the world it looked as though the great old club had reached rock bottom without many knowing about it and with Whitehead's team falling close to relegation candidates, Moore's was a baptism of fire.

Joe Jackson left the club to join Dover after five months, complaining that there were "too many cows and not enough bright lights" in Yeovil, and Nicky Dent went to Poole Town, with Neil Housley moving to Dorchester Town. The board had to come up with some solutions as to how to recoup some of the colossal losses, and they were given a boost when supporters, board members and players alike began buying shares in the company. There would be no more transfer fees paid and there would be no more reserve team, they having been scrapped. Entertainer Richard Digance joined the board soon after, but all the changes were too late for Clive Whitehead, who was sacked at the beginning of April. YTS coach Steve Rutter was entrusted with the job of steering his side away from relegation, and with three wins and a draw he accomplished it, including an



The first ever game at Huish Park – Yeovil Town 1 Newcastle United 2 on 4th August 1990.

astonishing 7-2 win over Slough Town, one of the goals coming from keeper David Fry, whose fly kick went in assisted by the strong wind.

The end of the season could not come soon enough for all concerned, but the hard work in saving the club had only just begun. Gerry Pearson's testimonial saw the return of Brian Hall and he was given a warm reception, his presence starting rumours that he might return now that Gerry Lock was no longer on the scene.

**GM Vauxhall Conference 1990-1991**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barnet	42	26	9	7	103	52	87
Colchester United	42	25	10	7	68	35	85
Altrincham	42	23	13	6	87	46	82
Kettering Town	42	23	11	8	67	45	80
Wycombe Wand	42	21	11	10	75	46	74
Telford United	42	20	7	15	62	52	67
Macclesfield Town	42	17	12	13	63	52	63
Runcorn	42	16	10	16	69	67	58
Merthyr Tydfil	42	16	9	17	62	61	57
Barrow	42	15	12	15	59	65	57
Welling United	42	13	15	14	55	57	54
Northwich Vics	42	13	13	16	65	75	52
Kidderminster Har	42	14	10	18	56	67	52
Yeovil Town	42	13	11	18	58	58	50
Stafford Rangers	42	12	14	16	48	51	50
Cheltenham Town	42	12	12	18	54	72	48
Gateshead	42	14	6	22	52	92	48
Boston United	42	12	11	19	55	69	47
Slough Town	42	13	6	23	51	80	45
Bath City	42	10	12	20	55	61	42
Sutton United	42	10	9	23	62	82	39
Fisher Athletic	42	5	15	22	38	79	30

**Great Mills Division I – 1990-1991**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Minehead	40	28	9	3	102	42	93
Elmore	40	24	6	10	89	47	78
Calne Town	40	25	2	13	85	55	77
Odd Down	40	22	10	8	59	36	76
Westbury United	40	21	9	10	60	44	72
Bridport	40	18	11	11	65	48	65
Torquay Utd Res	40	17	10	13	62	52	61
Devizes Town	40	17	10	13	68	66	61
Ilfracombe Town	40	15	12	13	62	54	57
Crediton United	40	14	13	13	55	48	55
Wellington	40	15	10	15	58	55	55
Bath City Res	40	14	11	15	67	64	53
Keynsham Town	40	14	9	17	59	58	51
Clandown	40	14	8	18	43	71	50
Melksham Town	40	13	10	17	54	60	49
Backwell United	40	11	9	20	56	70	42
Yeovil Town Res	40	10	6	24	59	91	36
Warminster Town	40	9	9	22	39	74	36
Larkhall Athletic	40	9	8	23	28	70	35
Heavitree United	40	6	12	22	32	81	30
Glastonbury	40	5	14	21	39	65	29

**First Team Appearances 1990-91**

P Conning 44, D Fry 42, R Carroll 40, M Shail 39, P Wilson, S Rutter 37, S Harrower 33, B McDermott 32, J Jackson 26, M Desouza 25, M Spencer, P Hirons 24, R Cooper 22, N Stevenson, T Lowe 21, H Pritchard 20, J Sherwood 18, S Gowans 15, P Batty, N Dent 11, L Bond, D Dawkins, A Wallace, N Cordice 9, I Wilmott 8, M McEvoy, M Sale, M Boulton 4, N Housley 3, R Ford 2, C Whitehead, D Bitrell, M Gardner 1

**Team Goalscorers 1990-91**

R Carroll, P Wilson 13, B McDermott 11, P Conning 8, M Spencer 7, N Dent 6, P Hirons 4, P Batty, A Wallace 3, T Lowe, og 2, D Fry, H Pritchard, S Rutter, J Sherwood, N Stevenson 1

**Reserve Goalscorers 1990-91**

M Spencer, M Boulton, P Baverstock 7, N Dent, P Hirons, N Housley 5, A Ford, C Rice 3, H Pritchard, C Baddoo, P Watts 2, P Golding, N McPhee, M McEvoy, M Bown, N Seymour, J Jackson, S Gowans, P Conning, A Wallace, R Ford 1

Steve Rutter's position was made permanent during the summer of 1991, his star player Mark Shail being invited for trials by Bristol City. Later the club was honoured when the FA chose it to stage the Under 17 European Championship game between England and Wales, which helped financially, as did Richard Digance when he used his powers of persuasion to obtain a number of pieces of memorabilia which were auctioned. Sadly another tragedy occurred in May when 56 year old director John Fleetwood died. Described as simply "a really nice bloke", John had been at a function at the club only the night before.

The attendance figures released by the Conference showed that, despite the traumas and the threat of relegation, Yeovil were the fourth best supported club in the league, beaten only by Colchester United, Barnet and Wycombe Wanderers, all of whom were destined for the Football League. The demise of the Western League side left a mid-week team and a youth side, bolstered by a new YTS influx which included Malcolm McPherson, a 6' youth from Nailsea who would become sought after very quickly.

In the first team Phil Ferns was back, as was Budgie Rodgers as assistant manager and Andy Wallace made a return from a long drawn out injury problem.

The age old dilemma of where the goals were coming from reared its head again during the first three months of the campaign as only five in thirteen games made grim reading. Not surprisingly gates again began to fall as Rutter tried frantically to find a winning combination from Spencer, Wilson, Rowlands and Conning. There was no shortage of



Yeovil Town 1990-1991

## Season 1991-1992

Aug	17th	Barrow	H	GMV Conference	2-0	Spencer, Carroll
	24th	Altrincham	A	" "	1-2	Carroll
	26th	Wycombe Wand	A	" "	0-1	
	31st	Gateshead	H	" "	1-0	Pritchard
Sept	3rd	Farnborough Town	A	Bob Lord Tr 1 1	2-3	Spencer 2
	7th	Macclesfield Town	H	GMV Conference	0-1	
	13th	Colchester United	A	" "	0-4	
	17th	Farnborough Town	H	Bob Lord Tr 1 2	3-0	Carroll 2, Boulton
	21st	Telford United	H	GMV Conference	0-2	
	28th	Merthyr Tydfil	A	" "	2-2	Carroll 2
Oct	5th	Northwich Vics	A	" "	0-1	
	8th	Welling United	H	Bob Lord Tr 2 (Abandoned)	3-2	Conning, Carroll, Spencer
	12th	Kidderminster Harr	A	GMV Conference	1-1	Spencer
	16th	Glastonbury	H	Som Prem Cup 1	6-1	Spencer 3, McDermott, Wallace, Conning
	19th	Kettering Town	H	GMV Conference	0-1	
	22nd	Welling United	H	Bob Lord Tr 2	2-0	Batty, Spencer
	26th	Tonbridge AFC	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	2-1	Spencer, Shail
	30th	Colchester United	H	GMV Conference	0-1	
Nov	2nd	Farnborough Town	A	" "	0-0	
	9th	Cheltenham Town	H	" "	1-1	Rutter
	16th	Walsall	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	1-1	Wilson
	23rd	Boston United	A	GMV Conference	3-1	McDermott, Shail, Carroll
	27th	Walsall	A	FA Cup 1 Rep	1-0	Cooper
	30th	Stafford Rangers	H	GMV Conference	0-1	
Dec	4th	Redbridge Forest	H	" "	0-1	
	7th	Woking	A	FA Cup 2nd Rd	0-3	
	10th	Bristol City	H	Som Prem Cup 2	1-0	Conning
	21st	Farnborough Town	H	GMV Conference	2-2	Pritchard, Spencer
	26th	Bath City	A	" "	1-3	Spencer
	28th	Northwich Vics	H	" "	2-1	McDermott, Spencer
Jan	1st	Bath City	H	" "	1-1	Spencer
	4th	Cheltenham Town	A	" "	1-1	Wallace
	11th	Chesham United	H	FA Trophy 1	3-1	Spencer 2, McDermott
	18th	Witton Albion	H	GMV Conference	2-1	Wallace 2
	20th	Kidderminster Harr	A	Bob Lord Trop 3	2-1	Cooper, Carroll
	25th	Kidderminster Harr	H	GMV Conference	1-1	Spencer
	29th	Minehead	A	Som Prem Cup 3	2-1	Conning, og
Feb	1st	Bromley	A	FA Trophy 2	3-1	Carroll, Spencer 2
	4th	Telford United	A	GMV Conference	0-1	
	8th	Welling United	H	" "	3-0	Spencer, McDermott 2
	11th	Wycombe Wand	H	Bob Lord Trophy Semi-final 1st Leg	0-0	
	14th	Stafford Rangers	A	GMV Conference	0-0	
	18th	Wycombe Wand	A	Bob Lord Trophy Semi-final 2nd Leg	0-2	
	22nd	Kidderminster Harr	H	FA Trophy 3	3-1	Robinson, Carroll, McDermott
	29th	Macclesfield Town	A	GMV Conference	2-1	Robinson, Spencer
Mar	3rd	Mangotsfield Utd	H	Somerset Prem Cup Semi-final	1-1	Carroll
	7th	Wycombe Wand	H	GMV Conference	1-0	Spencer
	10th	Slough Town	A	" "	4-1	Boulton 2, Robinson, Spencer
	14th	Macclesfield Town	H	FA Trophy 4	1-2	Wallace
	16th	Mangotsfield Utd	A	Somerset Prem Cup Semi-final Replay	4-1	Carroll 2, Spencer 2
	21st	Runcorn	H	GMV Conference	1-4	Spencer
	24th	Redbridge Forest	A	" "	0-0	
	28th	Slough Town	H	" "	1-0	Spencer
	31st	Witton Albion	A	" "	1-3	Conning
April	4th	Runcorn	A	" "	2-2	Carroll, Robinson
	7th	Kettering Town	A	" "	0-2	

## Season 1991-1992 continued

	11th	Gateshead	A	GMV Conference	0-1	
	16th	Bristol Rovers	A	Somerset Premier Cup Final 1st Leg	2-1	McDermott, Spencer
	18th	Boston United	H	GMV Conference	1-1	Wilson
	20th	Welling United	A	GMV Conference	0-1	
	25th	Barrow	A	GMV Conference	0-0	
	28th	Merthyr Tydfil	H	GMV Conference	1-1	Spencer
May	2nd	Altrincham	H	GMV Conference	2-1	Spencer 2
	7th	Bristol Rovers	H	Somerset Premier Cup Final 2nd Leg	0-2	

## Reserves – Season 1991-1992

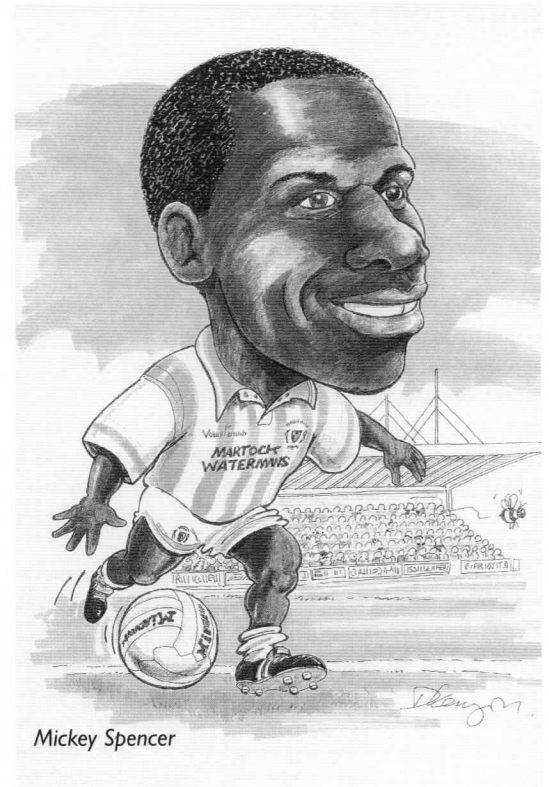
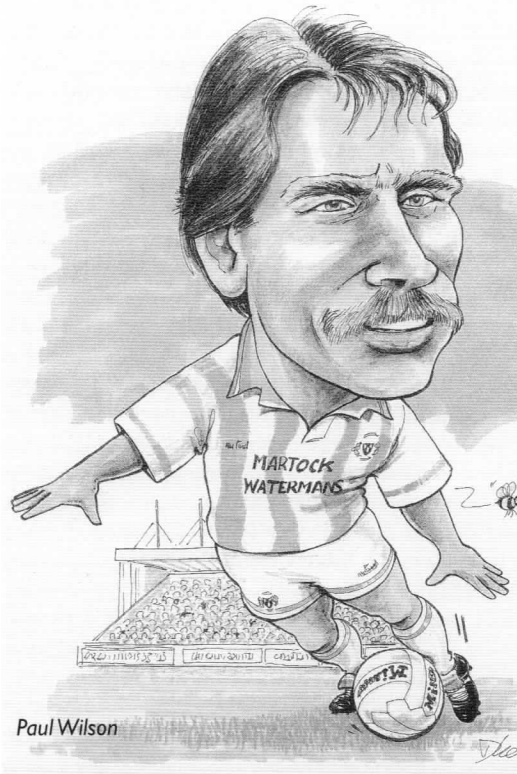
Aug	19th	Bristol Rov Res	H	Clifton Stock Lge	0-5
Sept	2nd	Cardiff City Res	A	" "	0-6
	9th	AFC Bourm Res	H	League Cup	2-2
	23rd	Exeter City Res	A	Clifton Stock Lge	1-2
	30th	Hereford Utd Res	H	" "	1-5
Oct	9th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	" "	0-2
	14th	Portsmouth Res	A	League Cup	3-6
	25th	Swansea City Res	H	Clifton Stock Lge	1-3
	28th	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	2-4
Nov	12th	Aldershot Res	A	League Cup	0-2
	18th	AFC Bourm Res	H	Clifton Stock Lge	2-1
	25th	Bristol City Res	A	" "	0-3
Dec	2nd	Cheltenham T Res	H	" "	1-3
Jan	6th	Cardiff City Res	H	" "	1-2
	13th	Cheltenham T Res	A	" "	1-2
	27th	Exeter City Res	H	" "	1-5
Feb	10th	Hereford Utd Res	A	" "	0-9
	26th	Plymouth Arg Res	H	" "	0-0
Mar	2nd	Swansea City Res	A	" "	0-5
	9th	Torquay Utd Res	H	" "	0-1
	30th	AFC Bourm Res	A	" "	0-6
April	8th	Bristol City Res	H	" "	0-6
	22nd	Bristol Rovers Res	A	" "	3-5

## Youth Team – Season 1991-1992

Sept	11th	Backwell United	H	Som Fl Yth Lge	1-0
	25th	Frome Town	H	" "	1-0
Oct	2nd	Winscombe	A	" "	6-0
	29th	Bristol City	A	" "	3-4
Nov	4th	Shepton Mallet	H	" "	5-2
	20th	Weston-s-Mare	H	" "	0-1
Feb	3rd	Welton Rovers	H	" "	1-1
	17th	Winscombe	H	" "	6-0
Mar	17th	Bristol City	H	" "	1-2
	23rd	Nailsea United	H	" "	4-0
	31st	Clevedon Town	A	" "	0-1
April	13th	Nailsea United	H	" "	5-0
	15th	Shepton Mallet	A	" "	6-1
	21st	Clevedon Town	H	" "	7-0
	26th	Welton Rovers	A	" "	8-0
	29th	Backwell United	A	" "	1-0
May	1st	Frome Town	A	" "	4-1
	5th	Weston-s-Mare	A	" "	2-1

goals in the Bob Lord Trophy and Somerset Premier Cup, although bad luck struck when the game with Welling United was abandoned with Town leading 3-2 after a deluge had flooded the pitch. The FA Cup began in the middle of a seven match run without a win, but the long trip to Tonbridge was a fruitful one, as Spencer and Mark Shail ensured a place in the First Round and a match at home to Walsall. The tie arrived with Yeovil bottom of the Conference and in real trouble, but despite all that, the crowds, although having fallen, were still





among the best anywhere outside the Football League, and 4,653 saw a battling performance with a late equaliser from Paul Wilson, his first of the season, winning a replay. The draw inspired Yeovil and they crushed Boston United at York Street before gaining a victory over Walsall every bit as important as any of the previous wins over League clubs. Richard Cooper's header was celebrated as passionately as any goal could be as dreams turned to a big club at home in the next round. Sadly the draw gave Town a trip to Woking away, although the crowd of over 4,000 was as much as could have been expected at many League clubs. It was a desperate anti-climax as the Cards won with ease just days after Yeovil had been booed off at the end of a dreadful game with Redbridge Forest. With the Cup out of the way and little prospect of any financial windfalls, the team was reluctantly en masse put up for sale along with the club itself, the players having been told that the club was reverting to part-time.

Their one true saleable asset, defender Mark Shail was still in demand but as Christmas came with another defeat from the enemy at Bath City, ironically with Paul Randall as top scorer in the Conference, there seemed no end to the misery. Richard Digance had promised to work flat out to bring in funding for the club and his sterling efforts with appeals, sponsored trips, huge raffles and outright pleading brought in a healthy sum, although his prediction of half a million in a year seemed a touch ambitious. Sadly his frustrations were made public around the new year and he resigned from the board and was gone.

The events in and around the club were forgotten shortly afterwards when news came through that former player Andy Stone, who had lost a leg to cancer and had bravely battled on, lost his fight and died at the age of 27. Andy was remembered through a minute's silence at the ground.

The defeat at Twerton Park was the turning point for Steve Rutter, for with new keeper David Coles in place from Fulham the team climbed off the bottom of the table after Andy Wallace's two goals had beaten Witton Albion. Either side of that were wins in the Trophy over Chesham United and Bromley which gave the supporters a faint hope of glory and financial salvation at Wembley. A superb victory over

Kidderminster Harriers and a home tie with Macclesfield Town in the quarter-final inspired the club, whose mere survival was still in doubt. With only two clubs likely to be relegated five wins in February and March all but ensured survival and over 4,000 turned up at Huish. Sadly Rutter was forced to alter his side due to injury and a weakened Yeovil went out to Macclesfield Town 2-1. Two days later there was minor solace in a win over Mangotsfield United.

League form dipped again towards the end but safety it was and after another traumatic season Yeovil Town, backed by their fanatical support, had lived to fight another day both on and off the pitch.

The County Cup defeat by Bristol City was almost incidental as Steve Rutter began the unenviable task of clearing out the squad and re-building with less expensive imports. It wouldn't be easy but the club and its long suffering fans were in for a pleasant surprise.

#### First Team Appearances 1991-1992

M Shail 59, S. Harrower 55, P Conning 55, S. Rutter 50, M. Spencer 50, McDermott 48, A. Wallace 47, P. Batty 43, R. Carroll 42, P. Ferns 40, D. Coles 36, R. Cooper 32, P. Wilson 30, D. Robinson 21, D. Fry 15, M McEvoy 14, M. Herven 12, H. Pritchard 11, Rowbotham 6, A. Rowland 4, M. Boulton 4, S. Sivell 3, D. Henderson 3, J.N. Flory 1, C. White 1

#### First Team Goalscorers 1991-1992

M. Spencer 30, R Carroll 14, B. McDermot 8, A. Wallace 5, P. Conning 4, D. Robinson 4, M. Boulton 2, P Wilson 2, M. Shail 2, R. Cooper 2, H Pritchard 2 S. Rutter 1, P. Batty 1, M. Boulton 1, o.g.

#### Reserve Goalscorers 1991-92

C White 4, M Boulton 3, L Dixon, M Spencer, P Batty 2, L Wale, B McDermott, M McPherson, T Oades, H Pritchard, P Everett 1

#### Youth Team Scorers 1991-92

M McPherson 23, S Sivell 10, D Perrett 9, S Shortland, N Flory 5, R Glover 3, J Clarke 2, R French, R Vassall, T Oades, A Crothers 1

## Season 1992-93

The highlight of the short close season of 1992 was the anticipated arrival of Glenn Hoddle's Swindon Town for Paul Thorpe's testimonial. It was a success, and one which was well deserved by a man well thought of throughout the game. Steve Rutter was forced to make a number of signings including Neil Coates who returned to the club along with Paul Batty, a midfielder from Swindon Town and Wayne Dobbins, an unpredictable but talented 24 year old from Torquay United. Jeff Sherwood also returned, but Brian McDermott was gone, to Hong Kong, and Robbie Carroll and Peter Conning had also moved on.

There were more new faces before the start of play, Paul Sanderson, a classy winger, Paul Nevin a striker and Hung Dang, the Vietnamese boy who had made such an impact as a youth before injury curtailed his rise at Tottenham Hotspur.

Off the field the ever reliable Alan Skirton had picked up a stunning idea from Bognor Regis Town via Tony Williams, which was to reap dividends and make headlines. Offering main club sponsorship as a raffle prize, his innovative scheme brought in some £35,000 and ended with the unlikely name of Preston Plucknett Post Office being emblazoned on the shirts thanks to the behind the scenes efforts of Tony Williams the club opened it's new astro turf pitch complete with floodlights. The cost of this project was £212,000 but thanks to Tony's efforts it did not cost the club a penny. The playing side got off to a poor start as the new recruits gained one point from three games, but with mini-soccer schools, junior supporters' clubs, a veterans' league on the astro turf and a new Football in the Community Officer in Chris Whalley, the club was determined to utilise its assets as the financial battle continued. The brief period with two wins and five goals gave way to a bleak September and a run of four defeats in the league gave little indication of what lay ahead for the club. Steve Rutter was under intense pressure from the supporters, and to a lesser extent, the press, but it all changed when after dropping four players for the Runcorn game, Paul Wilson's hat-trick saw the beginning of a rise up the table which was buoyed by a Cup run which was to rank with some of the

best. Mickey Spencer's late goal at an intimidating Crawley Town ground was enough to gain a trip to Torquay United in the First Round. They included the ultimately tragic Justin Fashanu in their side, but with Paul Batty running the show in midfield, his hat-trick including two penalties paved the way for a remarkable 5-2 victory. The Cup wins and an unbeaten run in the league brought Steve Rutter the Manager of the Month award, the first ever for the club and a fitting way to reward the man who had been under such a cloud only weeks earlier. The Second Round draw pitted arguably two of the most famous FA Cup giant-killers of all time in Yeovil Town and Hereford United, and Match of the Day could not resist it. Nor could the public, as a record Huish Park crowd of 8,085 turned up to watch the 0-0 draw which was a disappointment. What it did achieve was to force a replay by which time the world knew that the winners would face the might of Arsenal in the Third Round. Over 6,000 crammed into Edgar Street to see Paul Sanderson's superb header open the scoring, and with Paul Batty missing a penalty and Hereford manager Greg Downs being sent off, there was no shortage of incident. When the home team equalised late on, few believed that Yeovil could win the match, but with seconds left substitute Neil Coates popped up from nowhere to score the winner which brought delirium amongst the Glovers' fans. It was a goal which was conservatively estimated as being worth £100,000 and it set the ball rolling for a special start to the new year.

It was not all good news sadly, as former Glover Ken Wookey, the long standing manager of Shaftesbury FC, died following a re-occurrence of his cancer, at the age of 45. The ex-Workington, Newport County and Port Vale man had continued to be involved in football right up to his early death.

Yeovil cleverly exploited the clamour for tickets by issuing vouchers before the match against Bromsgrove Rovers to be exchanged for tickets at the Bath City game, the attendance in total being 12,000, although many did not stop for the matches, being content with their booty. The match was of course a sell out with Arsenal being sent 2,100 seats. Sky TV wanted to cover the match live, which would have brought in £100,000 but Arsenal would not agree to play on the Monday night as they had another game on the Wednesday, and all were forced to be content with highlights again. The Arsenal side contained the likes of Nigel Winterburn, David



Wayne Dobbins surrounded by Arsenal defenders, January 1993

## Season 1992-1993

Aug	22nd	Northwich Vics	H	GMV Conference	1-1	Shail
	25th	Merthyr Tydfil	H	" "	0-1	
	29th	Telford United	A	" "	0-1	
	31st	Welling United	A	" "	3-0	Shail, Wilson, Nevin
Sept	5th	Kettering Town	H	" "	2-1	Wallace 2
	8th	Slough Town	H	Drinkwise Cup 1 1	2-0	Spencer, Sanderson
	12th	Runcorn	A	GMV Conference	0-1	
	15th	Wycombe Wand	A	" "	1-5	og
	19th	Gateshead	H	" "	1-3	Nevin
	22nd	Slough Town	A	Drinkwise Cup 1 2	2-2	Spencer, Dang
	26th	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	GMV Conference	0-1	
Oct	3rd	Runcorn	H	" "	4-0	Wilson 3, Harrower
	10th	Witton Albion	A	" "	2-1	Spencer, Dang
	13th	Slough Town	A	" "	0-3	
	17th	Stafford Rangers	H	" "	2-0	Harrower, Spencer
	20th	Bath City	A	Drinkwise Cup 2	0-0	
	24th	Crawley Town	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	2-1	Batty, Spencer
	31st	Stafford Rangers	A	GMV Conference	1-0	Spencer
Nov	7th	Woking	H	" "	4-1	Sanderson, Sherwood, Cooper, Spencer
	14th	Torquay United	A	FA Cup 1st Rd	5-2	Wilson, Spencer, Batty 3
	17th	Bath City	H	Drink Cup 2 Rep	1-0	Sanderson
	21st	Witton Albion	H	GMV Conference	2-0	Cooper, Nevin
	28th	Stalybridge Celtic	A	" "	1-1	Wilson
Dec	5th	Hereford United	H	FA Cup 2nd Rd	0-0	
	12th	Kettering Town	A	GMV Conference	0-3	
	16th	Hereford United	A	FA Cup 2 Rep	2-1	Sanderson, Coates
	19th	Bromsgrove Rovers	H	GMV Conference	2-2	Shail, Batty
	26th	Dagenham & Red	A	" "	1-1	Sanderson

Dec	28th	Bath City	H	GMV Conference	2-1	Spencer 2
Jan	2nd	Arsenal	H	FA Cup 3rd Rd	1-3	Batty
	6th	Clevedon Town	A	Som Prem Cup 2	0-1	
	9th	Dagenham & Red	H	FA Trophy 1	0-0	
	12th	Dagenham & Red	A	Replay	1-2	Spencer
	23rd	Macclesfield Town	A	GMV Conference	1-1	Wilson
	30th	Woking	A	" "	0-0	
Feb	6th	Telford United	H	" "	1-0	Sanderson
	9th	Wycombe Wand	H	Drinkwise Cup 3	0-1	
	13th	Altrincham	H	GMV Conference	1-0	Spencer
	20th	Kidderminster Harr	A	" "	1-1	Spencer
	27th	Boston United	A	" "	0-1	
Mar	6th	Kidderminster Harr	H	" "	2-2	Shail, Wilson
	9th	Farnborough Town	A	" "	1-2	Batty
	13th	Stalybridge Celtic	H	" "	1-1	Wilson
	16th	Wycombe Wand	H	" "	3-0	og, Wilson, Harrower
	20th	Altrincham	A	" "	2-1	Wilson, Spencer
	23rd	Welling United	H	" "	1-0	Batty
	27th	Northwich Vics	A	" "	1-0	Batty
	30th	Farnborough Town	H	" "	5-2	Wilson 2, Spencer 2, Sherwood
April	4th	Macclesfield Town	H	" "	1-1	Coates
	10th	Dagenham & Red	H	" "	0-3	
	12th	Bath City	A	" "	0-0	
	17th	Slough Town	H	" "	5-1	Batty 2, Spencer 2, Cooper
	20th	Merthyr Tydfil	A	" "	1-1	Sanderson
	24th	Boston United	H	" "	2-1	Spencer 2
May	1st	Gateshead	A	" "	1-4	Wilson



Yeovil's Andy Wallace clears the ball upfield as Arsenal's Alan Smith moves in to challenge – FA Cup 3rd Round 2nd January 1993.





The captains, mascots and officials before the Arsenal match  
2nd January 1993



Tony Adams leads out the Arsenal Team

Seaman, Lee Dixon, Steve Bould and Tony Adams, plus the unstoppable Ian Wright, whose hat-trick punished errors at the back by Yeovil. The final crowd of 8,612 brought receipts of nearly £75,000 and, with various other financial offshoots, it was a desperately needed lifeline and a good way to promote the club and to highlight their desperate straits.

Thoughts then turned to the Trophy, but hopes were dashed cruelly when losing a replay at Dagenham and, with defeats in the County Cup and the Drinkwise Trophy, the way was clear for a sustained effort in the league. Steve Rutter's men had not gone unnoticed by the powers that be and Mark Shail, Paul Sanderson and David Coles were all called up for the non-League squad in February. The aftermath of the cup defeats was a run of poor results in the league, but March was enjoyed by all, as five straight wins brought the outside possibility of a runners up spot, unthinkable just a few months earlier. The 5-2 victory over Farnborough Town put the club third, its highest ever position in the Conference and another big win over Slough Town enhanced the feelings of goodwill. In the end, with Steve Rutter awarded another Manager of the Month accolade, and fourth place, which was achieved, and which would have seen runners up position had Yeovil won their last game of the season at Gateshead, was a triumph for

### Reserves – Season 1992-1993

Aug	17th	Torquay Utd Res	H	Football Comb 2	2-1
	26th	AFC Bournemouth Res	H	" "	1-7
Sept	2nd	Plymouth Arg Res	A	" "	2-4
	9th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	" "	2-2
	16th	Cheltenham T Res	A	" "	2-2
	23rd	Plymouth Arg Res	H	" "	2-1
	29th	AFC Bournemouth Res	A	" "	2-5
Oct	7th	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	3-2
	14th	Bristol Rovers Res	A	" "	3-1
	21st	Cheltenham T Res	H	" "	4-1
Nov	4th	Bristol Rovers Res	H	League Cup 1	0-3
	11th	Swansea City Res	A	Football Comb 2	1-2
Dec	9th	Exeter City Res	A	" "	3-4
	29th	Swansea City Res	A	" "	1-4
Feb	10th	Birmingham C Res	A	" "	1-1
	17th	Exeter City Res	A	" "	1-0
	24th	Cardiff City Res	H	" "	1-1
Mar	3rd	Swansea City Res	A	" "	0-9
	10th	Birmingham C Res	A	" "	2-4
	17th	Cardiff City Res	H	" "	0-3
	22nd	Cheltenham T Res	A	" "	4-4
	31st	AFC Bournemouth Res	H	" "	3-2
April	6th	Birmingham C Res	H	" "	1-2
	14th	Exeter City Res	A	" "	0-1
	21st	Bristol Rovers Res	H	" "	1-3
May	4th	Cardiff City Res	A	" "	0-0
	6th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	" "	2-0
	10th	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	4-1

### Youth – Season 1992-1993

Aug	18th	Nailsea United	A	Som Flood Yth	2-1
Sept	7th	Bristol City	A	" "	4-0
	10th	Cheltenham Town	H	FA Yth Cup Prel	2-3
	14th	Keynsham Town	H	Som Flood Yth	8-0
Oct	5th	Winscombe	H	" "	7-0
	12th	Paulton Rovers	H	" "	4-2
	20th	Weston-s-Mare	A	" "	3-1
Nov	9th	Wellington	H	" "	4-3
	17th	Frome Town	A	" "	3-0
Jan	11th	Cheddar	H	" "	12-1
	18th	Backwell United	H	" "	5-0
	25th	Paulton Rovers	A	" "	3-1
Feb	1st	Welton Rovers	H	" "	2-2
	11th	Wellington	A	" "	1-1
	15th	Frome Town	H	" "	8-0
Mar	1st	Nailsea United	H	" "	4-0
	8th	Winscombe	A	" "	0-1
	16th	Keynsham Town	A	" "	3-1
	29th	Weston-s-Mare	H	" "	6-2
April	19th	Welton Rovers	A	" "	3-2
	22nd	Cheddar	A	" "	5-0
	28th	Backwell United	A	" "	1-0
	29th	Shepton Mallet	A	" "	5-1
May	7th	Bristol City	H	" "	3-1
	11th	Shepton Mallet	H	" "	10-0

the young man who had turned the club around on the field with a smaller budget than most in the Conference. Malcolm McPherson's glut of goals won him a full-time contract and Mark Shail finally bade farewell to Huish Park after winning an international cap, when Bristol City bought the 26 year old in a deal that was hoped would net the club £75,000.

The boardroom welcomed John Fry, a local businessman and few realised how important he would become in the years ahead.

## Season 1992-1993

Aug	22nd	Northwich Vics	H	GMV Conference	1-1	Shail
	25th	Merthyr Tydfil	H	" "	0-1	
	29th	Telford United	A	" "	0-1	
	31st	Welling United	A	" "	3-0	Shail, Wilson, Nevin
Sept	5th	Kettering Town	H	" "	2-1	Wallace 2
	8th	Slough Town	H	Drinkwise Cup 1 1	2-0	Spencer, Sanderson
	12th	Runcorn	A	GMV Conference	0-1	
	15th	Wycombe Wand	A	" "	1-5	og
	19th	Gateshead	H	" "	1-3	Nevin
	22nd	Slough Town	A	Drinkwise Cup 1 2	2-2	Spencer, Dang
	26th	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	GMV Conference	0-1	
Oct	3rd	Runcorn	H	" "	4-0	Wilson 3, Harrower
	10th	Witton Albion	A	" "	2-1	Spencer, Dang
	13th	Slough Town	A	" "	0-3	
	17th	Stafford Rangers	H	" "	2-0	Harrower, Spencer
	20th	Bath City	A	Drinkwise Cup 2	0-0	
	24th	Crawley Town	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	2-1	Batty, Spencer
	31st	Stafford Rangers	A	GMV Conference	1-0	Spencer
Nov	7th	Woking	H	" "	4-1	Sanderson, Sherwood, Cooper, Spencer
	14th	Torquay United	A	FA Cup 1st Rd	5-2	Wilson, Spencer, Batty 3
	17th	Bath City	H	Drink Cup 2 Rep	1-0	Sanderson
	21st	Witton Albion	H	GMV Conference	2-0	Cooper, Nevin
	28th	Stalybridge Celtic	A	" "	1-1	Wilson
Dec	5th	Hereford United	H	FA Cup 2nd Rd	0-0	
	12th	Kettering Town	A	GMV Conference	0-3	
	16th	Hereford United	A	FA Cup 2 Rep	2-1	Sanderson, Coates
	19th	Bromsgrove Rovers	H	GMV Conference	2-2	Shail, Batty
	26th	Dagenham & Red	A	" "	1-1	Sanderson

Dec	28th	Bath City	H	GMV Conference	2-1	Spencer 2
Jan	2nd	Arsenal	H	FA Cup 3rd Rd	1-3	Batty
	6th	Clevedon Town	A	Som Prem Cup 2	0-1	
	9th	Dagenham & Red	H	FA Trophy 1	0-0	
	12th	Dagenham & Red	A	Replay	1-2	Spencer
	23rd	Macclesfield Town	A	GMV Conference	1-1	Wilson
	30th	Woking	A	" "	0-0	
Feb	6th	Telford United	H	" "	1-0	Sanderson
	9th	Wycombe Wand	H	Drinkwise Cup 3	0-1	
	13th	Altrincham	H	GMV Conference	1-0	Spencer
	20th	Kidderminster Harr	A	" "	1-1	Spencer
	27th	Boston United	A	" "	0-1	
Mar	6th	Kidderminster Harr	H	" "	2-2	Shail, Wilson
	9th	Farnborough Town	A	" "	1-2	Batty
	13th	Stalybridge Celtic	H	" "	1-1	Wilson
	16th	Wycombe Wand	H	" "	3-0	og, Wilson, Harrower
	20th	Altrincham	A	" "	2-1	Wilson, Spencer
	23rd	Welling United	H	" "	1-0	Batty
	27th	Northwich Vics	A	" "	1-0	Batty
	30th	Farnborough Town	H	" "	5-2	Wilson 2, Spencer 2, Sherwood
April	4th	Macclesfield Town	H	" "	1-1	Coates
	10th	Dagenham & Red	H	" "	0-3	
	12th	Bath City	A	" "	0-0	
	17th	Slough Town	H	" "	5-1	Batty 2, Spencer 2, Cooper
	20th	Merthyr Tydfil	A	" "	1-1	Sanderson
	24th	Boston United	H	" "	2-1	Spencer 2
May	1st	Gateshead	A	" "	1-4	Wilson

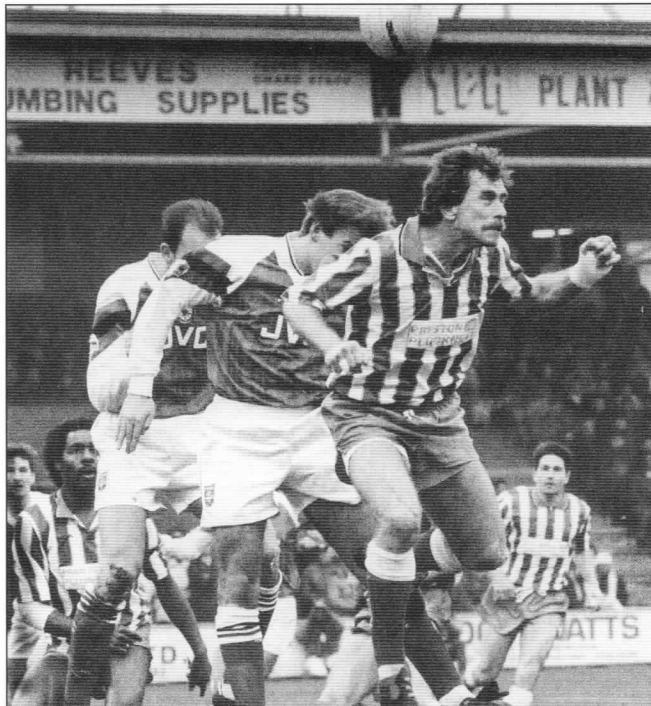


Yeovil's Andy Wallace clears the ball upfield as Arsenal's Alan Smith moves in to challenge – FA Cup 3rd Round 2nd January 1993.





Arsenal's David Seaman punches clear as Yeovil challenge.



Paul Wilson goes up for the ball with Tony Adams.



Paul Batty scores from the spot against Arsenal

Under 17 - Season 1992-1993					
Sept	13th	Portland United	H	Dorset Co Yth	1-0
	27th	Sherborne Town	A	"	1-4
Oct	4th	Hamworthy United	H	Dorset Yth Cup 1	19-2
	11th	Weymouth	H	Dorset Co Yth	1-1
	18th	Bournemouth Sports	H	"	0-2
	25th	Bournemouth FC	H	"	14-1
Nov	1st	Rossgarth	A	Dorset Yth Cup 2	6-1
	8th	Branksome	A	Dorset Co Yth	5-2
	22nd	Dorchester Town	H	"	3-1
	29th	Poole Town	A	"	3-2
Dec	13th	Bournemouth Sports	H	Dorset Yth Cup 3	1-0
Jan	3rd	Bournemouth FC	A	Dorset Co Yth	10-0
	31st	Branksome	H	"	1-1
Feb	14th	Dorchester Town	A	"	1-6
	21st	Portland United	A	"	2-3
	28th	Weymouth	A	"	0-0
	7th	Sherborne Town	A	Dor Yth Cup S-F	1-2
March	14th	Bisterne	A	Dorset Co Yth	3-1
	21st	Bournemouth Sports	A	"	2-7
April	4th	Bisterne	A	"	2-0
	8th	Sherborne Town	H	"	1-1
	11th	Poole Town	H	"	2-3

Match No.  

**THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION  
COMPETITIONS DEPARTMENT**

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FORM**

COMPETITION **F. A. CUP**

MATCH (HOME TEAM) **YEovil TOWN** v (AWAY TEAM) **ARSENAL**

VENUE **Huish Park, Yeovil** DATE **2-1-1993**

ROUND **THREE** ATTENDANCE **8612**

	£	p		£	p
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
Receipts from Terraces, Stands Enclosures	74,480	00			
LESS: VAT (7/47th)	11,122	85			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63,557</b>	<b>145</b>			
<b>PAYMENTS</b>					
*(Exclusive of VAT)					
Printing, Posting and Advertising	1,366	86			
Police Charges	6,525	32			
Gatemen/Stewards	1,264	75			
Fee and Expenses of Referee	219	30			
Fee and Expenses of Linesmen	296	90			
Travelling Expenses of Visiting Club	420	00			
Hotel Expenses of Visiting Club (where necessary)					
Floodlighting	100	00			
†First Aid Helpers	81	00			
†Ambulance (Cup only)	234	39			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,508</b>	<b>52</b>			
<b>BALANCE FOR DISTRIBUTION</b>	£	p			
<b>Profit</b>	<b>53,048</b>	<b>93</b>			
<b>Loss: (Shared)</b>					
<b>Loss:</b> Visiting Club to receive travelling expenses less their 1/2 (half) of loss					
<b>CUP</b>					
1. All Rounds prior to 3rd Proper:-					
50% Home Club					
50% Visiting Club					
2. Rounds: 1st and 2nd Proper Replays:-					
5% The FA					
47% Home Club					
47% Visiting Club					
3. Rounds: 3rd to 6th Proper:-					
45% Home Club					
45% Visiting Club					
10% To the FA for "Pool"					
4. Rounds: 3rd to 6th Proper Replays:-					
5% The FA					
42% Home Club					
42% Visiting Club					
10% to the FA for "Pool"					
5. Non-League Clubs versus F.A. Premier or FL Club in 3rd to 6th Proper:-					
Non-League Club			26,524	46	
F.A. Premier or FL Club			21,219	58	
FA for "Pool"			5,304	89	
			<b>53,048</b>	<b>93</b>	
<b>TROPHY</b>					
1. All Rounds prior to 1st Proper:-					
50% Home Club					
50% Visiting Club					
2. Rounds: 1st to 4th Proper					
42% Home Club					
42% Visiting Club					
15% to the FA for "Pool"					
3. Semi-Finals					
10% The FA					
32% Home Club					
32% Visiting Club					
25% to the FA for "Pool"					
<b>VASE</b>					
All Rounds prior to Final:-					
50% Home Club					
50% Visiting Club					
<b>YOUTH CUP &amp; SUNDAY CUP</b>					
All Rounds prior to Semi-Finals:-					
50% Home Club					
50% Visiting Club					

This account to be sent to:  
The Football Association, 16 Lancaster Gate, London W2 3LW within FOURTEEN days of the match.  
\*These VAT adjustments are only necessary if your Club is registered for VAT.  
†These payments not to be sent to FA

Date: 10-1-1993 Signed: Yeovil Towns Football Club

The statement of Receipts & Payments for the Arsenal FA Cup tie showing a profit of £26,524.46 for Yeovil.

**ARSENAL FOOTBALL CLUB PLC**Secretary: K. J. FRIAR  
Manager: G. GRAHAMARSENAL STADIUM  
HIGHBURY, LONDON N5 1BU  
TELEPHONE: 071-226 0304  
FAX: 071-226 0329

6th January 1993

Mr B W Moore  
Chairman  
Yeovil Town Football Club  
Huish Park  
Luffton Way  
Yeovil  
Somerset  
BA22 8YF

Dear Brian,

On behalf of us all, may I thank you most sincerely for the generous hospitality extended to us at Huish Park on Saturday, which we much enjoyed.

The stadium is quite superb and I can assure you is as good as several First Division and some Premier League clubs, and much credit must go to you and your colleagues.

Hopefully we will have the opportunity of returning to see you again soon, but meanwhile I do wish you every success with your match versus Dagenham and we shall be cheering you on to Wembley.

Yours sincerely

K J Friar  
Managing Director*The thank you letter received from Arsenal after the Cup tie.***GM Vauxhall Conference 1992-1993**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wycombe Wands	42	24	11	7	84	37	83
Bromsgrove Rovers	42	18	14	10	67	49	68
Dagenham & Red	42	19	11	12	75	47	67
Yeovil Town	42	18	12	12	59	49	66
Slough Town	42	18	11	13	60	55	65
Stafford Rangers	42	18	10	14	55	47	64
Bath City	42	15	14	13	53	46	59
Woking	42	17	8	17	58	62	59
Kidderminster Har	42	14	16	12	60	60	58
Altrincham	42	15	13	14	49	52	58
Northwich Vics	42	16	8	18	68	55	56
Stalybridge Celtic	42	13	17	12	48	55	56
Kettering Town	42	14	13	15	61	63	55
Gateshead	42	14	10	18	53	56	52
Telford United	42	14	10	18	55	60	52
Merthyr Tydfil	42	14	10	18	51	79	52
Witton Albion	42	11	17	14	62	65	50
Macclesfield Town	42	12	13	17	40	50	49
Runcorn	42	13	10	19	58	76	49
Welling United	42	12	12	18	57	72	48
Farnborough Town	42	12	11	19	68	87	47
Boston United	42	9	13	20	50	69	40

**First Team Appearances 1992-93**

D Coles 55, P Sanderson, J Sherwood 54, M Spencer 53, S Harrower 51, P Batty 48, P Ferns, P Wilson 47, N Coates 45, M Shail 43, R Cooper 39, P Nevin 36, W Dobbins, A Wallace 25, S Rutter 22, Hung Dang 8, J Williams 7, M McPherson 6, M Hughes 4, T Taylor, N Flory 3, D Leonard 2, S Sivell 1

**First Team Goalscorers 1992-93**

M Spencer 20, P Wilson 14, P Batty 11, P Sanderson 7, M Shail 4, S Harrower, P Nevin, R Cooper 3, Hung Dang, A Wallace, J Sherwood, N Coates, og 2

**Reserve Scorers 1992-93**

P Nevin, M McPherson 9, Hung Dang 7, T Taylor 5, M McEvoy, D Bright 3, M Francis, P Batty, P Wilson, M Shail, D Edwards, J Manley, N Flory, S Rutter 2, Naylor, McCann, M Spencer 1

**Youth Scorers 1992-93**

M McPherson 34, M Francis 19, A Young 13, N Flory 8, N Davis 7, M Amesbury, G Winteridge 5, J Manley 4, S Grimster 3, P Dowding, J Tong, T Gadd, C Moors, N Williams 1

**Under 17 Scorers 1992-93**

A Young 17, C Moors 13, French, Peacock 12, T Gadd 8, J Manley 3, Rolls, Milner, og 2, M Amesbury, Kemp, Copley, Langridge 1

**Neville Ovenden Football League 1992-1993**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol Rovers Res	27	18	5	4	51	35	59
Swansea City Res	27	17	6	4	76	38	57
Birmingham C Res	27	14	9	4	61	42	51
AFC Bournemouth Res	27	10	6	11	52	44	36
Yeovil Town Res	27	9	6	12	48	67	33
Cheltenham T Res	27	7	9	11	43	56	30
Cardiff City Res	27	7	8	12	48	51	29
Exeter City Res	27	8	4	15	45	60	28
Plymouth Arg Res	27	7	6	14	51	65	27
Torquay Utd Res	27	7	3	17	30	61	24

**Somerset Floodlight Youth League 1992-1993**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil Town	24	21	2	1	106	20	44
Welton Rovers	23	18	4	1	83	20	40
Winscombe	23	15	3	5	62	37	33
Weston-s-Mare	24	13	4	7	70	45	30
Bristol City	24	11	4	9	70	48	30
Paulton Rovers	24	9	7	8	55	53	25
Keynsham Town	24	9	5	10	46	46	23
Frome Town	23	8	5	10	38	55	21
Backwell United	24	7	5	12	27	47	19
Wellington	24	5	8	11	31	45	18
Nailsea United	24	6	2	16	28	47	14
Shepton Mallet	23	6	2	16	28	47	13
Cheddar	24	0	2	22	22	127	2

**Dorset County Youth League 1992-1993**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bournemouth Sports	18	12	3	3	55	18	27
Dorchester Town	18	12	3	3	45	18	27
Weymouth	18	10	4	4	53	17	24
Yeovil Town	18	8	4	6	52	35	20
Poole Town	18	8	4	6	37	20	20
Branksome	18	9	2	7	48	49	20
Bisterne United	18	6	5	7	36	28	17
Portland United	18	5	3	10	37	52	13
Sherborne Town	18	4	4	10	25	36	12
Bournemouth FC	18	0	0	18	8	116	0



## 1993-1994 and Hall back again as Town freefall

Steve Rutter's unexpected success and the interest created by the Arsenal game had boosted season ticket sales during the season of 1993, and there was more good news as the FA confirmed that Yeovil Town were exempt until the first round of the FA Cup. It seemed that the club was flavour of the month at Lancaster Gate, for during the summer they enquired as to the availability of Huish Park for a European Under 18 International against France, the reply to which was unequivocally yes. Tony Williams unstinting efforts in securing the finance for the all-weather pitch had paid dividends when it was opened in July by George Best and, with friendlies against Swansea City, Oxford United and

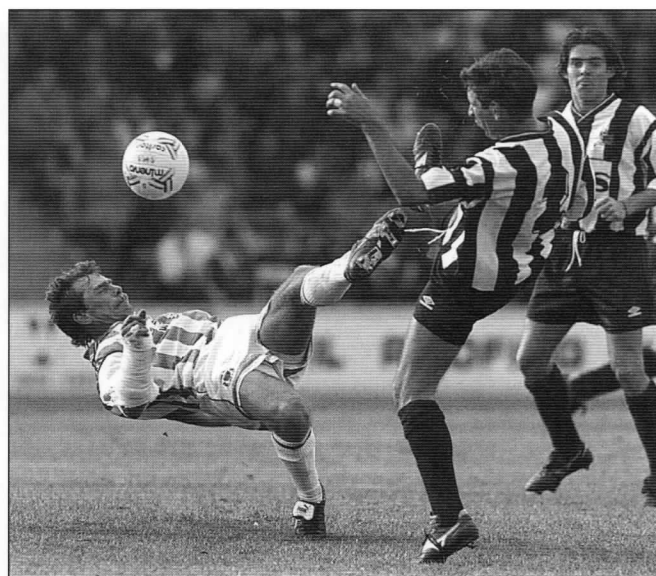
Charlton Athletic amongst others. The season began with plenty of optimism, albeit guarded. Rutter had signed Andy Bye, a 30 year old centre-half from Farnborough Town, and Andy Gorman, a young defender from Cardiff City, but the best known signing was Terry Connor, the former Bristol City striker who had been struggling with injury and would continue to do so. Elsewhere deposed manager Brian Hall had been forced to leave Wealdstone whose financial plight was on a par with that of Yeovil, but he was offered a position under Martin O'Neill at Wycombe Wanderers.

Huish Park was visited by officials of the Football League



## Season 1993-1994

21st	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	GMV Conference	2-1	Spencer, Sanderson
24th	Dagenham & Red	H	" "	2-1	Wallace pen, Wilson
28th	Stalybridge Celtic	H	" "	0-0	
30th	Telford United	A	" "	1-1	Wilson
Sept	4th	Halifax Town	A	" "	1-1 Sanderson
11th	Witton Albion	H	" "	2-0	Wallace pen, Spencer
14th	Welling United	H	" "	0-1	
18th	Stafford Rangers	A	" "	2-4	Spencer 2
21st	Slough Town	A	" "	2-5	Leonard, Wallace
25th	Macclesfield Town	H	" "	4-0	Sanderson 2, Spencer, Wilson
Oct	2nd	Northwich Vics	A	" "	1-1 Ferns
9th	Altrincham	H	" "	0-0	
16th	Kettering Town	A	" "	0-1	
23rd	Runcorn	H	" "	4-2	McPherson 2, Spencer, Rutter
25th	Frome Town	A	Som Prem Cup 2	6-0	Bye, Harrower, McPherson, Spencer, Taylor, Sanderson
30th	Gateshead	H	GMV Conference	0-2	
Nov	2nd	Bath City	A	Drinkwise Cup 2	1-0 Spencer
6th	Welling United	A	GMV Conference	0-2	
15th	Fulham	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	1-0	Wallace
20th	Dover Athletic	H	GMV Conference	1-3	Spencer
27th	Southport	A	" "	1-1	Spencer
Dec	4th	Bromsgrove Rovers	H	FA Cup 2nd Rd	0-2
11th	Bromsgrove Rovers	H	GMV Conference	2-3	Sherwood, Leonard
13th	Dagenham & Red	A	Drinkwise Cup 3	2-1	Wilson, McPherson
27th	Bath City	H	GMV Conference	1-2	Wilson
Jan	1st	Merthyr Tydfil	A	" "	1-1 Sanderson
3rd	Bath City	A	" "	0-3	
15th	Kidderminster Harr	A	" "	3-2	Wallace, Spencer, Wilson
22nd	Bath City	H	FA Trophy 1	3-3	Wilson, Spencer, Leonard
25th	Bath City	A	Replay	0-4	
29th	Kettering Town	H	GMV Conference	1-0	Spencer
Feb	1st	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	Drinkwise Cup Semi-final 1st Leg	2-1 Wilson, Sanderson
5th	Gateshead	A	GMV Conference	1-2	Spencer
17th	Weston-S-Mare	A	Som Prem Cup 3	3-1	Cooper 2, Wallace
19th	Witton Albion	A	GMV Conference	2-1	Cordice, Wilson
26th	Runcorn	A	" "	0-4	
Mar	1st	Bromsgrove Rovers	H	Drinkwise Cup Semi-final 2nd Leg	0-1
5th	Slough Town	H	GMV Conference	0-2	
12th	Northwich Vics	H	" "	0-3	
15th	Bath City	A	Somerset Prem Cup Semi-final	0-1	
19th	Altrincham	A	GMV Conference	0-1	
22nd	Stafford Rangers	H	" "	0-1	
26th	Southport	H	" "	3-2	Spencer, West, M Coates
April	2nd	Kidderminster Harr	H	" "	0-1
4th	Dagenham & Red	A	" "	1-2	Spencer
12th	Macclesfield Town	A	Drinkwise Cup Final 1st Leg	1-4	McClelland
16th	Halifax Town		GMV Conference	0-0	
19th	Macclesfield Town	H	Drinkwise Cup Fina 2nd Leg	0-0	
23rd	Dover Athletic	A	GMV Conference	2-0	Wallace, West
26th	Merthyr Tydfil	H	" "	2-2	M Coates, Wilson
28th	Stalybridge Celtic	A	" "	2-1	Ferns, Spencer
30th	Macclesfield Town	A	" "	2-1	Wilson, Spencer
May	2nd	Woking	H	" "	0-1
5th	Woking	A	" "	2-1	Wilson, Spencer
7th	Telford United	H	" "	1-0	Cooper



Paul Wilson attempts a spectacular overhead kick at goal during the home match against Altrincham 9th October 1993.

## Reserves – Season 1993-1994

Aug	18th	Exeter City Res	A	Football Comb 2	3-2
Sept	1st	Swansea City Res	A	" "	0-0
	8th	Torquay Utd Res	H	" "	1-2
	15th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	League Cup	3-4
	22nd	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	1-3
Oct	6th	AFC Bourne Res	H	Football Comb 2	1-4
	20th	Birmingham C Res	A	" "	0-2
	27th	AFC Bourne Res	H	League Cup	2-0
Nov	10th	Cardiff City Res	H	Football Comb 2	3-1
	17th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	League Cup	0-2
	24th	Exeter City Res	A	" "	2-3
Jan	19th	Plymouth Arg Res	H	Football Comb 2	1-5
	26th	Torquay Utd Res	A	" "	0-3
Feb	2nd	Hereford Utd Res	A	" "	1-8
Mar	2nd	Cheltenham T Res	A	" "	2-3
	9th	Exeter City Res	H	" "	0-2
	16th	Birmingham C Res	H	" "	1-5
	30th	Torquay Utd Res	H	League Cup	0-4
April	7th	AFC Bourne Res	A	" "	2-0
	11th	Hereford Utd Res	H	Football Comb 2	3-0
	13th	Cardiff City Res	A	" "	1-3
	20th	Swansea City Res	H	" "	2-2
	25th	Cheltenham T Res	H	" "	2-1
	27th	AFC Bourne Res	A	" "	0-1
May	4th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	" "	0-3

and not only rubber stamped, but praised by them, it being "not only a credit to the GM Conference but to the Football League itself should the club get there" ..

The poor form in the friendlies was soon forgotten as wins over Bromsgrove Rovers, Dagenham, and Witton Albion, plus three draws gave Yeovil a fine start and real prospects for another good season. Andy Wallace was again back fit and with over 3,000 at three of the first four home games, the place was buzzing once again. Yeovil incredibly were joint favourites with Slough Town for the title, and going into the home match with Welling United a win would have taken them to the top. The 1-0 reverse signalled a depressing spiral of form which saw an alarming slump, two defeats and nine goals conceded in three days. There were four goal wins over Macclesfield Town and Runcorn but the FA Cup came in the middle of a barren spell. The club announced that the previous season had seen a profit made of £40,000, thanks



**Youth – Season 1993-1994**

Sept	4th	Swansea City	H	SWCL	2-5
	6th	Torquay United	A	FA Youth Cup	1-2
	18th	Bristol Rovers	A	SWCL	3-0
	25th	Cardiff City	A	"	2-3
Oct	2nd	Cheltenham Town	H	"	4-0
	9th	Exeter City	A	"	1-5
	16th	Plymouth Argyle	A	"	1-2
	23rd	Torquay United	A	"	2-0
Nov	6th	Weymouth	H	"	7-1
	20th	Bashley	A	"	0-1
	27th	Bristol City	H	"	3-1
Dec	4th	Bristol City	A	"	2-0
	18th	Cardiff City	H	"	1-3
Jan	24th	Plymouth Argyle	H	"	1-3
	29th	Swansea City	A	"	2-1
Feb	26th	Bashley	H	"	3-2
March	5th	Weymouth	A	"	6-1
	12th	Torquay United	H	"	2-4
	19th	Exeter City	H	"	0-8
	26th	Cheltenham Town	A	"	2-0
April	14th	Plymouth Argyle	H	League Cup	2-0
	18th	Cardiff City	H	"	0-2

**Under 16's – Season 1993-1994**

Sept	12th	Dorchester Castle	H	Dorset Yth Lge	6-0
	19th	Hamworthy Royals	A	"	10-0
	26th	Hamworthy United	H	"	20-1
Oct	3rd	Mere	A	Dorset Yth Cup 1	5-0
	10th	Sturminster Newton	A	Dorset Yth Lge	27-0
	24th	Weymouth BC	A	"	9-0
	31st	Sturminster Newton	A	"	11-0
Nov	7th	West Moors	H	Dorset Yth Cup 2	25-0
	14th	Blandford RBL	H	Dorset Yth Lge	6-0
	28th	Dorchester Castle	A	"	6-1
Dec	5th	Hamworthy Royals	H	"	10-0
	19th	Mere	H	"	9-1
Jan	16th	Weymouth BC	H	"	9-0
	23rd	Sturminster Marsh	H	"	9-0
	30th	Blandford RBL	A	"	4-0
Feb	6th	Hamworthy Royals	A	Dorset Yth Cup 2	6-0
March	6th	Dexters	A	" semi-final	3-2
	13th	Sturminster Newton	A	Dorset Yth Lge	7-1
	20th	Hamworthy United	H	"	12-0
April	24th	Dorchester Castle (at Bridport FC)		Dorset Youth Cup Final	6-1

chiefly to the Arsenal game, and a marked contrast to the two seasons before which had seen losses of £356,000 incurred. The draw had been kind to Rutter and the club, for it brought a struggling Fulham to Huish Park, and with them the Sky TV crew who were most gratefully received. They were bottom of Division Two and 6,180 saw Andy Wallace score a famous injury time winner which brought another night of glory to Yeovil Town. It could and should have been a springboard to greater things after the success of last May, but instead the draw sent Bromsgrove Rovers to Huish Park.

Mickey Spencer's goals had taken him to within sight of one hundred for the club and into the top six of all-time scorers for them, and, at the other end of the scale, Malcolm McPherson's goals were enough to tempt West Ham United into paying £35,000 for him, with more should he progress.

Five days after the Fulham game the side lost at home to Dover, and Steve Rutter, having realised that he had taken an ageing side as far as he could, stepped down stating that he was "physically, emotionally and mentally drained", although

he would stay at the club, try to regain his fitness and work with the YTS alongside Paul Wilson. Paul Rodgers left again and Phil Ferns was put in charge and was forced to hear the side booed off the park after the Bromsgrove game.

From a position of relative prosperity on the field in September it had all gone wrong once again for the club and two defeats over Christmas by Bath City rubbed it in, particularly as they included Paul Adcock, a striker who had made himself available to Yeovil in the close season only to be rejected.

The vacancy once again provoked many column inches and rumours spread concerning possible incumbents, and when Brian Hall was mentioned for the position and Gerry Lock surfaced with plans for a consortium to take over at Huish Park, stating that he was "amazed at the response he had got", the feeling of *deja vu* was inevitable. There were very few names in the frame but it did include John Still and John King and indeed the latter was believed to have more or less accepted until his journey down from Manchester brought it home just how far away Yeovil was. In the end the job was given to Brian Hall once again, although he admitted that he did not apply for the job and was very apprehensive about taking it.

His cause was not helped by revelations of less than complimentary comments that he made in an earlier Wealdstone programme ridiculing Yeovil's fans and board, and as the support appeared to be divided in their feelings towards him, it was perhaps inevitable that his second reign would be even more traumatic than his initial one.

His side got off to a poor start, losing badly to Bath City in the Trophy and having Mickey Spencer sent off and then after a couple of wins the side went to Bromsgrove Rovers in the Drinkwise Cup and won after extra time to progress to the final. Hall's no nonsense approach soon saw a spate of sendings off including Phil Ferns for the third time in the season. Up front it seemed that there would never be another goal as the side went six matches without scoring, once again bringing into view the very real prospect of relegation.

Paul Rodgers had returned to the club yet again as Hall's assistant, but Paul Sanderson had departed to Barry Town, with the prospect of European football for the next season.

Crowds had plummeted through the barren goalless spell and just 1400 bothered with the Stafford match, but after 12 hours without a goal, the introduction of Marc Coates from Swanaea saw a change in fortune. David Coles was replaced by Peter Mason from Forest Green Rovers and the inspired loan signing of experienced International John McClelland at the back altered results in time to stave off relegation at the death, the winning goal and salvation coming with just five minutes left of the final game.

Brian Hall had done what he was asked to do, and that was avoid relegation, but at some cost. He had inherited an ageing side prone to injury and with the likes of McClelland, Cordice, Wilson, Spencer, Ferns and Sherwood all just either side of 30, he urgently needed some younger legs for the new season. As it turned out the stay of execution in the Conference was sadly a brief one.

**First Team Appearances 1993-94**

J Sherwood 54, M Spencer 50, D Leonard 43, D Coles 42, P Wilson, P Ferns, A Wallace 41, M Coates 40, R Cooper, S Harrower 34, P Sanderson 31, A Bye 29, W Dobbins, N Cordice 21, M McPherson 17, T Connor 15, P Mason, M West, P Nevin 13, N Coates, C White 12, I Willmott, J McClelland 10, A Gorman 7, S Rutter, K Knight, T Taylor 6, G Creaser 5, R Burke, B Rowe 1



**First Team Goalscorers 1993-94**

M Spencer 19, P Wilson 12, A Wallace, P Sanderson 7, M McPherson 4, R Cooper, D Leonard, M Coates, P Ferns, M West 2, A Bye, N Cordice, S Harrower, J McClelland, S Rutter, J Sherwood 1

**Reserve Scorers 1993-94**

Francis 4, McPherson 3, Longden, Nevin, Wallace, Taylor 2, Ferns, Hearn, Hogg, McCann, McDaid, Perkins, Rowe, Rutter, Thorpe, Tilley, Wilson, Wood, Dobbins, Rolls 1

**GM Vauxhall Conference 1993-1994**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kidderminster H	42	22	9	11	63	35	75
Kettering Town	42	19	15	8	46	24	72
Woking	42	18	13	11	58	58	67
Southport	42	18	12	12	57	51	66
Runcorn	42	14	19	9	63	57	61
Dagenham & Red	42	15	14	13	62	54	59
Macclesfield Town	42	16	11	15	48	49	59
Dover Athletic	42	17	7	18	48	49	58
Stafford Rangers	42	14	15	13	56	52	57
Altrincham	42	16	9	17	43	47	57
Gateshead	42	15	12	15	45	53	57
Bath City	42	13	17	12	47	38	56
Halifax Town	42	13	16	13	55	49	55
Stalybridge Celtic	42	14	12	16	54	55	54
Northwich Vics	42	11	19	12	44	45	52
Welling United	42	13	12	17	47	49	51
Telford United	42	13	12	17	41	49	51
Bromsgrove R	42	12	15	15	54	66	51
Yeovil Town	42	14	9	19	49	62	51
Merthyr Tydfil	42	12	15	15	60	61	49
Slough Town	42	11	14	17	44	58	47
Witton Albion	42	7	13	22	37	63	34

**Neville Ovenden Football League 1993-1994**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Birmingham C Res	18	13	1	4	53	16	40
Plymouth Arg Res	18	12	2	4	57	18	38
Swansea City Res	18	11	4	3	47	26	37
Torquay Utd Res	18	11	2	5	33	18	35
AFC Bourne Res	18	8	3	7	33	32	27
Exeter City Res	18	8	1	11	36	52	25
Hereford Utd Res	18	6	1	11	36	52	19
Cardiff City Res	18	5	3	10	27	42	14
Yeovil Town Res	18	4	2	12	21	47	14
Cheltenham T Res	18	2	1	15	14	72	7

**League Cup Table Group 1 1993-1994**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Torquay Utd Res	8	5	2	1	17	9	17
AFC Bourne Res	8	4	1	3	10	11	13
Exeter City Res	8	3	2	3	15	17	11
Plymouth Arg Res	8	3	1	4	15	14	10
Yeovil Town Res	8	2	1	6	11	18	6

**Season 1994-1995**

Aug	20th	Altrincham	H	GMV Conference	1-3	Spencer
	23rd	Merthyr Tydfil	A	" "	0-0	
	27th	Macclesfield Town	H	" "	1-2	Coates
	29th	Dover Athletic	A	" "	1-1	og
Sept	3rd	Gateshead	A	" "	3-0	McClelland, Coates, (at Newcastle Utd FC) Wilson
	6th	Bath City	H	" "	1-2	Wilson
	10th	Runcorn	H	" "	1-0	Wilson
	13th	Woking	A	" "	2-2	Wilson, Dobbins
	17th	Stafford Rangers	A	" "	1-4	Coates
	24th	Kettering Town	H	" "	1-1	Spencer
	27th	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	" "	0-5	
Oct	1st	Telford United	A	" "	0-1	
	8th	Southport	H	" "	0-1	
	11th	Woking	H	" "	1-2	Wilson
	15th	Macclesfield Town	A	" "	0-1	
	22nd	Walton & Hershaw	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	2-3	Cordice, Wallace
	25th	Merthyr Tydfil	H	GMV Conference	1-3	Wilson
	29th	Stalybridge Celtic	H	" "	3-0	Morris, Wilson, Spence
Nov	1st	Dagenham & Red	H	Bob Lord Trop 2	2-4	Ferns, Cooper
	5th	Welling United	A	GMV Conference	1-2	Morris
	19th	Halifax Town	H	" "	3-1	White, M Coates 2
	26th	Northwich Vics	A	" "	2-2	Wallace, Wilson
	29th	Weston-S-Mare	H	Som Prem Cup 2	1-2	Spencer
Dec	3rd	Dagenham & Red	A	GMV Conference	0-0	
	10th	Kidderminster Harr	H	" "	1-1	Wilson
	17th	Stevenage Borough	A	" "	0-5	
	26th	Farnborough Town	H	" "	0-1	
Jan	7th	Dagenham & Red	H	" "	2-2	Evans, Wallace
	14th	Altrincham	A	" "	3-1	Wilson 2, Spencer
	21st	Chelmsford City	A	FA Trophy 1	4-2	Spencer, Benbow, M Coates 2
	28th	Bromsgrove Rovers	H	GMV Conference	2-0	Conning, Cooper
Feb	4th	Kidderminster Harr	A	" "	0-3	
	18th	Stalybridge Celtic	A	" "	1-3	Cooper
	20th	Stevenage Borough	H	FA Trophy 2	1-1	Coll
	27th	Stevenage Borough	A	Replay	0-2	
March	4th	Dover Athletic	H	GMV Conference	1-3	og
	11th	Runcorn	A	" "	1-2	Black
	14th	Stevenage Borough	H	" "	0-0	
	18th	Farnborough Town	A	" "	3-0	Whale, Black, Evans
	25th	Halifax Town	A	" "	1-2	Black
April	1st	Stafford Rangers	H	" "	1-0	Black
	8th	Southport	A	" "	0-0	
	17th	Bath City	A	" "	0-3	
	22nd	Telford United	H	" "	1-1	Wilson
	25th	Gateshead	H	" "	1-1	Evans
	29th	Kettering Town	A	" "	2-3	Wilson, Black
May	2nd	Welling United	H	" "	3-3	Dillon, Brock, Wilson
	6th	Northwich Vics	H	" "	4-4	Dillon pen, Brock, Wilson, Evans

The fall in attendances was significant, but the club was the best supported in the Conference, but loyalty would be tested to the limit in the months to come. The new manager radically altered the squad, bringing in Ian Benbow, another centre-forward from Merthyr Tydfil, Richard Evans, a winger from Bristol Rovers and Dave Morris, a utility player from AFC Bournemouth. Joining them was Peter Conning, back again with a year's contract. The financial side was still desperate, although with the unstinting efforts of Bryan Moore and his board, backed by the expertise of Alan Skirton and his staff, the tide, although perhaps not turning, was not overwhelming the club as it had been, indeed, at the AGM held on 14th November 1994 a profit of £90,000 was announced for the previous season. Sadly events on the pitch

## Reserves – Season 1994-1995

Aug	24th	Exeter City Res	H	Avon Ins Comb	0-2
	31st	Plymouth Arg Res	A	League Cup	2-7
Sept	7th	Torquay Utd Res	A	Avon Ins Comb	3-2
	21st	Swansea City Res	A	" "	1-1
	28th	AFC Bourne Res	H	" "	1-3
Oct	3rd	Exeter City Res	H	League Cup	1-1
	5th	Plymouth Arg Res	A	Avon Ins Comb	1-3
	12th	Torquay Utd Res	A	League Cup	1-3
	19th	Birmingham C Res	H	Avon Ins Comb	2-3
Nov	1st	AFC Bourne Res	A	League Cup	2-4
	16th	AFC Bourne Res	H	" "	1-2
	23rd	Hereford Utd Res	A	" "	1-1
	30th	Torquay Utd Res	H	" "	0-2
Dec	14th	Bath City Res	H	Avon Ins Comb	4-0
Jan	18th	Cardiff City Res	A	" "	2-6
Feb	22nd	Cheltenham T Res	A	" "	1-1
Mar	1st	AFC Bourne Res	A	" "	0-5
	15th	Bath City Res	A	" "	2-5
	20th	Birmingham C Res	A	" "	3-3
	22nd	Torquay Utd Res	H	" "	0-4
April	10th	Swansea City Res	H	" "	3-4
	12th	Plymouth Arg Res	H	League Cup	2-0
	19th	Cardiff City Res	H	Avon Ins Comb	1-3
	26th	Hereford Utd Res	H	" "	1-3
May	3rd	Plymouth Arg Res	H	" "	
		Cheltenham T Res	H	" "	

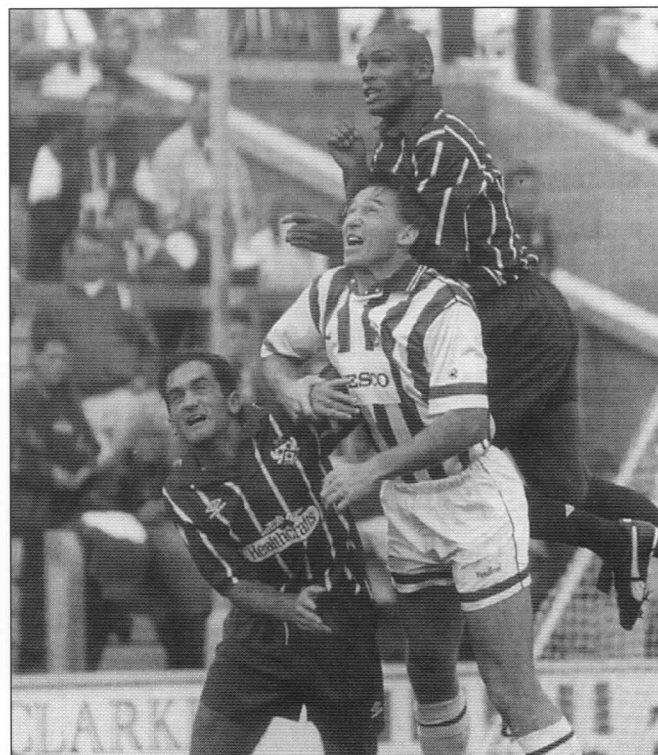
were not helping, for two defeats and two draws were not the ideal start, especially with Evans being sent off on his debut. Crowds had dropped by a thousand from the same time the previous year, but spirits rose with the news that Coventry City were interested in Mark Shail who was now playing well for Bristol City, a figure of £1m being bandied about. The 25% clause for Yeovil would halve the debts in one swoop, but the big money transfer did not materialise.

Tiv Lowe returned from a stint in the USA to find himself given the number two job to Brian Hall and he must have wondered what he had signed up for, as the Woking game away degenerated into a farce with Wayne Dobbins sent off and no less than thirteen players booked, nine from Yeovil. There were two more heavy defeats including a 5-0 at Bromsgrove where six more were cautioned and it seemed time was running out for Brian Hall as results and discipline collapsed. With the supporters, boardroom and management all seeming at loggerheads with each other, yet again it was crisis time at Huish Park.

The FA Cup came at the worst possible moment and ironically the draw took Brian Hall back to the scene of one of his best times, Stompond Lane, Walton and Hersham. Without a win for eight games and with rumours of anti-Hall demonstrations, goals from Neil Cordice and Andy Wallace were not enough to prevent a 3-2 defeat. The travelling



Yeovil Town playing at St James' Park, Newcastle against Gateshead on 3rd September 1994. Yeovil won 3-0.



Above: Kettering Town's Steve Holden climbs over the top of John McClland as they tussle for this Yeovil corner with Robin Taylor.

Photo: Len Copland

supporters were not long in showing their anger at what was an unpleasant day for all concerned. Chairman Bryan Moore was much later to describe it as "one of the worst days of my entire life". When the side lost 3-1 to Merthyr Tydfil on the following Tuesday, the anger boiled over as mounted police were called to disperse a demonstration which, although peaceful, went on until 11pm.

A beleaguered board stated that they would happily hand over should a consortium with money come along. They could not afford to sack Brian Hall but conversely, they could ill afford to see the situation continue. There were soon a number of faces mentioned with regards to taking over the running of the club, among them Brian Hillier, formerly in charge at Swindon Town, John Fry who was already on the board and who had recently sold his business interests and would be available almost full-time and Gerry Lock who had continued to follow the fortunes of his former club from afar has got together a consortium who expressed an interest but nothing further was heard from them.

The press were having a field day, speculation having been rife for some time. Plenty of column inches were made available for fans views, but perhaps it was just one comment that pinpointed so much of the root of the trouble. In referring to Yeovil's FA Cup opponents Walton and Hersham in an article, they were described as "FA Cup minnows". At the time the Surrey club were only a handful of positions below Yeovil, albeit in a lower division, but the thought that the Glovers were still far in advance of teams such as them showed that perhaps too many, from the press through the supporters to the club itself, still saw Yeovil Town as being all but in the Football League, when the truth was sadly some distance from that.

Christmas arrived with the side having been castigated for making little effort in a 5-0 hiding at Stevenage Borough with Graham Roberts running the show for the home side. Brian Hall was told that his budget was to be shaved further and that he was to make further cuts, but it would be the last major contribution as he was sacked in the first week of the

new year, having negotiated a financial package. "I have no bitterness whatsoever, I love Yeovil Town and feel desperately sorry for Bryan Moore who lives for the club", he later stated. He went to make way for Tiv Lowe and Paul Wilson who were put in charge until the appointment of a new man. Brian Hall had enjoyed a superb career and had achieved the ultimate challenge when taking Wealdstone to the double before his first spell, but he had the misfortune to return to his two previous clubs when they were enduring the worst financial times in their long histories. Whilst never fully being taken to by the crowd, his commitment was never questioned although his methods occasionally were, particularly in view of the disciplinary problems.

There was some delay in the arrival of the new man, with once again conjecture putting the likes of Terry Cooper, Bobby Gould, John Still, Stuart Morgan and Tony Pulis in the frame. Eventually he was announced at the same time as the new boardroom changes, and Yeovil said welcome to the imposing figure of Graham Roberts. With him would come a wealth of experience gained through the echelons of football, from Sholing Sports, Dorchester Town, Weymouth, Tottenham Hotspur, Glasgow Rangers, Chelsea, West Bromwich Albion, Enfield, Slough Town and Stevenage Borough. His appointment came too late to stave off relegation, but just as it did when the club was first relegated, it proved to be the catalyst to greater things.

He brought no less than six players with him, as the Hall era was soon erased. Amongst the new squad were Kevin Dillon, the former Birmingham City hard man, Kevin Brock from Newcastle United and Lee Powell a ball player who was talked of as a match winner. Sadly the signing began an unseemly tussle when Stevenage demanded £25,000 for the player-manager who was 35 years of age. Yeovil quite rightly would not, and could not, pay that kind of fee, but Stevenage refused to release him, thus denying him the chance to play in his own team. There were several new faces for the first game, a defeat at Kidderminster, including Leroy Whale and Andy Llewellyn, but it was to be Andy Wallace's last game, for he was listed at £15,000.

During February the club announced that there would be no take over and an EGM was called where the new plans regarding the upping of share capital was discussed. At long last it seemed that the long term financial side was showing signs of stability and a new manager in situ, it was ironic that relegation was almost a foregone conclusion.

The Stevenage saga continued when they beat Yeovil in a Trophy replay, the respective chairmen Bryan Moore and Victor Green rowing after failing to come to an agreement regarding Graham Roberts' transfer fee, Stevenage would still not drop their £25,000 asking price. Andy Wallace went off to Dagenham and Redbridge, after seven years, 298 appearances and 61 goals, a performance which elevated him into both all-time top twenty lists for the club. It was also farewell to Mickey Spencer who moved to Bath City after 281 appearances and 104 goals, the fourth highest post-War goalscorer.

Yeovil continued to cling to the belief that they may somehow escape relegation as a possible increase in playing membership was announced which would mean only one club going down, leaving a straight race between Town and Stafford Rangers. In the end it was irrelevant as Town finished bottom and dropped back into the Isthmian League to regroup and lick their not inconsiderable wounds.

#### First Team Appearances 1994-95

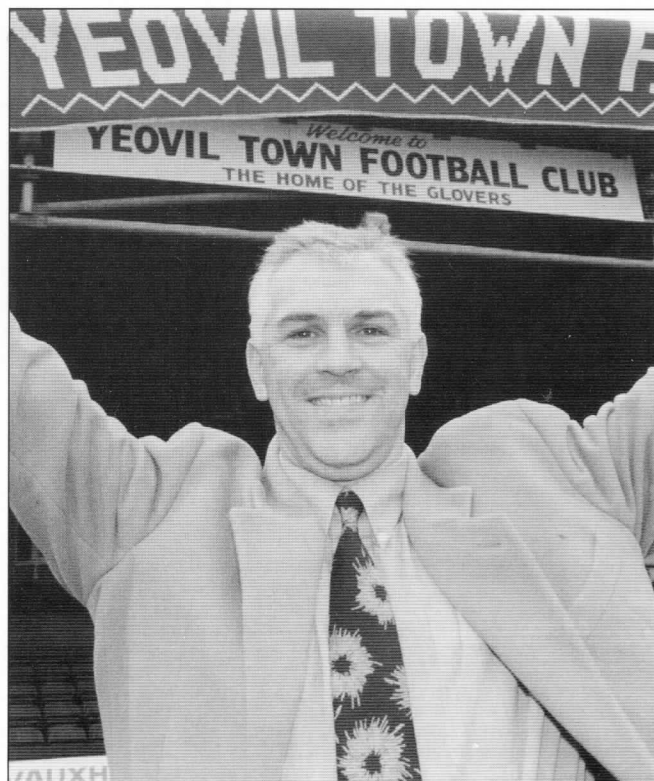
P Mason 53, N Cordice 47, P Wilson 44, C White 39, R Evans 37, P Conning 35, M Spencer 33, M Coates 31, I Benbow, P Ferns 30, R Cooper 27, D Morris, A Wallace 25, J McClelland 23, K Brock, A Llewellyn 19, J Sherwood 18, K Dillon, W Dobbins 17, S Black, L Powell 13, L Hornby 12, L Whale 11, A Flory, N Williams 8, O Coll, N Le Bihan, L Groves 6, T Lowe 3, D Burwood, S Milne, S Sivell 2, L Clevely, M Leonard, A Wratten 1

#### First Team Scorers 1994-95

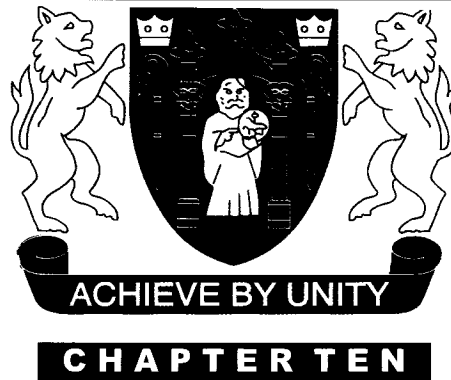
P Wilson 14, M Coates 9, M Spencer 8, S Black, A Wallace 4, R Cooper, L Groves 3, I Benbow, O Coll, N Cordice, R Evans, D Morris, L Whale 2, K Brock, W Dobbins, P Ferns, J McClelland, C White 1

#### GM Vauxhall Conference 1994-1995

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Macclesfield Town	42	24	8	10	70	40	80
Woking	42	21	12	9	76	54	75
Southport	42	21	9	12	68	50	72
Altrincham	42	20	8	14	77	60	68
Stevenage Borough	42	20	7	15	68	49	67
Kettering Town	42	19	10	13	73	56	67
Gateshead	42	19	10	13	61	53	67
Halifax Town	42	17	12	13	68	54	63
Runcorn	42	16	10	16	59	71	58
Northwich Vics	42	14	15	13	77	66	57
Kidderminster H	42	16	9	17	63	61	57
Bath City	42	15	12	15	55	56	57
Bromsgrove Rovers	42	14	13	15	66	69	55
Farnborough Town	42	15	10	17	45	64	55
Dagenham & Red	42	13	13	16	58	69	52
Dover Athletic	42	11	16	15	48	55	49
Welling United	42	13	10	19	57	74	49
Stalybridge Celtic	42	11	14	17	52	72	47
Telford United	42	10	16	16	53	62	46
Merthyr Tydfil	42	11	11	20	53	63	44
Stafford Rangers	42	8	11	22	53	79	38
Yeovil Town	42	8	14	20	50	71	37



Graham Roberts – Yeovil's player manager



## Bring back the crowds

**Graham Roberts edict was pure and simple, produce a brand of football to bring back the crowds and gain promotion back to the Conference, where with the finance in position the club could at last realistically push for entry to the Football League.**

It looked to be the best chance the club had had for many years to put it all together and the hectic pre-season schedule which included matches with Plymouth Argyle, Dorchester Town, Slough Town and Portsmouth showed that there was no room for complacency.

The main attraction was a testimonial match for Nicky Tanner, the west countryman whose career at Liverpool had been ended by a persistent back injury. The match had been switched from Bristol Rovers and could have been taken to Swindon Town, but Huish Park staged it and over 7,000 witnessed a match perfectly designed to whet the appetite for what would surely be a more successful season.

Graham Roberts soon stamped his mark on the squad, signing Tony Pennock from Hereford United to fill the

goalkeeping spot, Graham Kemp from Newbury and Nick Burton, a centre half, along with Mickey Engwell, who not only played for Grays Athletic but lived overlooking their ground in Essex.

The public took a while to warm to ICIS League football, as did the team, but Warren Patmore and Martin St Hilaire soon got things moving, the former with four goals against Walton and Hershaw and the latter with five goals in five games. It was a false dawn though, as September saw four defeats and two draws which left Yeovil half way up the table, a position that did not impress many of the more vociferous amongst the regular supporters.

Chief Executive John Fry meanwhile announced that there would be more cuts throughout the club, although happily for Roberts, not on the playing side. One player to leave the club in October was Paul Wilson, who took the job of youth coach at Scunthorpe United, a move which would ultimately lead to a bit of history during the following season when



*Warren Patmore scores during the 12-0 win against Chard in the Somerset Premier Cup*



## Season 1995-1996

Aug	19th	Aylesbury United	A	Icis Premier Div	1-3	St Hilaire
	26th	Grays Athletic	H	"	1-0	St Hilaire
	28th	Walton & Hersham	H	"	4-1	Patmore 4
Sept	2nd	Chertsey Town	A	"	1-3	St Hilaire 3
	5th	Hendon	H	Guard Ins Cup 1	1-3	Groves
	9th	Hitchin Town	H	Icis Premier Div	1-1	Patmore
	16th	Kingstonian	A	"	2-2	Engwell, St Hilaire
	23rd	Bishop's Stortford	H	"	1-3	Whale
	25th	Carshalton Athletic	A	"	1-2	St Hilaire
	30th	Boreham Wood	H	"	0-1	
Oct	7th	Yeading	H	"	2-0	Whale, Patmore
	14th	St Albans City	A	"	2-2	Browne, Patmore
	17th	Chard Town	A	Som Prem Cup	12-0	Burton, Patmore
	21st	Farnborough Town	A	FA Cup 4th Qual	1-2	Patmore
	28th	Bromley	A	Icis Premier Div	5-1	Dillon, Patmore 2, St.Hilaire, Burton
Nov	4th	Worthing	H	"	3-1	Grazioli, Dillon, Patmore
	11th	Molesey	A	"	3-2	Grazioli 2, Seymour
	15th	Brislington	A	Som Prem Cup 2	1-2	Doherty
	18th	Purfleet	A	Icis Premier Div	3-0	Grazioli 2, Patmore
	21st	Chertsey Town	A	Carlton Cup 1	2-0	Grazioli, Patmore
	25th	Dulwich Hamlet	H	Icis Premier Div	5-3	Grazioli, Patmore 2, Kemp, Browne
Dec	9th	Hayes	H	"	3-0	Grazioli 2, Seymour
	16th	Enfield	A	"	1-2	Patmore
	23rd	Chertsey Town	H	"	1-0	Burton
	26th	Worthing	A	"	2-3	Grazioli, Patmore
Jan	1st	Hendon	H	"	4-1	Grazioli 2, Patmore, St.Hilaire
	6th	Bishop's Stortford	A	"	2-2	Grazioli 2
	8th	Carshalton Athletic	A	Carlton Cup 2	1-2	Birkby
	13th	Hitchin Town	A	Icis Premier Div	2-1	Grazioli 2
	21st	Bath City	A	FA Trophy 1	1-1	Patmore
	23rd	Bath City	H	Replay	2-3	Whale 2
Feb	3rd	Carshalton Athletic	H	Icis Premier Div	2-1	Whale, Birkby
	10th	Harrow Borough	H	"	0-0	
	17th	Kingstonian	H	"	1-1	Birkby
	24th	Bromley	H	"	4-3	Braybrooke, Whale, Patmore, St.Hilaire
	27th	Sutton United	A	"	1-1	Whale
Mar	2nd	Walton & Hersham	A	"	3-1	Egwell, Seymour, Birkby
	9th	St Albans City	H	"	1-1	Seymour
	16th	Yeading	A	"	1-1	Whale
	23rd	Molesey	H	"	3-2	Patmore 2, St Hilaire
	26th	Grays Athletic	A	"	2-0	Birkby, og
	30th	Harrow Borough	A	"	1-0	Patmore
April	2nd	Purfleet	H	"	2-1	Patmore, Birkby
	6th	Hendon	A	"	3-1	Nugent, Patmore 2
	13th	Dulwich Hamlet	A	"	1-2	Birkby
	16th	Aylesbury United	H	"	3-2	Birkby, Lych, Laidlaw
	20th	Sutton United	H	"	0-0	
	27th	Hayes	A	"	1-1	Roberts
	30th	Boreham Wood	A	"	2-0	White, Laidlaw
May	4th	Enfield	H	"	0-1	

having had a few matches in the reserves at centre half, he came on as a substitute to make his League debut at the age of 36, the oldest player for over 60 years to do so.

Steve Browne trod the by now well worn path from Wealdstone to Huish Park, but having sadly gone out of the FA Cup at Farnborough Town the manager took on loan Guiliano Grazioli, a striker from Peterborough United and he turned the tide with seven goals in his first five matches for the Glovers. Suspensions were beginning to hit the squad and Richard Nugent was the next to sign for Graham Roberts,



Martin St.Hilaire in action against Boreham Wood

from Stevenage around the time that the news came through that another of the heroes of Alec Stock's Sunderland side, Eric Bryant who scored the winner, had lost his fight against Cancer at the age of 74. It left six survivors of that great day nearly fifty years earlier.

The New Year's day win over Hendon saw Yeovil fourth, and took Grazioli's total to sixteen in thirteen games, and with new man Dean Birkby in the wings there was still hope that the title might come the way of Huish or failing that, then Enfield, who were favourites at the time, would not be eligible to go up.

The FA Trophy pitted Town with old rivals Bath City, and the tie which went to a replay, attracted some 5,000 people in total, the replay, a fierce affair at Huish Park, going the distance, with an own goal winning it for City after Town had thrown away a 2-0 lead against ten men.

The result and lack of concentration did not please the fans nor indeed John Fry who was not slow in showing his displeasure, and when Grazioli scored a hat-trick for rivals Enfield having moved there on loan following his spell at Yeovil, Roberts' short temper shortened even further.

Through February and March the side dropped valuable points which made the task in hand even more difficult, but the flowing football had increased the crowds, nearly 3,000 seeing the match with St Albans City. Sadly the pressure





Warren Patmore in action for Yeovil

### ICIS Premier League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hayes	42	24	14	4	76	32	86
Enfield	42	26	8	8	78	35	86
Boreham Wood	42	24	11	7	69	29	83
Yeovil Town	42	23	11	8	83	51	80
Dulwich Hamlet	42	23	11	8	85	59	80
Carshalton Athletic	42	22	8	12	68	49	74
St Albans City	42	20	12	10	70	41	72
Kingstonian	42	20	11	11	62	38	71
Harrow Borough	42	19	10	13	70	50	67
Sutton United	42	17	14	11	71	56	65
Aylesbury United	42	17	12	13	71	58	63
Bishop's Stortford	42	16	9	17	61	62	57
Yeading	42	11	14	17	48	60	47
Hendon	42	12	10	20	52	65	46
Chertsey Town	42	13	6	23	45	71	45
Purfleet	42	12	8	22	48	67	44
Grays Athletic	42	11	11	20	43	63	44
Hitchin Town	42	10	10	22	41	74	40
Bromley	42	10	7	25	52	91	37
Molesey	42	9	9	24	46	81	36
Walton & Hersham	42	9	7	26	42	79	34
Worthing	42	4	7	31	42	109	19



Graham Kemp in action for Yeovil against Hitchin





Dean Birkby wins the ball and sets up another chance for Yeovil against Harrow Borough

was telling in some quarters and after a dismal draw at Yeading, Roberts clashed with some travelling supporters.

A run of five straight wins appeared most, but by then it was seemingly between Enfield and Hayes, with the last game involving Yeovil who were entertaining Enfield. 3,800 saw the Londoners win 1-0, but their elation turned to sorrow when Hayes scored a crucial goal late in their game which gave them the title by the narrowest of margins. Sadly again violence marred the end of the game, which led to a number of local men being barred and subsequently prosecuted.

In the end Yeovil finished fourth, just three points behind the champions, having scored more goals than the top three. Tony Pennock was made Player of the Year, he being ever present and the side managed to score in every away game, a feat unparalleled in their 99 year history.

It was a season which on reflection was important to Yeovil Town, in that they once again got back into the habit of winning matches on a regular basis. It was the perfect base for a tilt at the title and a third crack at Conference football.

Within twelve months the club would, arguably for the first time, be in a position to make their presence felt at the top level, but there was the little matter of the Isthmian League and in particular Enfield Football Club to get past before that could become a reality.

#### First Team Appearances 1995-1996

T Pennock 50, W Patmore 45, M Engwell, M St Hilaire 44, L Francis 43, G Kemp 42, L Whale, C White 41, K Dillon 34, S Browne 31, N Burton, C Seymour 29, L Groves, G Roberts 27, R Nugent 25, D Birkby 17, K Doherty 15, G Grazioli 13, K Braybrooke 12, J Laidlaw 9, A Flory 8, N Williams 6, A-J Hannigan 5, T Lynch 4, D Burwood 3, A Smith 2, A Buse, W Farnell-Jack 1

#### First Team Scorers 1995-1996

W Patmore 27, G Grazioli 16, M St Hilaire 11, L Whale 9, D Birkby 8, C Seymour 4, N Burton 3, S Browne, K Dillon, M Engwell, J Laidlaw 2, K Braybrooke, K Doherty, G Kemp, T Lynch, R Nugent, G Roberts, C White 1





Kevin Braybrooke goes close for Yeovil in their first Icis Premier League match away at Grays Athletic which The Glovers won 3-2

## *Light at the end of the tunnel as Roberts gains Promotion....*

The 1996-97 season was heralded by a big change round behind the scenes as Bryan Moore decided not to stand for chairman after five and a half years, paving the way for John Fry to be elected. John had been on the board for two years as an unpaid chief executive and had had a very significant role in reducing what had become a huge debt rumoured to be around seven figures. He had implemented an intricate policy involving banks and businesses and alongside him had been close friend Fred Lewis, then in his late 60s, who had himself been working long hours for the cause.

Prospective backers had made it clear that a new style of leadership was required on and off the field and the new man soon began to lay out his plan for the club. At the top it would be split into a commercial business operation and a separate one involving the football side, of which there was a five year plan to see the club in the Football League and another twice as long, which would see the ground transformed in various ways including the covering of both ends at Huish Park.

The new chairman soon announced that the club would reform its reserve side and improve the pitch drainage and there would also be a director of coaching.

The announcement of a new reserve team coincided with new sponsorship by Yeovil company Screwfix Direct of the Western League to the tune of £100,000, backed by founder Jon Goddard-Watts who was to have an increasingly important role to play in the coming years.

Graham Roberts had come within four points of promotion,

but there were a few amongst the supporters who believed that another season in the ICIS League was no bad thing, after the traumas of Conference life.

Naturally it meant that they were no nearer the dream of League football, but with the financial vultures still circling overhead, another season at the top rather than struggling near the bottom seemed a good bet. Few could have predicted just what an astonishing season it would turn out to be.

Having lost in the fourth qualifying round of the Cup twice running, Yeovil were forced to begin at the beginning, or near enough, in September as decreed by FA rules, and



Tony Pounder miss times his tackle against Kingstonian



## Season 1996-1997

Aug	17th	Grays Athletic	A Icis Premier Div	3-2	Harvey, Patmore 2
	20th	Dagenham & Red	H " "	0-0	
	24th	Bromley	H " "	1-0	Turner
	26th	Hitchin Town	A " "	1-0	Patmore
	31st	Dulwich Hamlet	A " "	1-4	Turner
Sept	3rd	Molesey	H Guard Ins Cup 1	6-1	Harvey 2, Moors 2, Laidlaw, Gill
	7th	Hendon	H Icis Premier Div	2-0	Gill, Harvey
	14th	Backwell United	H FA Cup 1st Qual	6-0	Patmore 3, Gill, Harvey, Turner
	17th	Carshalton Athletic	H Icis Premier Div	3-0	Gill, Engwell, Moors
	21st	Kingstonian	A " "	3-0	Gill, Patmore, Laidlaw
	28th	Taunton Town	H FA Cup 2nd Qual	0-0	
	30th	Taunton Town	A Replay	5-3	Birkby, Turner, Patmore 2, Gill
Oct	5th	Harrow Borough	H Icis Premier Div	2-1	Patmore, Turner
	12th	Tiverton Town	A FA Cup 3rd Qual	2-0	Patmore, Seymour
	19th	St Albans City	A Icis Premier Div	3-2	Patmore, Gill, Birkby
	22nd	Yeading	H " "	2-0	Whale, Harvey pen
	26th	Merthyr Tydfil	A FA Cup 4th Qual	1-2	Gill
Nov	2nd	Aylesbury United	A Icis Premier Div	0-0	
	5th	Yeading	A Guard Ins Cup 2	1-1	Patmore
	9th	Enfield	A Icis Premier Div	0-3	
	12th	Boreham Wood	A " "	3-0	Gill 2, Kemp
	16th	Sutton United	H " "	3-2	Birkby 2, Patmore
	23rd	Purfleet	A " "	1-1	Moors
	26th	Yeading	H Guard Ins 2 Rep	0-1	
	30th	Evesham United	H FA Trop 3rd Qual	2-0	Birkby, Turner
Dec	3rd	Frome Town	H Som Prem Cup 2	7-0	Birkby 2, Patmore 2, Moors, Pounder, Braybrooke
	7th	Chertsey Town	A Icis Premier Div	2-0	Birkby pen, Patmore
	14th	Heybridge Swifts	H " "	1-0	Birkby
	21st	Bishop's Stortford	A " "	1-0	Birkby
	26th	Oxford City	H " "	0-0	Abandoned
	28th	Grays Athletic	H " "	2-0	Patmore 2
Jan	11th	Carshalton Athletic	H Full Members 2	2-0	Birkby, Gill
	18th	Hayes	H FA Trophy 1	2-2	Birkby 2
	21st	Hayes	A Replay	2-2 aet	Patmore, Engwell
	25th	Dagenham & Red	A Icis Premier Div	1-0	Birkby
	27th	Hayes	H FAT 1st 2nd Rep	1-2	Harvey pen
Feb	1st	Hitchin Town	H Icis Premier Div	1-0	Forinton
	8th	Carshalton Athletic	A " "	1-0	Fielder
	11th	Bognor Regis Town	H Full Members 3	3-2	Moors, Laidlaw, Pounder
	15th	Kingstonian	H Icis Premier Div	2-3	Forinton 2
	22nd	St Albans City	H " "	3-1	Gill, Patmore, Forinton pen
	26th	Paulton Rovers	A Som Prem Cup 3	1-0	White
Mar	1st	Yeading	A Icis Premier Div	0-0	
	4th	Dulwich Hamlet	H " "	6-1	Forinton 3, Turner, Fielder, Birkby
	8th	Harrow Borough	A " "	3-2	Gill, Turner, Birkby
	11th	Hendon	A " "	3-1	Forinton, Birkby, Gill
	13th	Brislington	H Somerset Premier Cup Semi-final	4-2	Forinton 2, Pounder, Turner
	15th	Boreham Wood	H Icis Premier Div	0-0	
	18th	Maidenhead United	H Full Members 4	0-1	
	22nd	Aylesbury United	H Icis Premier Div	3-2	Forinton 2, Gill
	25th	Enfield	H " "	2-2	Engwell, Turner
	29th	Staines Town	A " "	1-1	Patmore
	31st	Oxford City	A " "	2-0	Patmore 2
April	5th	Bishop's Stortford	H " "	1-0	Forinton
	8th	Staines Town	H " "	3-1	Forinton 2, Patmore

## Season 1996-1997 continued

	12th	Sutton United	A " "	3-0	Forinton 2, Patmore
	19th	Purfleet	H " "	4-3	Forinton 2, Patmore, Turner
	22nd	Oxford City	H " "	4-1	Forinton 2, Patmore 2
	26th	Heybridge Swifts	A " "	0-0	
	29th	Bromley	A " "	2-1	Forinton 2
May	3rd	Chertsey Town	H " "	4-0	Forinton 2, Pennock pen, Turner
	7th	Bristol City	H Somerset Premier Cup Final	2-1	Forinton, Gill

those extra rounds, should they survive, along with two League Cups, a county cup and the Trophy, meant that the squad were facing an awesome season.

Recognising this Graham Roberts brought Tony Pounder back to the club some ten years after his initial spell and a long League career with Bristol Rovers and Hereford United. Bath City had been experiencing desperate financial difficulties and after they had made Jerry Gill and Rob Cousins available, they were both snapped up for £15,000.

Martin St Hilaire left the club after a year but two old faces were back in Maurice O'Donnell, helping run the reserves who had reformed and Terry Cotton who was made assistant manager 25 years after first arriving at Huish. Enfield skipper Paul Turner and young West Ham United youth player Chris Moors also signed as the friendlies got under way.

Three wins and a draw was a fine start but a stunning 4-1 defeat at Dulwich Hamlet brought everyone back down to earth. Chris Moors and Jamie Laidlaw, son of ex-Pompey favourite Joe Laidlaw, led the line in the League Cup tie with Molesey and a fortnight later Warren Patmore scored three out of another six against Backwell United in the Cup, the match having wisely been switched to Huish.

Carshalton and Kingstonian were both beaten to put the



Gerry Gill beats a Kingstonian player during Yeovil's 3-2 defeat by the Surrey side





The lads celebrate after winning The Icis Premier League.

### Reserves 1996-1997

Aug	17th	Devizes Town	H	Screwfix Div 1	1-2
	21st	Glastonbury	A	"	2-1
	24th	Ilfracombe Town	A	"	2-0
	28th	Amesbury Town	H	"	5-0
Sept	7th	Clyst Rovers	A	"	1-3
	14th	Bishop Sutton	A	"	1-4
	18th	Crediton United	A	"	3-3
	21st	Warminster Town	H	"	0-1
	25th	Exmouth Town	H	"	5-3
Oct	5th	Heavitree United	A	"	0-0
	12th	Dawlish Town	A	"	0-3
	16th	Frome Town	H	"	3-0
	19th	Paulton Rovers	A	League Cup	0-2
	22nd	Melksham Town	A	Screwfix Div 1	1-6
	30th	Glastonbury	H	"	2-2
Nov	2nd	Bishop Sutton	H	"	0-2
	16th	Wellington	A	"	1-7
	23rd	Welton Rovers	H	"	2-4
	26th	Exmouth Town	A	"	3-3
	30th	Larkhall Athletic	A	"	2-1
Dec	7th	Ilfracombe Town	H	"	4-1
	11th	Larkhall Athletic	H	"	3-5
	14th	Pewsey Vale	A	"	2-1
Jan	11th	Keynsham Town	H	"	0-2
	18th	Devizes Town	A	"	1-3
	25th	Dawlish Town	H	"	3-2
Feb	1st	Welton Rovers	A	"	2-2
	15th	Amesbury Town	A	"	1-1
March	1st	Clyst Rovers	H	"	0-2
	10th	Pewsey Vale	H	"	4-0
	15th	Minehead	A	"	1-3
	22nd	Keynsham Town	A	"	0-1
	29th	Crediton United	H	"	3-2
April	5th	Frome Town	A	"	1-1
	9th	Wellington	H	"	0-0
	12th	Minehead	H	"	1-2
	15th	Heavitree United	H	"	5-0
	19th	Warminster Town	A	"	1-2
	29th	Melksham Town	H	"	0-2

Glovers top of the table, but the relative calm and bonhomie was shattered in the next round of the Cup, when Town were drawn against Taunton Town, from the Western League.

3,300 saw the visitors earn a replay at Wordsworth Drive which made the national papers for all the wrong reasons. In a pulsating game Yeovil eventually won 5-3, but it was at a cost as trouble erupted after the game. Blame was put squarely on the shoulders of the home club but shortly after Graham Roberts was charged with public order offences, although he was eventually cleared.

Tiverton were safely negotiated in the next round and with three more league wins and a couple of Manager of the Month awards under his belt it was not long before he began to attract offers from elsewhere. Kettering Town's offer was tempting but it caused a rift between the manager and John Fry and having again gone out of the Cup in the qualifying stages, this time to Merthyr Tydfil, there were problems. Tony Pennock's impressive run in goal came to an end courtesy of appendicitis in November, and with no other keeper available Chris Seymour deputised to great applause at Boreham Wood.

There was little if any applause after the League Cup game with Yeading, as the squad were fined a third of their wages for a poor performance. Wins in the Trophy and the Premier Cup followed, with the latter being watched by 251, the lowest crowd for a first team game since the War - a result not of poor performances but more of the public's disinterest in a competition which was rarely publicised and often treated with disdain.

Christmas came with Yeovil once again challenging Enfield in a one horse race, Hayes having been promoted and Boreham Wood faded since the last battle. Colin Fielder, a 32 year old midfielder with a wealth of experience signed from Woking as news broke that another of the Sunderland heroes had passed away, in Les Blizzard.

With suspensions looming and a heavy workload ahead, Graham Roberts made his most astute signing to date when snapping up Oxford City striker Howard Forinton for a record fee of around £17,000. It showed the supporters that the club meant business and with seventeen goals in twenty six games for City, his record showed he knew what his job was.

**ICIS Premier League**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil Town	42	31	8	3	82	34	101
Enfield	42	28	11	3	91	29	95
Sutton United	42	18	13	11	87	70	67
Dagenham & Red	42	18	11	13	57	43	65
Yeading	42	17	14	11	58	46	65
St Albans City	42	18	11	13	66	55	65
Aylesbury United	42	18	11	13	64	54	65
Purfleet	42	17	11	14	67	63	62
Heybridge Swifts	42	16	14	12	62	62	62
Boreham Wood	42	15	13	14	56	52	58
Kingstonian	42	16	8	18	79	79	56
Dulwich Hamlet	42	14	13	15	57	57	55
Carshalton Athletic	42	14	11	17	51	56	53
Hitchin Town	42	15	7	20	67	73	52
Oxford City	42	14	10	18	66	83	52
Hendon	42	13	12	17	53	59	51
Harrow Borough	42	12	14	16	58	63	50
Bromley	42	13	9	20	67	72	48
Bishop's Stortford	42	10	13	19	43	64	43
Staines Town	42	10	8	24	46	71	38
Grays Athletic	42	8	9	25	43	78	33
Chertsey Town	42	8	7	27	40	98	31

He was unavailable for the Hayes Trophy tie which went to three games watched by 5,500 people.

The defeat in the second replay was a bitter blow, but it cleared the way for a straight run in with Enfield for the title. Jerry Gill's performances since moving from Bath City had caught the eye and his natural ability got him a call up into the England non-League squad against the Republic of Ireland. Forinton was soon off the mark and his hat-trick against Dulwich Hamlet led to more speculation that his stay might well be a brief one, as he and Gill were both wanted by Birmingham City. For some while the return fixture with Enfield had been looming on the horizon and with both teams a distance in front of the rest, many talked of it being a title decider, although there were still nine games left.

The clubs were joint favourites with everybody else quoted at 100-1 and when the evening arrived a crowd in excess of 5,000 was suggested. The football world were stunned when over 10,000 attempted to get in to Huish Park, 8007 succeeding with over 2,000 locked outside. The atmosphere was magnificent as the crowd realised that they were present at something unique.

A 2-2 draw was the end result of a night which few will ever forget and it set the league up for a battle royal with Yeovil coming out of Easter with a one point lead. Roberts' impressive squad continued to rack up the wins and with Enfield dropping points with four games left it was all but home and dry. Over 400 Town fans made the trip to Sutton United and they saw Forinton score twice to make it seventeen goals at a goal a game.

He scored twice more against his old side and then another two finally clinched promotion on an emotional evening at Bromley which had the normally gritty Roberts close to tears. "A manager doesn't win titles on his own. Everyone associated with the club, especially my players have pulled out all the stops to bring this title to Yeovil Town", he said later.

The return with Chertsey and the Professional Cup final with Bristol City were played in a carnival atmosphere as the club and their followers could look forward to life once again in the Conference but with the club finally able to meet the rest on even terms. Howard Forinton and Gerry

**Screwfix Direct League Div.1**

Melksham Town	38	27	8	3	82	20	89
Keynsham Town	38	27	7	4	77	21	85
Exmouth Town	38	23	7	7	77	42	76
Clyst Rovers	38	23	6	9	92	48	75
Bishop Sutton	38	21	7	10	96	52	70
Wellington	38	21	5	12	82	62	68
Devizes Town	38	18	11	9	75	39	65
Dawlish Town	38	18	9	11	66	36	65
Ilfracombe Town	38	15	12	11	62	44	57
Welton Rovers	38	15	7	16	68	59	52
Minehead	38	16	4	18	61	56	52
Frome Town	38	12	11	15	45	60	47
Yeovil Town Res	38	12	8	18	66	77	44
Glastonbury	38	12	7	19	54	72	43
Crediton United	38	12	4	22	58	91	40
Warminster Town	38	9	8	21	44	75	35
Larkhall Athletic	38	7	13	18	51	92	34
Heavitree United	38	7	11	21	44	95	32
Pewsey Vale	38	5	4	29	26	105	19
Amesbury Town	38	1	9	28	27	107	12

**First Team Appearances 1996-1997**

R Cousins 61, L Harvey, J Gill 56, W Patmore 55, T Pennock, P Turner 52, T Pounder 49, D Birkby 47, C White 46, M Engwell, G Kemp 40, C Moors, G Roberts 33, C Fielder 29, L Whale, K Braybrooke 27, S Browne, H Forinton 24, C Seymour 20, J Laidlaw 13, D Puttnam, A Clement 8, D Adams 6, M Tyler 4, K Harvey, J Miller 3, R Peters 2, L Collier, A Harris, D Smith, J Smith 1

**First Team Scorers 1996-1997**

W Patmore 29, H Forinton 26, D Birkby 17, J Gill 16, P Turner 12, L Harvey 7, C Moors 6, J Laidlaw, M Engwell, T Pounder 3, C Fielder 2, K Braybrooke, G Kemp, T Pennock, C Seymour, L Whale, C White 1

**Reserve Team Appearances 1996-1997**

J Miller 32, W Farnell-Jack 30, L Collier, S Gale 27, D Croker, C Carr 25, S Knibbs, R Uffendale 24, G Stranger 23, J Smith 18, O Feltham, N Smith 17, J Read, D Smith, A Croker 16, G Beach 15, C Moors 14, K Beacham 12, W Flint 9, J Laidlaw, M DeLong 8, R Bartlett 7, M Dyer, L Whale 6, S Browne 5, G Dipper, C White, D Birkby 4, D Dodds, L Groves, A Harris, M Channon 3, C Seymour, J Briggs, L Buttle, A Pennock, R Cousins 2, M Bull, P Turner, M Engwell, L Harvey, M Rees, J Hayter, I Cheney, S Burr, J Webb, R Beale, S Curtis, N Stone 1

**Reserve Team Scorers 1996-1997**

S Gale 14, C Moors 11, R Uffendale 7, W Flint 6, D Birkby 5, J Laidlaw 4, C Carr 3, K Beacham, og 2, L Groves, G Kemp, G Stranger, J Hayter, D Smith, L Whale, S Browne, W Farnell-Jack, R Cousins 1



## Promotion to a higher level

With the promotion to the higher level came a higher grade of pre-season friendlies, Birmingham City, Barnsley, Swindon Town and Bury all providing opposition.

As well as a new league there was a new chairman at the club, as Bryan Moore moved aside for John Fry to step in.

The manager had signed Owen Pickard, a striker from Dorchester Town for £15,000 and he and Warren Patmore led the line which began well with three wins, including the Charity Shield game with Boreham Wood which brought the impressive trophy to Huish Park.

Season ticket sales were 15% up on the previous season in the ICIS League and the first two league matches attracted nearly 7,000 through the turnstiles. The defence included Al-James Hannigan who was back permanently but it was Patmore who was finding the net in the earlier games until defeats at Halifax Town and Dover Athletic brought them down to earth.

The Cup run again began in September and it took two attempts to overcome a determined Witney Town side which gave Town a tricky draw away to Worcester City, Graham Kemp and Owen Pickard putting the side through. The sporadic nature of the fixture list was not helping the cause with FA Cup, Spalding Cup and Somerset Premier Cup ties all getting in the way of the league action and when November came Yeovil were a lowly seventeenth.

Sadly Hayes once again put paid to any hopes of glory in the fourth qualifying round thus putting Yeovil back into the hat next time round, or so they thought, and with a number of bodies coming and going as manager Roberts struggled to find consistency, it soon became apparent that the first season back in the Conference would go down as being one of consolidation at the very best.

Colin Lippiatt arrived at the club as head coach and his coming coincided with a run of six consecutive wins including a 5-3 win over Telford United after Yeovil had thrown away a 3-0 lead. It saw the end of Lee Harvey's spell at the club, for he left having been substituted during the game. Chris White also moved on having collected 34 yellow cards and three red ones in a turbulent forty months at Huish Park.

The FA Trophy campaign was aborted at the start with a poor performance against Yeading followed by a worse one in the replay which was lost. Not for the first time after a game with the Middlesex side the Town followers were quick to tell the manager what they thought of the performance.

The two matches with Hayes in the league produced no fewer than seventeen goals but by then the club were hit by a story which they could have done without.

Allegations that the manager had sent a telegram to Newcastle United on the eve of their match with Stevenage Borough containing references to the Hertfordshire side brought him a two week suspension and headlines across the country.

Chairman John Fry acted swiftly and after deliberations with lawyers, Graham Roberts' managerial career at Yeovil Town was over.

He had accomplished stage one of his work in getting the club back to the Conference, and in style, but his abrasive manner did not always go down well around the club and although there were a few letters in the press condemning Mr Fry for his decision, there was little general feeling of loss elsewhere.

Former Taunton boss Terry Rowles was the man tipped to take over, and he did come to the club, but not as manager, or rather coach, the bosses title being given to Colin Lippiatt who set about attempting to steady the ship. A number of



Colin Lippiatt joined the club as Head Coach



## Season 1997-1998

Aug	16th	Stevenage Bor	H Conference	2-1	Patmore, Pickard
	19th	Boreham Wood	H ICIS Chal Trop	1-0	Patmore pen
	23rd	Welling United	A Conference	3-1	Patmore 2 (1pen), Pickard
	25th	Farnborough Town	H " "	0-1	
	30th	Leek Town	H " "	3-1	Patmore 2, Pickard 2
Sept	5th	Halifax Town	A " "	1-3	Patmore
	9th	Dover Athletic	A " "	0-1	
	13th	Witney Town	H FA Cup 1st Qual	1-1	Pickard
	17th	Witney Town	A Replay	2-1	Pickard 2
	20th	Rushden & D	H Conference	1-2	Pickard
	23rd	Kidderminster Har	H " "	1-0	Pickard
	27th	Worcester City	A FA Cup 2nd Qual	2-1	Pickard, Kemp
Oct	4th	Stalybridge Celtic	A Conference	2-3	Pickard, Parmenter
	7th	Cheltenham Town	H Spalding Cup 1	3-1	Birkby 3
	11th	Chippenham Town	H FA Cup 3rd Qual	4-0	Pickard, Kemp, Hannigan, Birkby
	14th	Bristol Manor Farm	H Som Prem Cup 1	6-0	Pickard, Birkby 3, Archer, og
	18th	Northwich Vics	A Conference	2-2	Hayfield, Archer
	25th	Hayes	H FA Cup 4th Qual	1-1	Pickard
	28th	Hayes	A	Replay	0-1
Nov	1st	Hednesford Town	A Conference	0-1	
	8th	Hereford United	A " "	1-1	Parmenter pen
	15th	Telford United	H " "	5-3	Fielder pen, Patmore 2, Pickard, Stott
	18th	Paulton Rovers	A Som Prem Cup 2	4-1	Miller, Gale 3 (1pen)
	22nd	Woking	H Conference	2-0	Roberts, Stott
	29th	Gateshead	A " "	3-0	Patmore 2, Archer
Dec	1st	Stevenage Borough	A Spalding Cup 2	3-0	Patmore, Pickard, Calderhead
	6th	Kettering Town	H Conference	2-0	Archer, Pounder
	13th	Farnborough Town	A " "	2-2	Hannigan, Archer
	16th	Hayes	A Spalding Cup 3	0-3	
	20th	Slough Town	H Conference	2-1	Pickard 2
	26th	Cheltenham Town	A " "	0-2	
	29th	Woking	A " "	0-2	
Jan	1st	Cheltenham Town	H " "	3-1	Chandler, Stott pen, Pickard
	10th	Yeading	H FA Trophy 1	0-0	
	13th	Yeading	A Replay	0-1	
	17th	Morecambe	A Conference	0-1	
	20th	Hayes	H " "	4-3	Engwell, Stott, Patmore, Pickard
	31st	Welling United	H " "	1-1	Denys
Feb	7th	Stevenage Borough	A " "	1-2	Stott
	10th	Brislington	A Som Prem Cup 2	2-0	Gale 2
	14th	Hayes	A Conference	4-6	Thompson, Fielder pen, Patmore 2
	21st	Halifax Town	H " "	0-1	
	28th	Kidderminster H	A " "	1-3	Pickard
March	3rd	Weston-s-Mare	A SPC semi-final	2-1	Gale, Patmore
	7th	Morecambe	H Conference	2-3	Pickard, Winston
	10th	Kettering Town	A " "	1-1	Winston
	14th	Stalybridge Celtic	H " "	2-0	Parmenter, Winston
	17th	Telford United	A " "	4-1	Smith 2, Archer, Winston
	21st	Northwich Vics	A " "	1-2	Winston
	31st	Southport	H " "	0-0	
April	7th	Clevedon Town	Somerset Premier Cup Final (at Bath CityFC)	1-0	Stott
	11th	Hednesford Town	H Conference	1-0	S Thompson
	13th	Slough Town	A " "	1-1	Stott
	18th	Hereford United	H " "	2-0	Smith 2
	21st	Rushden & D	A " "	2-2	Smith, Winston
	25th	Southport	A " "	1-2	Patmore

## Season 1997-1998 continued

	28th	Dover Athletic	H " "	4-1	Pickard 2, Archer 2 (1pen)
	30th	Leek Town	A " "	0-2	
May	2nd	Gateshead	H " "	6-3	Patmore 3, Pickard, Archer, Stott

players left the club in support of Graham Roberts, but equally a number who initially gave their support agreed to stay under the new man and the season drifted on with a mid-table position all but guaranteed.

The new side again won the Premier Cup by beating Clevedon Town in the final at Bath City's ground and four home wins including ten goals in the last two gave hope for a more prosperous season to come. Warren Patmore's goals elevated him into the top twenty of all-time goalscorers and it was to be and Pickard that Lippiatt was to look for inspiration in the months to come.

The 1998-99 season was well in advance when this book reached the shelves and Colin Lippiatt's squad had made a fine start, reaching the Second Round of the FA Cup and installing themselves in the top six of the Conference. Warren Patmore continued to work his way up the scorers table but it is highly unlikely that that indomitable pair of Len Harris and Dave Taylor will ever be knocked off their respective perches.

The future of Yeovil Town Football Club was without doubt in good hands and with them now well into their second century, never before have they had a better chance of landing the dream that has eluded those from Jack Gregory, Alec Stock and Basil Hayward to Edmund Templeman, Ian Rendall, Bryan Moore and Gerry Lock.

## First Team Appearances - 1997-1998

T Pennock 59, R Cousins 56, A-J Hannigan, O Pickard 51, C Fielder 48, S Stott 46, W Patmore 45, L Archer 40, S Browne, G Kemp 35, M Engwell 29, T Pounder 25, R Calderhead 22, C White, S Parmenter 20, D Birkby, L Harvey 18, D Piper 15, S Winston, B Smith 14, S Thompson, G Roberts 12, H Brown, D Chandler, T Howard, S Winter 11, J Miller, M Hayfield 6, H Braybrooke, R Denys, S Wimble, D Thompson 5, L Collier, S Gale 4, N Smith 3, A Freeman, M Fricker 2, C Omegbelin, S Spencer 1

## First Team Scorers - 1997-1998

O Pickard 25, W Patmore 18, L Archer 9, S Stott 8, D Birkby 7, S Gale, S Winston 6, B Smith 5, S Parmenter 4, C Fielder, A-



Mickey Engwell beats a Marlow player to the ball





Owen Pickard scores Yeovil's first Conference goal against Stevenage Borough at Huish Park in a 2-1 victory



Matty Hayfield in action against Rushden and Diamonds at Huish Park

### Vauxhall Conference 1998

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Halifax Town	42	25	12	5	74	43	87
Cheltenham Town	42	23	9	10	63	43	78
Woking	42	22	8	12	72	46	74
Rushden & D	42	23	5	14	79	57	74
Morecambe	42	21	10	11	77	64	73
Hereford United	42	18	13	11	56	49	67
Hednesford Town	42	26	8	12	59	50	66
Slough Town	42	18	10	14	58	49	64
Northwich Vics	42	15	15	12	63	59	60
Welling United	42	17	9	16	64	62	60
Yeovil Town	42	17	8	17	73	63	59
Hayes	42	16	10	16	62	52	58
Dover Athletic	42	15	10	17	60	70	55
Kettering Town	42	13	13	16	53	60	52
Stevenage Borough	42	13	12	17	59	63	51
Southport	42	13	11	18	56	58	50
Kidderminster H	42	11	14	17	56	63	47
Farnborough Town	42	12	8	22	56	70	44
Leek Town	42	10	14	18	52	67	44
Telford United	42	10	12	20	53	76	42
Gateshead	42	8	11	23	51	87	35
Stalybridge Celtic	42	7	8	27	48	93	29





Tony Pennock celebrates with the Icis Premier League Trophy

J Hannigan, G Kemp 2, R Calderhead, D Chandler, R Denys, M Engwell, M Hayfield, J Miller, T Pounder, G Roberts, D Thompson, S Thompson, og 1

**Reserve appearances - 1997-1998**

M Fricker, J Miller 36, W Farnell-Jack, 34, L Ingham 32, N Smith 27, S Gale, R Uffendell 26, T Pounder 24, L Collier 22, G Maidment, R Calderhead 19, J Gisborne 16, N Stone 13, A Avery 12, T Balch, S Anthony, C Moors 11, D Mihaljevich, C Carr, J Soughton, D Birkby 10, L Groves 8, A Lindegaard 6, B Grady 3, S Baines, S Kent 3, C Seymour, S Wimble, S Winter, L Bacon, B Gregory, L Archer, S Winstone, J Steer 2, A Clement, L Harvey, M Engwell, G Roberts, A-J Hannigan, M Fevin, J Hayter, M Padfield, P Wells, S Miller, S Spencer, A Lloyd, R Cousins 1

**Reserve scorers - 1997-1998**

S Gale 17, M Fricker 12, C Moors 11, N Smith, D Birkby 8, R Calderhead, S Uffendell 7, J Miller 3, T Pounder, C Seymour, D Mihaljevich, C Carr, L Ingham, L Groves, og 2, J Soughton, G Maidment, S Winter, L Collier, B Grady, W Farnell-Jack 1



Owen Pickard scores Yeovil's 6th. goal in a 6-3 demolition of Gateshead at Huish Park



## Reserves 1997-1998

Month	Date	Opposition	Home/Away	Competition	Score
Aug	16th	Glastonbury	A	Screwfix Div 1	2-3
	20th	Pewsey Vale	H	"	2-1
	23rd	Heavitree United	H	"	8-1
	30th	Crediton United	A	"	0-1
Sept	3rd	Street	H	"	1-1
	16th	Exmouth Town	A	"	5-1
	20th	Clyst Rovers	A	"	3-3
	24th	Warminster Town	H	"	4-1
	27th	Wellington	A	"	1-1
Oct	1st	Welton Rovers	H	"	2-1
	4th	Larkhall Athletic	H	"	0-1
	11th	Minehead	A	"	3-3
	18th	Dawlish Town	A	"	3-1
Nov	1st	Glastonbury	H	"	7-1
	8th	Dawlish Town	H	"	3-0
	15th	Bishop Sutton	A	"	0-4
	29th	Paulton Rovers	H	Les Phillips Cup	1-5
Dec	6th	Ilfracombe Town	A	Screwfix Div 1	5-1
	13th	Bitton AFC	H	"	4-2
	20th	Heavitree United	A	"	3-2
	27th	Devizes Town	H	"	3-1
Jan	17th	Street	A	"	1-0
	24th	Welton Rovers	A	"	1-0
	28th	Exmouth Town	H	"	0-2
Feb	7th	Ilfracombe Town	H	"	4-2
	14th	Minehead	H	"	3-0
	28th	Bishop Sutton	H	"	3-3
Mar	7th	Devizes Town	A	"	1-0
	11th	Frome Town	H	"	1-0
	14th	Frome Town	A	"	5-1
	21st	Bitton AFC	A	"	2-2
	28th	Warminster Town	A	"	1-0
April	4th	Wellington	H	"	2-0
	13th	Crediton United	H	"	3-0
	18th	Larkhall Athletic	A	"	4-2
	29th	Pewsey Vale	A	"	4-2

## Screwfix Direct Div.1 1998

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bishop Sutton	36	26	8	2	86	25	86
Yeovil Town Res	36	24	6	6	95	47	78
Devizes Town	36	22	7	7	83	38	73
Street	36	20	10	6	89	39	67
Minehead	36	16	14	6	60	39	62
Dawlish Town	36	17	10	9	78	48	58*
Crediton United	36	15	8	13	65	67	53
Exmouth Town	36	15	6	15	68	60	51
Bitton AFC	36	14	8	14	55	53	50
Wellington	36	13	10	13	72	54	49
Ilfracombe Town	36	14	7	15	75	67	49
Larkhall Athletic	36	12	7	17	45	58	43
Welton Rovers	36	9	6	21	51	78	33
Warminster Town	36	9	5	22	40	83	32
Glastonbury	36	9	4	23	41	86	31
Frome Town	36	8	6	22	47	74	30
Heavitree United	36	3	7	26	34	135	16
Pewsey Vale	36	3	8	25	40	102	14*



Chris White made 20 appearances for Yeovil in the 97-98 season



Celebrations as Yeovil win the Somerset Premier Cup at Bath City with a 1-0 victory over Clevedon



## A serious tilt at the Football League.....

There was little doubt that the club was gearing up for a serious tilt at the Football League for the umpteenth time in its long history and with Colin Lippiatt on board the omens looked good as there was more interest in the club from a financial view point from outside sources.

In June the club announced that they had landed a pre-season friendly with Sunderland, which would give everyone a chance to hark back to the great day at Huish and wallow unashamedly, something that in truth some had said was done a touch too often. They also announced that Terry Rowles, the former Taunton, Clevedon and Mangotsfield manager, who had enjoyed continued success and who had been suggested as a new manager when Graham Roberts went, was the new reserves team boss in place of Maurice O'Donnell and Tony Pounder, who had guided them to the Premier Division.

With the World Cup also in full swing football was at the front of most sporting minds and with an increase in the budget it should have been a time for an all out assault, but possibly more realistically the message was that it would be a season to establish and get the basics right off the park as well as on. Chairman John Fry was pulling all the strings and bade farewell to director Tony Williams, who quit the board while Colin Lippiatt welcomed Jamie Pitman from Hereford, Rob Smith from Slough Town, Murray Fishlock and Carl Dale from Cardiff City.

A search also went on for the surviving players from the Sunderland game but it was tinged with sadness as it was revealed that Bob Keeton had passed away a couple of years earlier in Devon.

The list of friendlies included Plymouth Argyle, Woking and Weymouth as well as Sunderland and with survival in the Conference still the key word and promotion targeted for three years, the league kicked off and within a week the pattern was set for the season.

A large following saw the Glovers win at Kettering but crowds of over 2,000 watched frustrated as their side could not perform at Huish Park. New boy Jamie Pitman was crocked against Kingstonian, a leg break revealed some days later, and despite good performances at Dover and Welling United, there were two more home defeats, the second against Northwich Vics described as 'pathetic'.

Lippiatt signed Steve McGrath from Enfield but he lasted barely two games and there was more grief as the enigmatic Dean Birkby was farmed out to Weymouth and when he announced he would never play for Lippiatt again, the £15,000 man was finally sold to Forest Green Rovers.

October arrived with Glovers unbeaten away but a 3,000 crowd for the game with Cheltenham had a little matter of a trip to Hastings planned for a week hence in the FA Cup. Simon Winstone had made his debut by then and in Sussex Matt Hayfield was given a start and scored in the 3-0 win.

Bizarrely most at the club were happy with another away draw, at Farnborough, in the 4<sup>th</sup> qualifying round but by then boss Lippiatt had given his squad a good hard look and Joe Davey, Lewis Reed and McGrath were all released to make way for ex-Bristol City defender Darren Keeling, who signed from Gloucester City and scored twice on his debut at home to Kettering Town.

The side was getting younger as 19 year old Paul Steele and 17 year old Arthur Appleton were both on the fringes and the success at Farnborough brought a less than wonderful tie in the First Round. Northern League West



Yeovil didn't have much joy against Woking this year. Ben Smith is seen here during the 0-0 draw at Kingfield



## Season 1998-1999

Aug	15	Kettering Town	A	Conference	2-1	Pickard, Stott
	18	Kingstonian	H	"	1-3	Dale
	22	Hednesford Tn	H	"	1-2	Patmore
	25	Hayes	A	"	1-1	Pounder
	29	Dover Athletic	A	"	2-1	Thompson, og
	31	Kidderminster H	H	"	3-1	Patmore 2, B Smith
Sept	5	Rushden and D	H	"	0-1	
	8	Welling United	A	"	2-1	Pickard, Hannigan
	12	Northwich Vics	H	"	1-2	Dale
	14	Stevenage Boro	A	"	1-1	Patmore
	19	Woking	A	"	0-0	
	26	Doncaster Rovers	H	"	2-2	Dale, Pickard
	29	Telford United	A	"	2-2	Stott, Hayfield
Oct	3	Hereford United	A	"	1-0	Thompson
	10	Cheltenham Tn	H	"	2-2	Stott, Patmore
	13	Paulton Rovers	A	Som Prem Cup 1	1-2	B Smith
	17	Hastings Town	A	FA Cup 2nd Ql	3-0	Patmore, Dale, Hayfield pen
Nov	1	Farnborough T	A	FA Cup 4 <sup>th</sup> Ql	3-1	Piper, Hayfield, Patmore
	7	Kidderminster H	A	Conference	1-0	Patmore
	14	West Auckland	H	FA Cup 1 <sup>st</sup> Rd	2-2	Patmore, Hannigan
	17	Kettering Town	H	Conference	2-1	Keeling 2
	21	Tonbridge Angels	H	FA Trophy 2 <sup>nd</sup>	1-0	Pounder
	24	West Auckland	A	FA Cup 1 Rep	1-1	Dale (aet won 5-3 on pens)
	28	Dover Athletic	H	Conference	1-1	Patmore
Dec	1	Woking	A	League Cup 2	0-3	
	5	Northampton T	H	FA Cup 2 <sup>nd</sup> Rd	2-0	Thompson, Patmore
	12	Kingstonian	A	Conference	0-0	
	19	Telford United	H	"	4-0	Keeling, Hannigan 2, Patmore
	28	Farnborough Tn	H	"	6-3	Patmore 3, Stott 2, Thompson
Jan	2	Cardiff City	A	FA Cup 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rd	1-1	Dale
	9	Southport	A	Conference	3-2	Hannigan, Keeling, Dale
	12	Cardiff City	H	FA Cup 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rep	1-2	Hayfield (aet 90 mins 1-1)
	16	Basingstoke Tn	A	FA Trophy 3 Rd	2-0	Dale, Pickard
	23	Barrow	H	Conference	1-0	Keeling
	26	Forest Green R	H	"	0-4	
	30	Morecambe	A	"	1-1	Patmore
Feb	6	Hinckley	H	FA Trophy 4 Rd	3-2	Patmore 2, Pickard
	13	Doncaster Rovers	A	Conference	2-0	Patmore, Pickard
	16	Woking	H	"	0-1	
	20	Barrow	A	"	0-2	
	27	Kingstonian	A	FA Trophy 5 Rd	0-1	
Mar	13	Hereford United	H	Conference	3-0	Pickard, Fishlock, og
	17	Forest Green R	A	"	2-1	Thompson, Patmore
	20	Hednesford Tn	A	"	3-2	Pickard 2, Patmore
	23	Southport	H	"	3-1	Pickard, Patmore, Fishlock
April	3	Welling United	H	"	1-3	Appleton
	5	Farnborough Tn	A	"	0-0	
	13	Rushden and D	A	"	2-1	Patmore, Piper
	17	Leek Town	H	"	2-0	Patmore, B Smith
	22	Cheltenham Tn	A	"	2-3	Pickard, Patmore
	24	Northwich Vics	A	"	2-1	Patmore, Pounder
	27	Morecambe	H	"	0-1	
	29	Leek Town	A	"	4-2	Chandler, Franklin 2, Cousins
May	1	Stevenage Boro	H	"	1-3	Patmore

Auckland were not even the top team in Auckland, forever in the shadows of their famous amateur giants Bishop Auckland, but they frightened the life out of the Glovers. The Yeovil obsession for the FA Cup was borne out by the

fact that the attendance for that game was double that of the league game with Kettering three days later. And West Auckland came within minutes of causing a huge upset as a last gasp goal rescued them and condemned the supporters to a massive trek north midweek. For the ground hoppers among them at least it was a new ground to visit.

More than 250 travelled to the basic and rustic ground where they viewed the game through a six foot fence and with the continued presence of the North East yobbery, as sadly the club had obtained a reputation during their Isthmian days which was hard to shrug off. After 220 minutes the clubs could not be separated and it was left to keeper Tony Pennock to step up as hero, scoring and saving a penalty in the shoot out. Yeovil were unbeaten in all competitions in November, which earned Colin Lippiatt the Mail on Sunday manager of the month award and another bonus was a very winnable tie at home to Northampton Town in Round Two. Without eight regulars on the day and with Match of the Day cameras at the ground, Yeovil gave themselves a fine Christmas present in front of over 5,000 at Huish Park.

Home form picked up with big wins over Telford and Farnborough before the tie with Cardiff City. Yeovil lead and they were announced on BBC as having won, a touch prematurely as the Bluebirds snatched a late equaliser, giving another lucrative home match in the replay. A full house saw Yeovil again take Cardiff all the way but it took a tragic error to break the home hearts and the run was ended. It had brought in a cool £82,000 and with the Football Foundation looking favourably at the club, financially things were looking ok.



Carl Dale shields the ball against Basingstoke in the 3rd. Round FA. Trophy victory





Yeovil Town Reserves won the Les Phillips in 1998-1999

In truth a good portion of that money would have to be spent on the pitch, which was deteriorating alarmingly and the club promised changes, with £30,000 being suggested as required to make good. As soon as the FA Cup run had ended, the Trophy took over with a win at Basingstoke, but the league ambitions were still blighted by the home form and Forest Green Rovers shocked all by winning 4-0.

Progress was made in the Trophy at home to Hinckley but February was dismal with the away game at Barrow described as the worst of the season. Lippiatt signed Phil Simpson from Barnet but too many players had drifted from the first team scene and although they held a top six spot, the likes of Cheltenham, Rushden and Diamonds, Stevenage Borough and Kettering Town were all stronger on and off the park at the time. February was a sad month for many reasons, not least for the death in a car accident of former Yeovil chairman Gerry Lock, who perished on the notorious Ilminster bypass while travelling to visit his wife in hospital in Taunton.

On the pitch Jamie Pitman broke his leg again and the travelling support were forced to contend with confrontational stewards and violent home fans at a number of grounds. But March was as successful as February was grim and Hereford were dismissed with three goals in four minutes, one of three league wins in a week which put the Glovers back to fourth with title hopes still alive. Cheltenham, Rushden and Kettering were locked together on 66 points, nine ahead of Yovil who had games in hand.

April arrived with Carl Dale gone to Newport and Tony Pennock injured, leaving Malcolm Rigby in goal but two defeats and a draw in the next five games put a realistic tag

on the situation. Warren Patmore scored his 100<sup>th</sup> goal for the club against Leek Town and Paul Steele made his debut but the top six spot was not good enough for many home fans, who had been forced to endure eight league defeats, the worst ever, and Lippiatt's side was booed when they lost to Stevenage in the final game.

His threat to quit if it continued was a sad full stop to a season where not for the first time the league played second fiddle to the FA Cup. There was more sadness towards the end of the campaign as former boss Brian Hall lost his long battle with cancer at the age of 59 and many players and acquaintances paid their final respects for a man who had much success and who launched a number of high profile careers.

On a happier note Rob Cousins got on the scoresheet in the final game, his first goal for the club in 167 appearances and the reserves also had joy as Arthur Appleton netted the winner in the Les Phillips Cup Final against Clyst Rovers, at Paulton's Winterfield ground.

Murray Fishlock was made player of the year with Steve Thompson runner up but when the dust had settled Colin Lippiatt had some hard thinking to do. Some was done for him as Owen Pickard and Al- James Hannigan left, but Rob Smith who had spent virtually the whole season injured, was released.

Within weeks the club's intentions were made clear as Jason Eaton, an experienced striker from Cheltenham and Rushden's Adrian Foster were both signed up to play alongside Warren Patmore. Another figure who would play an important role in the future also arrived, as Terry Skiverton signed from Welling United.



**Nationwide Conference 1998-99**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cheltenham Tn	42	22	14	6	71	36	80
Kettering Town	42	22	10	10	58	37	76
Hayes	42	22	8	12	63	50	74
Rushden and Dia	42	20	12	10	71	42	72
Yeovil Town	42	20	11	11	68	54	71
Stevenage Boro	42	17	17	8	62	45	68
Northwich Vics	42	19	9	14	60	51	66
Kingstonian	42	17	13	12	50	49	64
Woking	42	18	9	15	51	45	63
Hednesford Town	42	15	16	11	49	44	61
Dover Athletic	42	15	13	14	54	48	58
Forest Green R	42	15	13	14	55	50	58
Hereford United	42	15	10	17	49	46	55
Morecambe	42	15	8	19	60	76	53
Kidderminster H	42	14	9	19	56	52	51
Doncaster Rovers	42	12	12	18	51	55	48
Telford United	42	10	16	16	44	60	46
Southport	42	10	15	17	47	59	45
Barrow	42	11	10	21	40	63	43
Welling United	42	9	14	19	44	65	41
Leek Town	42	8	8	26	48	76	32
Farnborough T	42	7	11	24	41	89	32

**First Team Appearances 1998-1999**

Rob Cousins 51, Al-James Hannigan, Tony Pennock, Kevan Brown, Warren Patmore 48, David Piper, Murray Fishlock 47, Steve Thompson, Steve Stott 46, Ben Smith 40, Tony Pounder 36, Carl Dale 29, Owen Pickard 28, Dean Chandler, Matt Hayfield 22, Darren Keeling 20, Phil Simpson 15, Jamie Pitman 14, Damien Franklin 10, Rob Smith 9, Arthur Appleton, Malcolm Rigby 5, Simon Winstone, Paul Steele 4, Lee Groves, Anthony Tonkin 3, Jon Miller, Pat Mountain, Steve McGrath 2, Lee Collier, Steve Parmenter, Chris Colby, Neil Smith, Joe Davey, Ian Vaughan, Lewis Reid, Chris Moors, Jon Hayter, Dean Birkby 1

**First Team Goalscorers 1998-1999**

Patmore 26, Pickard 12, Dale 8, Stott 6, Thompson, Hannigan, Keeling 5, Hayfield 4, Pounder, Ben Smith 3, Piper, Fishlock, Franklin 2, Cousins, Appleton, Chandler, og



Jamie Pitman was a fans favourite with his non-stop displays.





Ben Smith is beaten to the ball by Manchester United's Jimmy Davis who was to die tragically in a car crash

## *Not much movement at start of season*

**With Colin Lippiatt making his four signings so soon after the end of the season there was little movement at the club for a while as the summer kicked in.**

Al-James Hannigan eventually got the move he wanted to Slough Town for an undisclosed fee and after much wrangling Owen Pickard moved over to Dorchester Town in time for the pre-season friendlies.

The coach had been given a three-year contract with the specific aim of getting the Glovers into the Football League and before the friendlies began he was quoted as stating that his squad was good enough and strong enough to do that in the coming season.

There were few signs of that in July as Gillingham, Wimbledon and Fulham all won at Huish Park, the latter in a match for Alec Stock's testimonial, and the crowds were a touch disappointing with only 500 for the Gills game and 2,500 for the match with a young Manchester United XI.

But the opening match sent Yeovil north to the wilds of Scarborough where the supporters were stunned, not only by the admission prices, but by the poor fare as Yeovil were trounced 5-0.

The squad recovered well with three home wins and a draw at Nuneaton Borough, where David Norton was on target and with crowds around the 2,400 mark for all three there was quiet optimism.

After 20 appearances the club waved farewell to Darren Keeling, who rejoined Gloucester City on a free transfer, nine months after leaving them for £15,000 to go to Huish Park. He had shined briefly with two goals on his debut but

like so many other aspects of his life, the Bristolian flattered to deceive.

He had been an apprentice at Bristol City and had gained a full contract before going off the rails and eventually being jailed for ten years for robbery and drug offences.

Having served five years, playing for the prison side to keep fit, Leroy Rosenior gave him a fresh chance at Gloucester City.

The 15 grand was more than offset by Howard Forinton, who clocked up ten appearances for Birmingham City and thus gained Yeovil £10,000 before joining Peterborough United, bringing in a further £27,000 a few months later.

Finance was rarely far from the forefront during the late summer as chairman John Fry announced a restructuring of the share issue which would see local businessman and director John Goddard-Watts donate £1 to the club for every share he was able to buy, a situation supported wholly by the board. It brought in £70,000.

On the field after eight games Town were second behind Stevenage and when Hayfield, Foster and Patmore gave them the points at Hayes they went top briefly having won four on the trot. Phil Simpson's disappointing spell ended when he joined Enfield on loan, while Bristol City defender Matt Stowell came himself on loan, but the good times shuddered to a halt almost as quickly as they had arrived at the end of September.

Coach Colin Lippiatt walked out on the club, claiming that he had been given an ultimatum to leave his full-time engineering job and go full-time at Yeovil. The club countered by stating that it was he who had asked to go full-time, and for a while the supporters and the press were left wondering what was going on.





Chris Sparks heads clear against Reading in the FA Cup

Former Liverpool legend Steve McMahon threw his hat in the managerial ring and the club were quickly linked with the likes of Nigel Clough and Terry Fenwick, but it was Steve Thompson who was given the reins, and six weeks to get the squad back into shape.

Thompson had been a reliable performer for the club during his time as a player and his experience with clubs like Wycombe, Bristol City and Woking would stand him in good stead.

Grim defeats by Sutton United and Telford United had put a downer on the club but they were still only a point behind leaders Kingstonian although they had already lost four league games.

Within days Colin Lippiatt had been appointed coach at Kingstonian, alongside old friend Geoff Chapple and loan signing from Swindon Town Charlie Griffin netted the winner against that very club as they geared up for their annual assault on the FA Cup.

The last qualifying round draw had been kind, pitting them at home to Witney Town and two late goals brought a trip to the magnificent Madejski Stadium to take on former favourite Alan Pardew's Reading.

The defeat was expected although the crowd of only 8,000 wasn't, but it left the way open for them to edge closer to the top of the Conference.

The local press reported that the annual wage bill had risen by £170,000 in the last financial year and that the club made a loss all round of £45,000, but it was not seen as a

reason to be too pessimistic as there seemed to be financial irons in all sorts of fires at the time.

On the pitch Yeovil College Student Glenn Poole scored after 20 minutes of his home debut against Hereford United in the League Cup by which time Steve Thompson had been given the job of head coach on a full-time basis.

The team celebrated by hammering rich kids Rushden 5-1 although the gate was the lowest of the season, not helped by the FA's stunningly crass decision to play their Euro 2000 qualifier with Scotland at the same time.

There was also sadness in the town as another of the famous side which beat Sunderland in the club's most famous day, passed away, Bobby Hamilton dying at the age of 75. The FA Trophy threw up a local derby of sorts with Weymouth and after a grim 0-0 draw Yeovil took the exciting replay with two late goals in front of over 3,000 fans.

December was quiet on the pitch with just three games, but two were bad defeats with nine goals conceded. Terry Rowles was promoted to manager of the Centre of Excellence with Maurice O'Donnell taking over as boss of the reserves but there was more injury grief as Steve Stott was forced into an operation on a knee injury, along with Jason Eaton, Adrian Foster and Murray Fishlock, who were all struggling.

Lee Archer was also conceding defeat, just six games after returning to the club, as his tendonitis of the knees forced him out of the game at just 27. With David Norton also quitting for Forest Green and young Arthur Appleton moving onto Mangotsfield United, Thompson's squad was a little thin as the New Year was ushered in.

Apart from a poor day in Kent, January was a good month on the pitch but there was mixed news off it, some of it awful. Yeovil boy Paul Muir, son of former favourite George Muir, passed away in hospital, some months after being attacked in a street and the funeral brought much of what goes on at any football club firmly into perspective.

At Yeovil rumours had been spread that the club were getting ready to welcome David Webb as director of football—the former Brentford boss and FA Cup winner with Chelsea was believed to be coming on board, a situation not universally applauded, but supporters were given good news in that work was expected to start on the new roof for the home end in May.

There was also a boost as Jerry Gill completed ten games for Birmingham City, which brought in a cool £10,000, but



Adrian Foster was a regular goalscorer for Yeovil

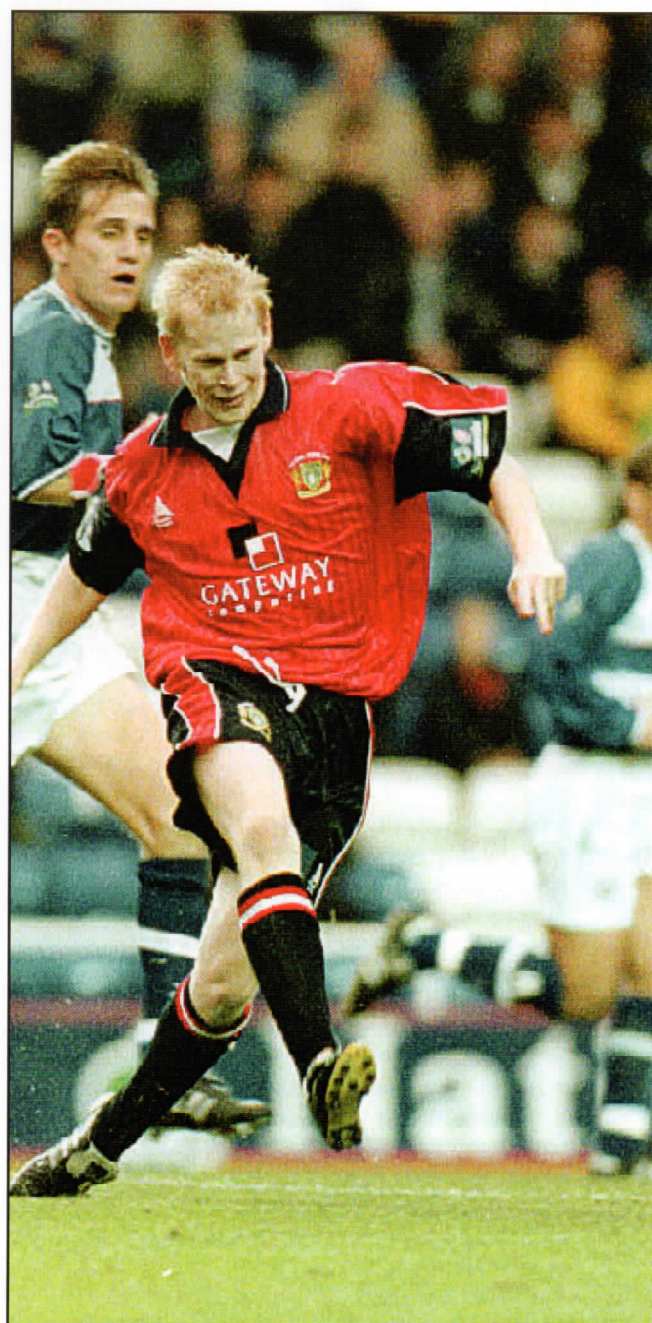


## Season 1999-2000

July	19	Gillingham	H	Friendly	1-2	Smith
	21	Wimbledon	H	" "	2-4	Foster, Eaton
	24	Dorchester	H	" "	1-1	Smith
	27	Weymouth	A	" "	1-0	Eaton
	31	Fulham	H	Alex Stock Test	0-3	
Aug	2	Chippenham T A	A	Friendly	0-0	
	4	Man Utd. U.19	H	" "	5-3	Foster, Eaton, Patmore 2, Simpson
	7	Salisbury City	A	" "	2-1	Patmore, Foster
	14	Scarborough	A	Conference	0-5	
	17	Kidderminster	H	" "	1-0	Foster
	21	Altrincham	H	" "	3-0	Patmore, Foster, Hayfield
	24	Nuneaton B	A	" "	1-1	Norton
	28	Kettering Town	H	" "	2-0	Hayfield, Patmore
	30	Woking	A	" "	0-2	
Sept	4	Welling United	A	" "	5-2	Eaton 2, Smith, Patmore, Thompson
	7	Hereford Utd.	H	" "	1-0	Norton
	11	Morecambe	H	" "	2-0	Patmore 2
	14	Hayes	A	" "	3-2	Hayfield, Foster, Patmore
	18	Sutton United	H	" "	1-2	Hayfield
	25	Telford United	A	" "	1-3	Pitman
Oct	2	Dover Athletic	H	" "	1-1	Foster
	9	Kidderminster	A	" "	0-4	
	13	Kingstonian	A	" "	1-0	Griffin
	16	Witney Town	H	FA Cup 4 QI	2-0	og, Foster
	20	Reading	A	FA Cup 1st Rd	2-4	Foster, Eaton
	23	Southport	H	Conference	1-1	Foster
Nov	2	Paulton Rov.	A	Som P. Cup 1	2-1	Smith, Skiverton
	6	Hednesford T.	A	Conference	0-1	
	9	Hereford Utd.	H	League Cup 1	3-0	Poole, Patmore 2
	13	Rushden & D	H	Conference	5-1	Skiverton 2, Hayfield 2, Smith
	20	Sutton United	A	" "	1-0	Smith
	28	Weymouth	A	FA Trophy 2	0-0	
	30	Weymouth	H	Replay	2-1	Patmore, Tisdale
Dec	4	Northwich V.	H	Conference	3-2	Skiverton, Hayfield, Patmore
	18	Hayes	H	" "	2-4	Skiverton, Patmore
	27	Forest Green	A	" "	0-3	
Jan	3	Forest Green	H	" "	1-0	Foster
	8	Dover Athletic	A	" "	0-3	
	15	Stevenage B.	H	FA Trophy 3	2-1	Foster 2
	22	Telford United	H	Conference	2-1	Patmore 2
	25	Tiverton Town	A	Friendly	1-0	
	29	Kettering Town	A	Conference	2-1	Cousins, Skiverton
Feb	5	Bedford Town	A	FA Trophy 4	4-0	og, Patmore, Eaton, Cousins
	8	Hayes	A	League Cup 2	1-2	Eaton
	12	Southport	A	Conference	1-1	Foster
	16	Taunton Town	A	Som P. Cup 2	1-5	Eaton
	19	Nuneaton B.	H	Conference	1-3	Pitman
	26	Kingstonian	H	FA Trophy 5	0-1	
Mar	4	Northwich V.	A	Conference	0-3	

## Season 1999-2000

Mar	4	Northwich V.	A	Conference	0-3	
	7	Rushden & D	A	" "	1-1	Hayfield
	11	Doncaster R.	H	" "	1-3	Tisdale
	18	Doncaster R.	A	" "	3-0	og, Patmore, Bent
	25	Scarborough	H	" "	1-2	Patmore
April	4	Stevenage B.	H	" "	2-2	Skiverton, Steele
	8	Hereford Utd.	A	" "	1-0	Belgrave
	11	Kingstonian	H	" "	3-2	Steele, Smith, Hale
	15	Welling Utd.	H	" "	1-1	Patmore
	17	Stevenage B.	A	" "	0-0	
	22	Hednesford T.	H	" "	3-0	Foster, Lindegaard, Hale
	29	Altrincham	A	" "	2-2	Steele, Bent
May	1	Woking	H	" "	0-3	
	6	Morecambe	A	" "	1-1	Foster



Jamie Pitman during Yeovil Town's F.A. Cup tie with Reading



Warren Patmore goes close for Yeovil against Hereford at Huish Park

David Webb did arrive, as football advisor and Yeovil enjoyed a comfortable win in the Trophy at Bedford, but an embarrassing defeat at Taunton in the Somerset Premier Cup and home losses to Nuneaton in the league and Kingstonian in the Trophy was followed by a bad day at Northwich.

Webb was made team boss with Steve Thompson dropping to his number two and it was announced that the club were to go full-time, which meant wholesale changes were in store for the personnel.

Matt Hale arrived from Weymouth but Tony Pounder, Matt Hayfield and Terry Cotton were released with a number of others transfer-listed, Webb starting the long process of bringing in a younger full-time squad.

Speedy winger Barrington Belgrave arrived but there was no room for Terry Rowles who left by mutual consent. April was good for Yeovil as they stayed undefeated but the previous poor run meant they ended a strange season in seventh place with Kidderminster running away with the title.

Rob Cousins had become a non-League international during the season but he refused a full-time contract and released along with a number of others, including Steve Stott, Jamie Pitman and Phil Simpson.

The summer weeks were an anxious time for Glovers fans as a number of well known faces departed and there was little coming in the other direction.

During the summer the board changed again to a three man team with chairman John Fry joined by Norman Hayward and John Goddard-Watts and they were given the news that a local firm had donated a substantial sum towards the new stand roof, the completion of which had been delayed, but it was seen by many as the last piece in the jigsaw before they took their place in the Football League.

#### Nationwide Conference 1999-2000

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kidderminster H	42	26	7	9	75	40	85
Rushden and D	42	21	13	8	71	42	76
Morecambe	42	18	16	8	70	48	70
Scarborough	42	19	12	11	60	35	69
Kingstonian	42	20	7	15	58	44	67
Dover Athletic	42	18	12	12	65	56	66
Yeovil Town	42	18	10	14	60	63	64
Hereford United	42	15	14	13	61	52	59
Southport	42	15	13	14	55	56	58
Stevenage Boro	42	16	9	17	60	54	57
Hayes	42	16	8	18	57	58	56
Doncaster Rovers	42	15	9	18	46	48	54
Kettering Town	42	12	16	14	44	50	52
Woking	42	13	13	16	45	53	52
Nuneaton Boro	42	12	15	15	49	53	51
Telford United	42	14	9	19	56	66	51
Hednesford Town	42	15	6	21	45	68	51
Northwich Vics	42	13	12	17	53	78	51
Forest Green R	42	13	8	21	54	63	47
Welling United	42	13	8	21	54	66	47
Altrincham	42	9	19	14	51	60	46
Sutton United	42	8	10	24	39	75	34

#### First Team Appearances:

Tony Pennock 52, Warren Patmore 47, Ben Smith, Rob Cousins 45, Jamie Pitman 43, David Piper 42, Terry Skiverton 41, Adrian Foster 33, Jason Eaton 32, Matt Hayfield 31, Kevan Brown 29, Tony Pounder, Dean Chandler 25, Paul Tisdale 22, Chris Sparks, Steve Stott 18, Glenn Poole 16, Anthony Tonkin, Paul Steele 14, David Norton 13, Matt Hale 12, James Bent 11, Andy Lindegaard, Murray Fishlock 10, Matt Stowell 9, Ellis Wilmot 8, Barrington Belgrave 7, Steve Thompson 6, Lee Archer 5, Stafford Browne 4, Charlie Griffin 3, Phil Simpson, Leon Hapgood 2, Tim Melessa, Paul Metheringham, Chris Seymour, Chris Giles 1

#### First team Goalscorers:

Warren Patmore 17, Adrian Foster 13, Matt Hayfield 8, Terry Skiverton 7, Jason Eaton 6, Ben Smith 5, Paul Steele 3, Paul Tisdale, James Bent, David Norton, Jamie Pitman, Rob Cousins, Matt Hale 2, Andy Lindegaard, Steve Thompson, Charlie Griffin, Glenn Poole, Barrington Belgrave 1, og 3



## Club go full time as Webb rings the changes

In July 2000 there was another major shake up at Huish Park as the board of directors was reduced by 11. Including former chairman Bryan Moore and Pauline Lock, they stepped down as John Fry, Jon Goddard-Watts and Norman Hayward took control of the club.

The board of directors had increased over the years and had become such that with huge investments in the offing, the remaining three needed to guarantee full control at Yeovil Town. All were offered administration roles within the club.

The showpiece friendly to kick off the new campaign was at home to Everton and nearly 5,000 arrived but were disappointed as the Premiership team sent a reserve squad despite promises to the contrary but by the time the league games arrived, Webb had signed on a full squad including Tony Pennock, Nick Crittenden, Belgrave, Roy O'Brien and Darren Way although O'Brien was sent off after half an hour of his debut.

Three wins out of four put the Glovers at the top of the table in August with Belgrave on target and the good work continued through September with three straight wins and eight goals putting a smile on many Yeovil faces. But just as the ship was cruising along, there was a stunner as Webb announced that he was quitting the club and days later he was appointed manager of Southend United.

Once more Steve Thompson was given the job of taking temporary charge while Yeovil attempted to settle things down and limit the damage done as they were enjoying the

lofty heights of the Conference table.

Any number of top line managers were mentioned in despatches but one stood out, having left Scarborough weeks earlier, and Colin Addison arrived at Huish Park with a wealth of experience at home and abroad.

Addison was more than happy to make Steve Thompson his number two as the former player's love affair with yeovil took on a new meaning.

Yeovil hammered Dover to go top once again and after more good wins a double from David Piper put paid to Horsham in the much postponed FA Cup tie. It was a good time to be a Yeovil fan as before that more than 1,200 travelled to see the top table game with Rushden and Diamonds which was won by a Darren Way penalty with minutes left which sent the side four points clear at the top.

The F.A. Cup draw was a little disappointing as struggling Colchester United were the visitors but they were cruelly dismissed to bring a trip to Blackpool, managed ironically by Steve McMahon who had previously linked himself with the manager's chair. Sky TV sensed another upset and televised the game, bringing Yeovil a windfall of £75,000 and they weren't disappointed as Nick Crittenden's goal brought yet another scalp to add to the growing list.

The draw at last gave Addison's men a tie to savour as they were given a trip to Bolton Wanderers in the 3rd round but before that there was work to be done in the league.

A welcome win at Forest Green Rovers put them seven points clear at the top with games in hand and the supporters were given a New Year's present when Simon Betts was signed from Scarborough.

The Bolton tie was settled by a late goal after Warren Patmore had found the net for Town to the delight of the



Ben Smith and Glen Poole take possession during Tony Pennock's testimonial match against Southampton





Chairman John Fry welcomes David Webb to Huish Park

3,000 who travelled but with money in the bank, a grant from the Stadia Fund and work underway on the stand roof, everything was in place for the final run down to the finishing line which had eluded Yeovil Town for decades.

Progress was made in the Trophy at Emley but February proved an edgy time as Yeovil lost to Chester and Dagenham, as well as going out of the Trophy at Burton. It was just the beginning of a collapse as March arrived with Yeovil off the top of the table, replaced by Rushden and Diamonds.

Addison splashed out a record £25,000 on Michael McIndoe from Hereford United but once again there was sadness as French trialist Medeh Bahoio was killed in a car crash back in France days after being released by Yeovil.

It seemed that the tide was turning at Kettering as Yeovil led with five minutes to go but two late goals knocked the heart out of them. At the time the Glovers were still only three points behind with two games in hand but two goalless draws in four days made things worse.

Howard Forinton was welcomed back for a loan spell but his light was also fading fast and another draw, at Dover, put Rushden in the box seat. Injuries to most of the strikers at the club had not helped, including Forinton almost immediately but just as quickly there was again hope. Ten goals in two games either side of a defeat at Doncaster, combined with Rushden losing at Hereford, set up the climax in April.

The stand roof, as predicted, was ready for the visit of Rushden and a record crowd of 8,868 crammed in to Huish Park to watch the teams battle on a poor pitch which suited nobody.

Another 0-0 draw was just the ticket for Rushden, whose superior goal difference was worth an extra point. Bravely Yeovil won at Leigh RMI and at Telford, despite playing two defenders up front, and in the final week the squad knew they had to beat Hereford and hope that Rushden slipped up.

Sadly neither happened and a skeleton squad lost 3-2 and the League dream was dead once again.

The final game, ironically against Colin Addison's former side Scarborough, was also lost and despite all the effort and dreams and a runners up finish, the best in the club's

## Season 2000-2001

July	15	Havant & W	A	Friendly	2-1	Tonkin, Foster
	19	Bath City	H	" "	1-0	Belgrave
	21	Southampton	H	" "	0-2	
	25	Bristol Rovers	H	" "	1-2	Poole
	28	Saltash Utd.	A	" "	1-2	Patmore
	30	Torpoint Ath.	A	" "	4-0	Belgrave 2, Foster, Poole
Aug	2	Portland Utd.	A	" "	8-2	Patmore 2, Smith 2, Foster, Belgrave, Crittenden, Giles
	4	Wimbome T	A	" "	5-2	Browne, Skiverton, Patmore, Smith pen
	9	Everton	H	" "	0-1	
	14	Weymouth	H	" "	2-2	Skiverton, Smith pen
	19	Kettering T.	H	Conference	2-0	Bent, Belgrave
	22	Woking	A	" "	3-2	Belgrave, Tonkin, Smith
	26	Southport	A	" "	0-3	
	28	Hednesford T.	H	" "	4-2	Crittenden, Bent, Steele, Belgrave
Sept	2	Nuneaton B.	A	" "	2-0	Waypen, Patmore
	5	Woking	H	" "	1-0	Steele
	9	Chester City	H	" "	2-1	Patmore, Crittenden
	13	Boston United	A	" "	1-4	Patmore
	16	Stevenage B.	A	" "	0-0	
	23	Doncaster R.	H	" "	2-0	og, Way pen
	26	Hayes	A	" "	3-2	Belgrave, Patmore 2
	30	Morecambe	H	" "	3-2	Crittenden, Way, Patmore
Oct	3	Dover Athletic	H	" "	4-0	Smith, Patmore 2, Way
	8	Hereford Utd.	A	" "	2-2	Patmore, Belgrave
	10	Woking	A	NVT 2rd Rd	1-0	Patmore
	14	Northwich V.	A	Conference	2-1	Smith, Way pen
	18	Wellington	A	Som P. Cup 1	2-0	Risbridger, Giles
	21	Kingstonian	H	Conference	3-1	Patmore, Belgrave 2
	31	Horsham	H	FA Cup 4th Ql	1-1	og
Nov	4	Rushden & D	A	Conference	2-1	Patmore, Waypen
	8	Horsham	A	FA Cup replay	2-0	Piper 2 (1 pen)
	13	Blackburn R.	H	Testimonial	0-10	
	18	Colchester Utd	H	FA Cup 1st Rd	5-1	Patmore 2, Belgrave, Skiverton, Way
	22	Taunton Town	A	Som P Cup 2	0-2	
	25	Scarborough	A	Conference	2-2	Smith, Way
Dec	2	Telford United	H	" "	2-0	og, White
	10	Blackpool	A	FA Cup 2nd Rd	1-0	Crittenden
	16	Northwich V.	H	Conference	1-0	Patmore
	19	Hereford Utd.	A	LDV Trophy 1	0-4	
	26	Forest Green	A	Conference	1-0	Belgrave
Jan	1	Forest Green	H	" "	2-0	Patmore 2
	6	Bolton Wand.	A	FA Cup 3rd Rd	1-2	Patmore
	9	Kettering T.	H	NVT 3rd Rd	2-0	Way, Poole
	13	Bath City	H	FA Trophy 3	2-1	Way, Bent
	20	Southport	H	Conference	0-1	
	29	Hednesford T.	A	" "	2-1	Crittenden, Patmore





Nick Crittenden beats Everton's Scott Gemill to the ball during a pre-season friendly

### Season 2000-2001

Feb	3	Emley	A	FA Trophy 4	4-2	og, Poole, Betts, Smith
	10	Chester City	A	Conference	1-2	Bent
	17	Boston United	H	"	2-1	McIndoe, Betts pen
	20	Dagenham&R	H	"	1-3	Way
	24	Burton Albion	A	FA Trophy 5	1-2	Lindegaard
Mar	3	Stevenage B.	H	Conference	1-1	Patmore
	10	Kettering Town	A	"	1-2	Skiverton
	13	Nuneaton B.	H	"	0-0	
	17	Morecambe	A	"	0-0	
	24	Hayes	H	"	3-0	og, Steele, Belgrave
	31	Dover Athletic	A	"	1-1	Way pen
April	7	Kingstonian	A	"	4-3	Forinton, og, Patmore 2
	10	Doncaster R.	A	"	0-2	
	14	Leigh RMI	H	"	6-1	Bent 2, Skiverton 2, Crittenden, Tonkin
	16	Dagenham&R	A	"	0-2	
	21	Rushden & D	H	"	0-0	
	24	Leigh RMI	A	"	3-2	O'Brien, Bent, McIndoe
	28	Telford United	A	"	2-1	McIndoe, Steele
May	1	Hereford Utd.	H	"	2-3	Crittenden, Piper
	5	Scarborough	H	"	0-1	

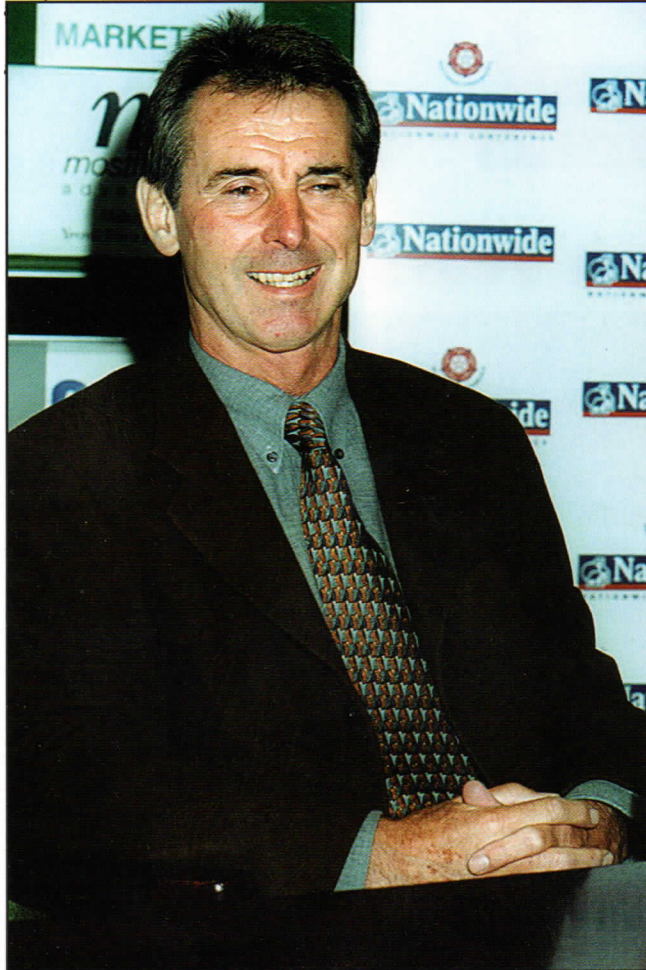
### Nationwide Conference 2000-2001

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rushden and D	42	25	11	6	78	36	42
Yeovil Town	42	24	8	10	73	50	80
Dagenham & R	42	23	8	11	71	54	77
Southport	42	20	9	13	58	46	69
Leigh RMI	42	19	11	12	63	57	68
Telford United	42	19	8	15	51	51	65
Stevenage Boro	42	15	18	9	71	61	63
Chester City	42	16	14	12	49	43	62
Doncaster Rovers	42	15	13	14	47	43	58
Scarborough	42	14	16	12	56	54	58
Hereford United	42	14	15	13	60	46	57
Boston United	42	13	17	12	74	63	56
Nuneaton Boro	42	13	15	14	60	60	54
Woking	42	13	15	14	52	57	54
Dover Athletic	42	14	11	17	54	56	53
Forest Green R	42	11	15	16	43	54	48
Northwich Vics	42	11	13	18	49	67	46
Hayes	42	12	10	20	44	71	46
Morecambe	42	11	12	19	64	66	45
Kettering Town	42	11	10	21	46	62	43
Kingstonian	42	8	10	24	47	3	34
Hednesford Town	42	5	13	24	46	86	28



long existence, many could not disguise their anguish and Addison left the club immediately after the final game.

The supporters had gone through every emotion during the campaign and unsurprisingly, with a number of top line players out of contract and expected to leave during the summer, the feeling among many was that Yeovil had missed the boat once again and that it just might not be available



When David Webb left suddenly to join Southend Colin Addison took over at Huish Park and took the club to runners up in The Nationwide Conference

#### First Team Appearances

Nick Crittenden 54, Darren Way 51, Barrington Belgrave, Tony Pennock 50, David Piper 48, Terry Skiverton, Warren Patmore 47, Anthony Tonkin, Ben Smith 45, Tom White 40, James Bent 38, Roy O'Brien 37, Andy Lindegaard 36, Simon Betts 20, Paul Steele 18, Michael McIndoe 16, Glenn Poole 14, Marcus Jones 13, Bradley Peters 12, Chris Weale 9, Steve Thompson, Gareth Risbridger 5, Chris Giles, Martin Gritton 4, Chris Colby 3, Steve Casey, Alex Meechan, Adrian Foster, Howard Forinton 2, Nick Stavri, Martin Barlow, Richard Parkinson 1

#### First Team Goalscorers:

Warren Patmore 22, Darren Way 12, Barrington Belgrave 10, James Bent, Nick Crittenden 7, Ben Smith 5, Paul Steele, Terry Skiverton 4, David Piper, Michael McIndoe 3, Anthony Tonkin, Glenn Poole, Simon Betts 2, Roy O'Brien, Gareth Risbridger, Chris Giles, Tom White, Andy Lindegaard, Howard Forinton 1, og 6

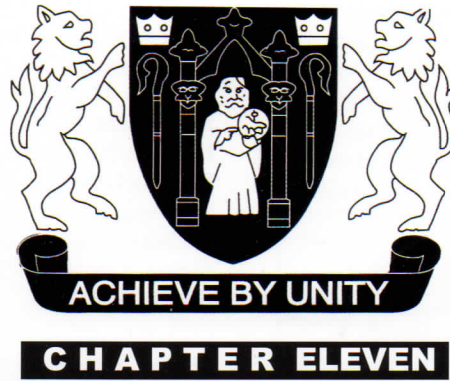
#### Western League 2000-2001

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Taunton Town	38	31	4	3	133	41	97
Chippenham T	38	30	5	3	109	27	95
Paulton Rovers	38	23	10	5	93	44	79
Yeovil Town	38	21	8	9	84	46	71
Bideford	38	19	10	9	71	45	67
Backwell United	38	19	7	12	59	37	64
Devizes Town	38	19	5	14	88	62	62
Brislington	38	17	10	11	67	48	61
Melksham Town	38	17	6	15	58	54	57
Welton Rovers	38	15	8	15	63	53	53
Dawlish Town	38	14	6	18	50	68	48
Elmore	38	14	4	20	67	80	46
Bridport	38	10	13	15	51	63	43
Barnstaple Town	38	12	7	19	45	79	43
Bridgwater Town	38	11	11	16	45	58	41
Odd Down	38	10	8	20	34	57	38
Bishop Sutton	38	9	11	18	57	86	38
Bristol Manor Fm	38	8	8	22	37	66	32
Westbury United	38	3	5	30	27	101	14
Minehead	38	5	0	33	34	156	12



Warren Patmore on the ball against Kingstonian





## The Johnson Years



*Gary Johnson signs on at Huish Park*

**Jon Goddard-Watts streamlined the club even further when he bought the shares of Norman Hayward and thus became the major shareholder at the club.**

Jon had been heavily involved with football in Yeovil since his company sponsored the Western League and his commitment and financial clout alongside the business acumen of John Fry ensured that the club's goal of Football League membership had become a reality.

Jon had begun the company 20 years earlier when buying a small concern and it soon took off and its subsequent sale meant that he would have considerable financial stability for life and the means to continue backing the football club

however he saw fit.

While the club sorted out who was to be next in line for the hot seat, the supporters waved farewell to the likes of Paul Steele, who moved on to Woking, Gareth Risbridger who tried his luck at Southend and in June, Warren Patmore, who signed a three-year deal with Rushden after 140 goals in nearly 300 games for the Glovers. He was joined by Tony Pennock, another international to move on, and Ben Smith, who also went to Southend United.

The new man was named eventually as Gary Johnson, the former Kettering Town and Cambridge United boss who had made his name as boss of the Latvian national side





Gary Johnson hosts his first Press Conference after being installed as Manager of Yeovil Town

before returning to this country.

Once again Steve Thompson's loyalty to Yeovil shone through as he became Johnson's number two in what was to be a very productive and enterprising partnership.

Johnson wasted little time in signing up two well known players who had plied their trade at different ends of the spectrum. Former Spurs winger Andy Turner was signed from Rotherham with non-League International striker Carl Alford coming for a reported £10,000.

Through July the squad changed as the man signed his son, Lee, from Brighton, Colin Pluck and keeper Jon Sheffield. Simon Betts moved on to Darlington and David Piper joined the ever expanding contingent of ex-Glovers at Woking.

The pre-season campaign was a diverse one, with no high profile clubs and visits to Brockenhurst, Chertsey and Winchester City but once the league kicked in goals arrived but not always at the right end. Yeovil scored two in each of the first five games with eight different men on the scoresheet but three wins were followed by three defeats, two of them heavily to Woking and Boston United. Through September the new man rang the changes, especially as the home form was poor and he needed to appease the support. Nineteen year old Adam Lockwood signed from Reading while Southend finally nabbed Barrington Belgrave for a cool £40,000. With James Bent going to Chippenham and Glenn Poole to Bath City there were few left from the previous season.

Off the field there was more sadness as another ex-manager passed away. Stan Harland died at the young age of 61 from a heart attack, having lived and ran his business



The Official Yeovil Town Football Club before leaving for Villa Park

in the town since leaving the club.

Young Chris Weale took over in goal from Jon Sheffield and Gary Johnson welcomed Adam Stansfield from Elmore on trial but October was another ordinary month although Queens Park Rangers were beaten in the LDV Vans Trophy. It was topped off when the FA Cup dream ended at bogey team Hayes and days later the side lost to Bristol Rovers on penalties in the LDV Trophy.

Home gates were still holding up but some of Johnson's signings were not showing well and the support did not hold back in telling them. Two further league defeats in November virtually killed off any hopes but a win at home to Stevenage left them in sixth place behind leaders Boston.

John Goddard-Watt became the major shareholder in the club when he bought those of the departing Norman Hayward in November and as the new year dawned after three consecutive 1-1 draws, Johnson began looking towards the following season as he opened contract talks with several players.

Steve Thompson and Adam Stansfield redressed some



Adam Lockwood and Lee Johnson celebrate at Villa Park

balance with goals at Woking and after a good win in the FA Trophy at Tiverton Town, Yeovil took their unbeaten run to nine through January with Stansfield scoring in four games on the trot and Johnson earning a manager of the month award.

He signed the exotic sounding Olivier Brassart from Stuttgart and as February arrived the team gave its best performance for some time in winning 5-1 at Morecambe. Matters turned to preparing for next August, which included a suggested £200,000 on the pitch and pulling the reserves out of the Western League but before that was the little matter of the FA Trophy.

The match with Doncaster Rovers finally went ahead at the fourth attempt and predictably was drawn but a stunning come back set up a fifth round tie with Canvey Island. Yeovil were 3-0 down before four goals in the last 15 minutes left the home crowd gasping and the Glovers preparing to entertain Canvey Island.





*Trophy Triumph at Villa Park after beating Stevenage Borough 2-0 in the FA.Umbro Trophy Final*

Again the tie was delayed but Stansfield and Crittenden put the near 4,000 crowd in raptures to secure a last eight place and a trip to Northwich. The prolific young Stansfield scored again at the Cheshire ground and with the unbeaten run up to 20 games in all, there was much to be pleased about at Huish Park. Sadly one goal in the next three league games dampened the enthusiasm although the Trophy had taken over to become top priority.

The first leg of the semi-final against Nigel Clough's Burton Albion drew 6,000, slightly less than hoped for but they were blown away as Town cruised to a 4-0 win. Sky Sports broadcasted the second leg at Eton Park where Yeovil did enough to ensure there was no upset and the whole town then began to dream of the final.

Sadly with Wembley Stadium out of commission Villa Park was the venue and Stevenage Borough the opposition, but there was still much to play for as the final was four weeks away. The Conference campaign ended in a flurry of points with Francis Kumbur enjoying his brief Yeovil career with three goals but all eyes were on Villa Park where Gary Johnson fielded Chris Weale, Adam Lockwood, Anthony Tonkin, Terry Skiverton, Colin Pluck, Darren Way, Adam Stansfield, Lee Johnson, Carl Alford, Nick Crittenden and Michael McIndoe, with Tom White, Jon Sheffield, Roy O'Brien, Chris Giles and Andy Lindegaard on the bench.

More than 12,000 fans travelled with the green and white dominating an attendance of 19,000 and Alford put Yeovil in front with a scissor-kick on 12 minutes.

Stansfield capped a memorable season with a second goal mid way through the second half and that was enough to bring the Trophy to Yeovil for the first time in the club's history.

#### Nationwide Conference 2001-2002

Boston United	42	25	9	8	84	42	84
Dagenham Red	42	24	12	6	70	47	84
Yeovil Town	42	19	13	10	66	53	70
Doncaster Rov	42	18	13	11	68	46	67
Barnet	42	19	10	13	64	48	67
Morecambe	42	17	11	14	63	67	62
Farnboro Town	42	18	7	17	66	54	61
Margate	42	14	16	12	59	53	58
Telford United	42	14	15	13	63	58	57
Nuneaton Boro	42	16	9	17	57	57	57
Stevenage Boro	42	15	10	17	57	60	55
Scarborough	42	14	14	14	55	63	55
Northwich Vic	42	16	7	19	57	70	55
Chester City	42	15	9	18	54	51	54
Southport	42	13	14	15	53	49	53
Leigh RMI	42	15	8	19	56	58	53
Hereford United	42	14	10	18	50	53	52
Forest Gr Rov	42	12	15	15	54	76	51
Woking	42	13	9	20	59	70	48
Hayes	42	13	5	24	53	80	44
Stalybridge Cel	42	11	10	21	40	69	43
Dover Athletic	42	11	6	25	41	65	39

The success did more than just bring silverware to the club as it acted as a catalyst for the new campaign which would be played out with the prospect of play-offs determining who went up with the champions.

Once again it was seen as the ideal time for Yeovil Town to make their long awaited bow in the Football League and with the ground ready, and the new pitch available soon



## Season 2001-2002

July	14	Brockenhurst	A	Friendly	3-1	Johnson 2, Giles
	17	Chertsey Tn	A	"	8-1	Belgrave, Skiverton, Turner, Johnson, Giles 2, Lindegaard, Poole
	19	Exeter City	A	"	2-1	Alford, Belgrave
	25	Peterboro Utd	H	"	0-0	
	28	Portsmouth	H	"	2-1	Way, Pluck
Aug	2	Bristol City	H	"	0-5	
	4	Winchester C	A	"	0-0	
	5	Southend Utd	H	"	0-3	
	8	Newport Cty	A	"	3-2	McIndoe 2, Bent
	13	Bashley	A	"	5-1	og, Pluck, Johnson, Ramsay, Poole
	18	Northwich Vics	H	Conference	2-3	McIndoe, Giles
	21	Telford United	A	"	2-2	Ramsay, Crittenden
	25	Doncaster R	A	"	2-1	Way, Giles
	27	Hayes	H	"	2-1	Turner, Belgrave
Sep	1	Nuneaton Boro	A	"	2-1	Alford, Belgrave
	4	Woking	H	"	1-3	Alford
	8	Boston United	A	"	0-4	
	11	Farnborough Tn	H	"	0-1	
	15	Scarborough	H	"	2-2	Johnson, Giles
	18	Hereford Utd	A	"	2-0	Alford, Johnson
	22	Dover Athletic	A	"	2-1	Alford, Giles
	29	Leigh RMI	H	"	2-1	Way pen, Ramsay
Oct	2	Barnet	A	"	3-2	Crittenden, Johnson, Ramsay
	6	Morecambe	H	"	1-1	Crittenden
	9	Margate	H	"	1-2	Alford
	11	Minehead	H	Som P Cup 1	3-0	Parkinson, Thompson, Giles
	13	Dagenham & R	A	Conference	1-1	Ramsay
	16	Queens Pk R	H	LDV Vans 1	3-0	Giles 2, Grant
	20	Stalybridge C	A	Conference	1-1	Alford
	27	Hayes	A	FA Cup 4 <sup>th</sup> Q	1-3	Turner
	31	Bristol Rovers	A	LDV Vans 2	1-1	McIndoe (4-5 on pens aet)
Nov	3	Chester City	H	Conference	0-1	
	9	Southport	A	"	0-3	
	17	Margate	A	"	1-0	Pluck
	20	Skonto Riga	H	Friendly	3-5	McIndoe, Alford pen, Pluck
	21	Street	H	Som P. Cup 2	0-1	
	24	Stevenage B.	H	Conference	2-1	Broad, Alford
Dec	1	Northwich Vic	A	"	3-1	og, McIndoe, Stansfield
	8	Doncaster R	H	"	1-1	McIndoe
	15	Telford United	H	"	1-1	McIndoe
	26	Forest Gr Rov	A	"	1-1	Grant
Jan	5	Woking	A	"	2-0	Thompson, Stansfield
	12	Tiverton Town	A	FA Trophy 3	3-1	Stansfield 2, Alford
	19	Nuneaton Boro	H	Conference	2-1	Stansfield, McIndoe
	26	Hayes	A	"	4-0	Grant, Johnson, Brassart, Stansfield
	29	Forest Gr Rov	H	"	2-2	Pluck, Grant
Feb	9	Morecambe	A	"	5-1	McIndoe, Grant 2, Johnson, Stansfield

## Season 2001-2002

	16	Dagenham & RH	"	"	3-3	McIndoe, Stansfield, Giles
	19	Doncaster R.	H	FA Trophy 4	1-1	Stansfield
	23	Doncaster R.	A	Replay	5-4	Pluck, Alford, Stansfield 2, Skiverton
Mar	2	Hereford Utd.	H	Conference	2-1	Crittenden, Lindegaard
	5	Canvey Is.	H	FA Trophy 5	2-1	Stansfield, Crittenden pen
	9	Farnborough Town	A	Conference	3-1	og, Giles, Stansfield
	16	Northwich V.	A	FA Trophy 6	2-0	Stansfield, Alford
	23	Scarborough	A	Conference	0-0	
	26	Boston United	H	"	0-1	
	30	Stalybridge C	H	"	0-2	
April	1	Chester City	A	"	1-1	Skiverton
	6	Burton Albion	H	FA T S-F 1 <sup>st</sup>	4-0	Grant, Crittenden pen, McIndoe, Giles
	14	Burton Albion	A	2 <sup>nd</sup> Leg	1-2	Alford (agg 5-2)
	16	Barnet	H	Conference	1-2	Way
	18	Stevenage B	A	"	3-2	Giles, Kumbur 2
	20	Leigh RMI	A	"	1-0	Kumbur
	23	Southport	H	"	0-0	
	27	Dover Athletic	H	"	2-0	Alford, Stansfield
May	12	Stevenage B.		FA Trophy Final (at Villa Park)	2-0	Alford, Stansfield

after the start of next season, all was set up.

Despite the third place standing there was a feeling that another season had slipped by though and with six away games on the trot to come there would be plenty of off the field activity before the next home game at Huish Park.

While all the success was being enjoyed, yet another ex-Glover manager was departing as Ike Clarke passed away in a Kent nursing home, aged 87.

**First team goalscorers:**

Adam Stansfield 16, Carl Alford 13, Chris Giles 11, Michael McIndoe 9, Kim Grant 7, Nick Crittenden 6, Lee Johnson 5, Scott Ramsay 4, Darren Way, Colin Miles, Francis Kumbur 3, Andy Turner, Barrington Belgrave, Steve Thompson, Terry Skiverton 2, Richard Parkinson, Joe Broad, Olivier Brassart, Andy Lindegaard 1, 2 og.

**First team appearances:**

Nick Crittenden 51, Anthony Tonkin 50, Carl Alford 48, Chris Giles 47, Lee Johnson 46, Tom White, Michael McIndoe 44, Adam Lockwood 40, Chris Weale 38, Darren Way 34, Terry Skiverton, Colin Miles 33, Adam Stansfield 31, Kim Grant 27, Steve Thompson, Andy Turner 24, Scott Ramsay 17, Olivier Brassart 16, Roy O'Brien, Jon Sheffield 14, Andy Lindegaard 10, Barrington Belgrave 8, Gary Haveron, Tommy Schram 7, Francis Kumbur 5, Joe Broad 4, Mike Cooper, Stephen Collis, Glenn Poole 3, Chris Luke, Richard Parkinson, Matt Peters, Ross Newell 2, Faisal Mali, Richard Lindegaard, Carmine Notaro, James Thompson, Paul Henbest, Dean Ritchie, James Bent, Andy Turner jun 1



Stuart Housley prepares the dressing room at Villa Park





The fans celebrate

### Reserves Season 2001-2002

Aug	18	Devizes Town A	Western P.	1-1	Bent
	25	Welton Rovers H	"	"	2-1 Lindegaard 2
	29	Westbury Utd. H	"	"	2-0 Giles, Poole
Sept	1	Team Bath	H	"	3-1 Poole 2, Bent
	5	Keynsham Tn. A	"	"	1-3 Parkinson
	8	Paulton Rov. H	"	"	0-1
	19	Welton Rov. A	"	"	2-2 Lidgaard, Parkinson
	22	Backwell Utd A	"	"	1-3 Bent
	26	Bishop Sutton A	"	"	1-0 Mali
Oct	3	Elmore	A	"	4-3 Parkinson, Poole 2, Lindegaard
	6	Dawlish Town A	"	"	0-5
	27	Taunton Town H	"	"	0-4
Nov	10	Keynsham T	H	"	1-2 Luke
	17	Brislington	A	"	0-1
Dec	1	Torrington	A	L. Phillips	C0-2
	9	Devizes Town H	Western P.	2-1	Poole, Giles
	15	Barnstaple T	A	"	3-5 Luke, Patchett, Harris
	22	Elmore	H	"	10-0 Turner 2, Skiverton, Giles 4, Grant 2, Johnson
	26	Bridport	H	"	3-1 R Lindegaard, J Thompson, Reed
Jan	5	Barnstaple T	H	"	0-0
	12	Paulton Rov. A	"	"	2-4 Newell 2
	21	Team Bath	A	"	2-2 Luke, Giles
Feb	9	Bideford	A	"	0-6
Mar	9	Odd Down	H	"	1-3 Peters
	13	Backwell Utd	H	"	4-1 Cooper 2, Way, Pike
	16	Taunton Town A	"	"	1-4 Turner
	23	Brislington	H	"	0-1
	26	Melksham T	A	"	1-2 og
	30	Bristol MF	A	"	1-1 Reed
April	1	Bridport	A	"	0-2
	10	Dawlish Town H	"	"	1-3 Kumbur
	12	Bridgwater T	H	"	0-1
	16	Odd Down	A	"	0-2
	23	Bridgwater T	A	"	3-4 Ritchie, Mali, Shearman
	27	Westbury Utd	A	"	0-4
	30	Bideford	H	"	0-2
May	2	Bishop Sutton	H	"	5-2 Parkinson 2, Mali, Shearman 2
	4	Bristol MF	H	"	0-3
	6	Melksham T	H	"	0-4

### Reserve appearances:

Chris Luke 33, Matt Peters 31, Richard Lindegaard 29, James Thompson 26, Stephen Reed 25, Faisal Mali 24, Richard Parkinson 21, Andy Lindegaard, Mike Cooper 18, Ian Patchett, Luke Buckingham 17, Paul Henbest 16, Matthew Roberts 15, Ross Newell 14, Dean Ritchie 12, Glenn Poole, Sam Jarman, Matthew Shearman 10, Stephen Collis, James Bent, Ian Linney 9, Steve Thompson, Chris Giles, Andy Turner jnr 8, Gary Haveron 7, Chris Weale, Simon Baker, Daniel Lenatti, Daniel Hopkins, Sam Vine 6, Loic Herouard, Andy Turner, Daniel Bulley, Carmine Notaro, Ian Harris, Nick Trevett, Darren Way 5, Tom White, Jon Sheffield, Kim Grant, Roy O'Brien, Terry Skiverton 3, Michael McIndoe, Matt Stowell, James Pike, James Wilson, Olivier Brassart, Francis Kumbur, Richard Akers 2, Michael Marsh, Lee Johnson, Cameron Jones, Jason Tavener, Adam Stansfield, Carl Alford, Colin Miles, Nick Crittenden, Adam Lockwood 1

### Reserve scorers

Chris Giles 7, Glenn Poole 6, Richard Parkinson 5, Andy Lindegaard 4, James Bent, Faisal Mali, Chris Luke, Andy Turner, Matthew Shearman 3, Kim Grant, Stephen Reed, Ross Newell, Mike Cooper 2, Terry Skiverton, Lee Johnson, Ian Harris, Ian Patchett, James Thompson, Richard Lindegaard, Matt Peters, James Pike, Darren Way, Dean Ritchie, Francis Kumbur, og 1

### Youth appearances

Sam Jarman 26, Paul Henbest 25, Daniel Bulley 24, James Thompson, Stephen Reed 23, Dean Ritchie, Ian Linney, Nick Trevett, Carmine Notaro 22, Daniel Lenatti 21, Richard Leach 20, Jason Tavener 19, Luke Buckingham 16, Sam Vine 15, Richard Parkinson 13, Richard Akers 12, Ian Patchett 10, Tom Houchen, Nick Jacobs 7, Daniel Hopkins 5, Steve Lindegaard 3, Jamie Barber, Shaun Smith 2, George Leighton, James Greet, Stephen Hancock, Dan Wise 1

### Youth goalscorers

Dean Ritchie 22, Daniel Bulley 15, Sam Jarman 12, Richard Parkinson 10, Paul Henbest 6, James Thompson 5, Carmine Notaro 4, Faisal Mali 2, Daniel Hopkins, Jason Tavener, Richard Leach 1



**Western League 2001-2002**

Bideford	38	28	7	3	105	37	91
Taunton Town	38	26	5	7	104	43	83
Brislington	38	24	11	3	72	32	83
Team Bath	38	22	7	9	74	36	73
Devizes Town	38	22	4	12	72	51	70
Dawlish Town	38	21	6	11	86	56	69
Paulton Rovers	38	18	11	9	77	54	65
Bridgwater T	38	17	9	12	53	45	60
Backwell Utd	38	16	9	13	56	41	57
Melksham T	38	15	9	14	47	46	54
Odd Down	38	13	11	14	49	45	50
Barnstaple T	38	12	8	18	57	66	44
Keynsham T	38	11	9	18	47	71	42
Elmore	38	10	7	21	47	96	37
BishopSutton	38	9	8	21	53	89	35
Yeovil T Res	38	10	4	24	57	86	34
Bridport	38	9	6	23	51	86	33
Welton Rovers	38	7	9	22	46	67	30
Bristol MF	38	7	8	23	30	80	29
Westbury Utd	38	7	4	27	35	91	25

**S.W.Youth League 2001-2002**

Bath City	18	15	0	3	61	17	45
Newport Co	18	14	1	3	66	15	43
Yeovil Town	18	13	1	4	45	26	40
Bashley	18	8	2	8	56	49	26
R Huish Coll	18	8	2	8	32	38	26
Forest Gr Rov	18	6	2	10	27	41	20
Salisbury City	18	5	2	11	23	41	17
Basingstoke T	18	4	4	10	24	51	16
Filton Academy	18	4	3	11	26	48	15
Clevedon Town	18	4	1	13	28	61	13

**Youth Season 2001-2002**

Aug	30	Bournemouth P	H	FAYC 1QI	5-0	Bulley, Jarman, Parkinson 2, Ritchie
Sept	1	Salisbury City A	SWY Lge	4-1	Ritchie 2, Bulley 2	
	8	Filton Acad.	H	"	3-0 Ritchie 2, Bulley	
	12	Bath City	H	FAYC 2QI	7-5 J Thompson, Ritchie 3, Henbest 2, Parkinson	
	15	R Huish Coll	A	SWY Lge	1-0 Bulley	
	22	Bath City	H	"	2-1 J Thompson, Bulley	
	29	Newport Co	H	"	2-1 Henbest, Notaro	
Oct	1	Bashley	H	FAYC 3 QI	3-2 Notaro, Parkinson, Ritchie	
	13	Basingstoke T	H	SWY Lge	4-0 Mali, J Thompson, Hopkins, Tavener	
	20	Bashley	A	"	2-4 Parkinson, Ritchie	
	23	Tonbridge Ang	H	FAYC 1 <sup>st</sup>	2-1 Ritchie, Parkinson	
Nov	3	Forest Gr Rov	H	SWY Lge	5-0 Henbest, Jarman, Bulley, Parkinson, Leach	
	6	Kingstonian	H	FAYC 2	3-2 Parkinson, Bulley, J Thompson	
	10	Salisbury City	H	SWY Lge	2-0 Jarman, Bulley	
	12	Forest Gr Rov	A	"	0-3	
	24	R Huish Coll	H	"	1-1 Ritchie	
	27	Swindon Town	H	FAYC 3 <sup>rd</sup>	0-2	
Dec	8	Newport Co	A	SWY Lge	1-5 Bulley	
	15	Clevedon Tn.	A	"	1-3 Bulley	
Jan	12	Bashley	H	"	4-3 Bulley, Jarman 2, Ritchie	
	15	Basingstoke T	A	"	3-1 Ritchie 2, Jarman	
Feb	9	Clevedon Tn.	H	"	3-0 Notaro, Ritchie 2	
	16	Bath City	A	"	3-2 Jarman, Mali, Henbest	
	23	Filton Acad.	A	"	4-1 Henbest, Jarman, Ritchie 2	
Mar	9	Bath City	H	SY Lge C	3-4 Ritchie 3	
	23	R Huish Coll	H	"	2-3 Jarman, Notaro	
	30	Newport Co	H	"	2-1 J Thompson, Bulley	
April	13	Bashley	A	"	4-1 Jarman 2, Bulley 2	
May	9	Filton Acad.	A	SYL C Fnl	3-1 Jarman, Parkinson 2	



Carl Alford celebrates after scoring the first goal





The Yeovil Town team that started the friendly against FK Auda during their pre-season trip to Latvia

## Finally it's into the Football League after 108 Years

The summer proved as controversial as any before it as champions Boston United were found guilty of various offences but after points deductions in place and heavy fines they kept their place in the League and Dagenham and Redbridge were left to fight another day.

Gary Johnson said farewell to a few fringe players but most of the work during the late spring was on two projects, the pitch which was coming along but would not be ready for the new season, and the pre-season trip to Latvia. Dorchester Town was confirmed as being the Glovers temporary home for the opening league games as a large party headed out for Latvia on July 4 from Heathrow.

They enjoyed three games in eight days which heralded the start of a massive build up which totalled 14 games before the first league games, at home to Gravesend and Northfleet. The disappointing draw was immaterial as it was overshadowed by the broken leg suffered by Adam Stansfield, which would keep him out for the season.

Former favourite Howard Forinton was back for a third spell as Yeovil quickly got to grips with playing their first five games at Dorchester while the new pitch at Huish Park bedded in. Forinton was on target for the winner at Morecambe and after tough games against Farnborough and Halifax in particular, the Glovers returned home for the match with Woking, where they announced their intentions to the Sky Sports cameras. Four goals in 20 minutes put them second behind early leaders Chester City and ensured the crowds increased steadily.

The goals flew in for Johnson's side during September and October, with Demba scoring a first half hat-trick at



Farnborough Manager Graham Westley got into a little bother with the police and had to be ejected during the match at Dorchester



home to Southport, and nearly 7,000 watched the draw with Doncaster Rovers, by which time Yeovil were clear at the top. Sadly injuries meant that the club were forced to release Howard Forinton after a short spell and they also bade farewell to commercial supremo Alan Skirton, who retired and left a marvellous legacy at the ground.

Anthony Tonkin moved on to Stockport County after making 119 appearances but joining Yeovil were Stevenage striker Kirk Jackson and defender Jimmy Aggrey. The squad were still performing and after getting past Bath City in the FA Cup 4<sup>th</sup> qualifying round November arrived with back to back 2-2 draws with Chester and Dagenham.

For once there was no Cup glory as Cheltenham Town did a job in the first round but it left the way clear for Yeovil to reach for the Football League place which had eluded them for decades. With the automatic place for the champions and a play-off spot for second, the excitement grew by the day.

The unbeaten 19 game run came to a halt at Scarborough but the side was soon back on track with wins over Stevenage and Northwich before Christmas. They took just one point over the holiday but manager Gary Johnson pulled off another master stroke by signing Bristol Rovers striker Kevin Gall at the New Year. Ironically it was the other new boy Kirk Jackson, along with Andy Linegaard, whose goals during

January ensured four wins and a draw, with FA Trophy success at arch rivals Hereford United a bonus.

By then the nearest challengers were Doncaster Rovers, 11 points away as the wins continued to come and the coveted League place looked a certainty. Jackson and Gall plundered defences through March, with the only blot being a surprise FA Trophy defeat at home to Burscough, although many saw it as a blessing in disguise as the championship was within touching distance.

A week later Yeovil beat Margate with another double from Jackson, which put them within eight points of promotion and it also ensured that what possibly would be the last few home games as a non-League club would be played out to massive crowds.

Telford, Doncaster Rovers, Burton Albion and Dagenham and Redbridge were swept aside on an avalanche of goals through April, the championship and the League place being cemented with three matches still to go. The triumphant home coming was on Saturday April 26 as a sell-out crowd packed out Huish Park to see the side crowned Champions against early leaders Chester City.

It had been the best ever performance by a Conference side with 95 points, 17 clear of runners up Morecambe with 100 goals and only three defeats. The attendances had averaged nearly 5,000 and the town turned out in force to



Colin Pluck fires in a shot in the friendly against Exeter City



celebrate the finest season in the club's long and proud history.

Yeovil were joined by Doncaster Rovers, who made a return to the Football League after a play-off triumph and the good news was completed when Adam Stansfield made a brief appearance in a testimonial game at Weymouth, having recovered from his broken leg on the opening day.

It took some time for the die-hard Glovers fans to take in precisely what the club had achieved under the expert guidance of Gary Johnson, ably assisted by Steve Thompson. It capped well over a century of joy and heartache in equal measures and would almost certainly put to bed at long last the memory of the club's previous finest hour, against Sunderland.

For promotion to the Football League which had been the goal of so many who had gone before, had finally arrived, and in style. The old names such as Stock, Bryant, Taylor and company would be replaced by Johnson, Jackson, Skiverton and Williams and the title of non-League giant-killers supreme would be passed on.

But although that was undoubtedly the end of a massive era, it of course started a new one, with a whole new outlook, a new budget and fresh set of rules and regulations. But Yeovil Town Football Club had arrived on the national stage and set about making sure they were ready for the journey.



Gary celebrates Yeovil's third goal at Halifax perhaps realising that the title was very close

### Season 2002-2003

July	5	Skonto Riga	A	Friendly	2-2	Stansfield, Lockwood
	7	FK Auda	A	"	1-0	Alford
	11	FK Ventspils	A	"	1-2	Grant
	17	Chertsey Tn	A	"	2-0	McIndoe, Lockwood
	20	Salisbury C.	A	"	6-2	Alford, og, Demba 2, Stansfield, Giles
	23	Bristol City	A	"	1-0	McIndoe
	27	Gloucester C	A	"	3-0	Lindegaard 3
	30	Chippenham TA	"	"	0-0	
Aug	1	Molesey	A	"	3-0	Giles, Alford 2
	3	Exeter City	A	"	1-0	Lockwood
	6	Dorchester T	A	"	5-1	Grant, Giles 2, O'Brien, Alford
	9	Tiverton Town	A	"	3-1	Johnson pen, Way, Tonkin
	12	Winchester C	A	"	1-0	Demba
	17	Gravesend N H		Conference	2-2	Crittenden, Skiverton
	20	Barnet	A	"	1-2	Johnson
	24	Morecambe	A	"	2-1	Alford, Forinton
	26	Nuneaton B.	H	"	3-2	McIndoe, Williams, Lockwood
	31	Kettering T	A	"	1-0	Skiverton
Sept	3	Farnborough TH	"	"	2-0	Crittenden, Johnson
	7	Northwich V.	H	"	2-1	Skiverton, Grant
	14	Stevenage B.	A	"	2-2	Skiverton, Demba
	17	Hereford Utd.	A	"	0-0	
	21	Halifax Town	H	"	3-0	Crittenden 2 pens, Williams,
	24	Woking	H	"	4-0	Demba, McIndoe, Forinton, Skiverton
	28	Leigh RMI	A	"	4-2	Skiverton, McIndoe, Crittenden, Alford
Oct	5	Southport	H	"	6-0	Demba 3, Williams, Crittenden, El Khoti
	8	Burton Albion	A	"	1-1	Demba
	13	Telford United	A	"	5-0	Crittenden pen, Lockwood, Lindegaard, Forinton, Williams
	19	Doncaster R.	H	"	1-1	Williams
	23	Boston United	A	LDV Vans 1	2-4	Skiverton, Alford
	27	Bath City	A	FA Cup 4 QI	1-1	Lockwood
	29	Bath City	H	Replay	3-1	Demba 2, McIndoe
Nov	2	Chester City	A	Conference	2-2	Crittenden, Forinton
	9	Dagenham & R	H	"	2-2	McIndoe, og
	16	Cheltenham T H	"	FA Cup 1 <sup>st</sup> Rd	0-2	
	19	Mangotsfield	H	Som P Cup 2	2-1	Demba 2 ( aet )
	23	Southport	A	Conference	1-0	McIndoe
	30	Margate	H	"	2-1	El Khoti, Crittenden pen
Dec	7	Scarborough	A	"	1-2	El Khoti
	14	Northwich V.	A	"	2-1	McIndoe, Jackson
	21	Stevenage B.	H	"	2-1	Jackson, Pluck
	26	Forest Gr R.	A	"	1-2	Skiverton
Jan	1	Forest Gr R.H	"	"	1-0	Jackson
	4	Gravesend N A	"	"	4-2	Jackson, Lindegaard 3



## Season 2002-2003

	11	Hereford Utd. A	FAT 3	2-1	Pluck, Lockwood
	18	Morecambe H	Conference	2-0	Lindegaard, Jackson
	25	Nuneaton B. A	" "	1-1	Lindegaard
Feb	1	Morecambe H	FAT4	2-1	Jackson, Skiverton
	8	Kettering T H	Conference	4-0	Pluck, Gall, Jackson, McIndoe
	15	Farnborough T A	" "	4-2	Johnson, McIndoe, Jackson 2
	18	Odd Down H	Som P Cup	2-0	Grant 2
	22	Northwich V. H	FA Trophy 5	2-1	Lockwood, Gall
Mar	1	Hereford Utd. H	Conference	4-0	Lockwood, Gall, Jackson, McIndoe pen
	4	Halifax Town A	" "	3-2	Gall 3
	8	Woking A	" "	1-1	Jackson
	11	Leigh RMI H	" "	3-1	Jackson 2, Gall
	15	Burscough H	FAT 6	0-2	
	22	Margate A	Conference	2-1	Jackson 2
	28	Scarborough H	" "	1-0	Jackson
April	5	Telford United H	" "	3-0	McIndoe 2, Jackson
	8	Clevedon T. A	Som PC S-F	4-0	Crittenden 2, Giles, Grant
	12	Doncaster R. A	Conference	4-0	Way, McIndoe pen, Johnson, Gall
	19	Burton Albion H	" "	6-1	Gall 4, Williams, Giles
	21	Dagenham & R A	" "	4-0	Gall, Jackson 3
	26	Chester City H	" "	1-1	Gall
	29	Taunton Town	Som P.Cup Final (at Clevedon Town FC)	1-2	Aggrey
May	7	Weymouth A	Friendly	5-1	Crittenden, McIndoe, Johnson, Thompson, Stansfield

## First team appearances:

Michael McIndoe, Adam Lockwood 50, Darren Way, Lee Johnson 48, Gavin Williams 46, Nick Crittenden, Terry Skiverton 44, Roy O'Brien 42, Chris Weale, Colin Miles 41, Andy Lindegaard, Abdelhalim El Khoti 36, Kirk Jackson 27, Kim Grant 23, Abdoulai Demba 22, Carl Alford 19, Howard Forinton 18, Kevin Gall 16, Chris Giles, Jimmy Aggrey 11, Jon Sheffield 9, Anthony Tonkin 7, Stephen Collis, Stephen Reed, Neil Mustoe 5, Steve Thompson 4, Ian Patchett, Ian Linney 3, Tom White, Dean Ritchie, Adam Stansfield, Jason Blunt, Nick Trevett, Richard Leach, James Turner, Tom Jacobs 1

## First team goalscorers:

Kirk Jackson 20, Kevin Gall 14, Michael McIndoe 13, Nick Crittenden 11, Abdoulai Demba 10, Terry Skiverton 9, Gavin Williams, Adam Lockwood, Andy Lindegaard 6, Lee Johnson, Howard Forinton, Kim Grant 4, Carl Alford, Abdelhalim El Khoti, Colin Miles 3, Chris Giles, Jimmy Aggrey, Daren Way, og 1



Kevin Gall and Lee Johnson celebrate



The team celebrate winning the Conference by a record 17 points



**Nationwide Conference 2002-2003**

Yeovil Town	42	28	11	3	100	37	95
Morecambe	42	23	9	10	86	42	78
Doncaster R	42	22	12	8	73	47	78
Chester City	42	21	12	9	59	31	75
Dagenham Red	42	21	9	12	71	59	72
Hereford Utd	42	19	7	16	64	51	64
Scarborough	42	18	10	14	63	54	64
Halifax Town	42	18	10	14	50	51	64
Forest Gr Rov	42	17	8	17	61	62	59
Margate	42	15	11	16	60	66	56
Barnet	42	13	14	15	65	68	53
Stevenage Boro	42	14	10	18	61	55	52
Farnborough T	42	13	12	17	57	56	51
Northwich Vic	42	13	12	17	66	72	51
Telford United	42	14	7	21	54	69	49
Burton Albion	42	13	10	19	52	77	49
Gravesend N	42	12	12	18	62	73	48
Leigh RMI	42	14	6	22	44	71	48
Woking	42	11	14	17	52	81	47
Nuneaton Boro	42	13	7	22	51	78	46
Southport	42	11	12	19	54	69	45
Kettering Town	42	8	7	27	37	73	31

**Youth appearances:**

Ian Linney 19, Sam Jarman, Richard Leach, Sam Vine 18, Ian Patchett, Nick Jacobs, Gary Nash, Matt Hann 17, Shaun Smith 16, Dean Ritchie, Carmine Notaro, Nick Trevett 15, Stephen Reed, Luke Buckingham 14, Lee Clarke 13, Paul Henbest 7, Steve Lindegaard 4, David Scarle, Tom Manley, James Turner, Tom Jacobs 3, Sam Brassington, Jamie Barber, Oliver Pearson, Jamie Underwood, Dan Jee 1

**Youth goalscorers:**

Dean Ritchie 10, Carmine Notaro 7, Gary Nash 6, Sam Jarman, Sam Vine 5, Shaun Smith, Richard Leach 3, Paul Henbest, Steve Lindegaard, Stephen Reed, Nick Trevett, Ian Patchett 2, Nick Jacobs, Lee Clarke, Matt Hann, Tom Jacobs, og 1



Chris Weale and Steve Collis celebrate

**Youth 2002-2003**

Sept	7	Basingstoke T A	SWY League	5-0	Jarman 2, Ritchie, Notaro 2
	14	Clevedon T. H	"	4-1	Ritchie 3, Henbest, S Lindegaard
	17	Cirencester T H	FAYC 2 QI	3-3	Notaro, Jacobs, Ritchie ( aet lost on pens)
	21	Filton Acad. A	SWY League	1-1	Henbest
	28	ForestGreenR H	SWY League	2-0	Vine, S Smith
Oct	5	Newport Co A	"	2-5	Notaro 2
	12	Salisbury City H	"	3-1	Clarke, Reed, Ritchie
	26	Winchester C H	"	5-0	Nash 2, S Lindegaard, Trevett, S Smith
Dec	7	Clevedon T. A	"	1-1	Notaro
Jan	18	R Huish Coll H	"	2-3	Leach, Notaro
Feb	15	Filton Acad. H	"	4-1	Jarman, Ritchie, Vine, Patchett
	22	ForestGreenR A	"	2-3	Jarman, Nash
Mar	8	Salisbury City A	"	5-1	Patchett, Nash 2, Vine, Trevett
	15	Bath City H	"	3-4	Leach, Reed, Ritchie
	22	Basingstoke T H	"	2-3	Ritchie, Hann
	29	Bath City A	"	3-0	Ritchie, Vine, Leach
April	9	Newport Co H	"	2-1	Nash, T Jacobs
	12	Winchester C A	"	1-0	Ritchie
	24	Aldershot T. A	"	1-2	Vine
May	8	R Huish Coll H	"	3-2	og, Jarman, S Smith

**S.W.Youth League 2002-2003**

Newport Co	20	16	1	3	66	21	49
Aldershot T	18	12	3	3	57	26	39
Yeovil Town	19	11	2	6	51	29	35
Clevedon Town	19	11	1	7	43	39	34
Bath City	20	10	3	7	42	43	33
Filton Academy	20	10	2	8	57	48	32
R Huish Coll	20	10	2	8	50	48	32
Salisbury City	20	7	2	11	46	50	23
Winchester C	20	5	2	13	50	66	17
Basingstoke T	20	4	0	16	29	74	12
Forest Gr Rov	20	2	2	16	20	67	8





Chairman John Fry, Manager Gary Johnson and Majority Shareholder Jon Goddard -Watts received the Freedom of Yeovil following the historic Conference win





Yeovil Town score in the Football League for the first time against Rochdale through Kevin Gall

## Manager of the Year and Oh so close to more glory...

Unsurprisingly Johnson was made Manager of the Year at the Conference AGM by which time he had signed a contract until 2006 and the close season was mainly taken up with dealing with the media and press who went into overdrive.

Talented Bath City midfielder Jamie Gosling and giant Hugo Rodrigues signed for the club although after a protracted transfer Michael McIndoe moved on to Doncaster Rovers.

Yeovil were accepted into the West and Wales Division of the Football Combination as they jetted off to Belgium for a pre-season tour. Results went against them but they were irrelevant as home friendlies against the likes of Preston North End, Brentford and Wolverhampton Wanderers gave a better indication of how things would go.

Gary Johnson signed Paul Terry from Dagenham and Redbridge, brother of Chelsea and England defender John Terry and over 2,000 fans travelled to Scotland for the first ever League game, where Kevin Gall scored Glovers first goal in a 3-1 victory.

A fine home win over Carlisle attracted 6,300 to Huish Park before three defeats at the end of August gave the management team their first real headache. But it didn't last long as September brought no less than five wins with a fit again Adam Stansfield on target to put them third in the table.

Two away defeats were followed by another superb spell of four wins in October as the squad quickly got to grips with the new league and as November came around, so did the FA Cup. A bonus of being in the Football League was a final



Steve Thompson has been by Gary Johnson's side through all the triumphs and his input should not be underestimated.



goodbye to qualifying rounds and in the first round proper the Sky cameras were back to take in the home tie with Wrexham.

Just over 5,000 saw the Welsh club humiliated 4-1 and with two more wins and a draw in the League, a play-off spot appeared to be a distinct possibility.

Barnet were next to visit Huish Park in the Cup and they had a similar fate, beaten 5-1 with three goals inside the first half hour killing the game. The unlucky Roy O'Brien suffered another knee injury and was ruled out for the season and the club signed Lee Elam from Halifax as they took in the news that the dream tie had dropped into their laps.

Liverpool were to come to Huish Park, along with the live BBC cameras and the town and the club went into melt down. Sadly so did the ticket office as it was partly destroyed by fire but a herculean effort ensured that the crowd of close to



A crowded goalmouth against Leyton Orient



Terry Skiverton gets fouled against Cambridge United

10,000 were catered for.

The holiday games were disappointing but all eyes were on the game against the multi European champions on January 4. The Glovers battled to hold their own but two late goals, one a controversial penalty, put paid to any ideas of a massive giant killing.

The financial windfall was a real bonus and Gary Johnson then had a clear run to the play-offs. Just as if to show how small the football world really is, two days later a Yeovil Town side travelled down the road to open Shaftesbury's new ground, from Premiership millionaires to the Dorset Combination in three days.

Goals were thin on the ground as the winter kicked in and losses to bottom club Carlisle United and Leyton Orient dented play-off hopes and when Yeovil lost two more during February, the inconsistency prompted Gary Johnson to sign Simon Weatherstone from Boston United. By the time March had gone, the side had dropped to ninth and with five games left they were five points adrift of a play-off spot before beating York and Southend to resurrect hopes.

But results elsewhere went against them and a home defeat by Hull City confirmed that they would spend another season in the lower flight.

Goals had been in short supply with Gavin Williams finishing top scorer with 13 and Kevin Gall and Jake Edwards both just scraping into double figures but the experience had been such that everyone from the players down were geared up and ready for a promotion battle in August.



## Season 2003-2004

July	4	Sp Lokeren	A	Friendly	0-0	
	6	Oberhausen	A	"	1-1	Gall
	7	Roy Antwerp	A	"	1-2	Crittenden
	9	G. Beerschot	A	"	1-4	Gall
	14	Chippenham	A	"	0-0	
	16	Chard Town	A	"	7-0	Miles, El Khoti, Thompson, Gall, Jeannin 2, og
	19	Brentford	H	"	2-0	Gall, Rodrigues
	22	Preston NE	H	"	4-4	Gall 3, Edwards
	24	Dorchester T	A	"	5-2	Lindegaard 2, Jackson 2, El Khoti
	29	Wolves	H	"	2-1	og, Gall
Aug	1	Brighton	H	"	2-1	og, Stansfield
	4	Tiverton T.	A	"	2-0	Lindegaard 2
	9	Rochdale	A	FL Div Three	3-1	Gall 2, Johnson
	12	Luton Town	A	League Cup 1	1-4	og
	16	Carlisle Utd	H	FL Div Three	3-0	Gall 2, Jackson
	23	Leyton Orient	A	"	0-2	
	25	Northampton T	H	"	0-2	
	30	Macclesfield T	A	"	1-4	Lockwood
Sept	6	Swansea	H	"	2-0	Stansfield, Jackson
	13	York City	H	"	3-0	Jackson, Miles, Stansfield
	16	Doncaster R.	A	"	1-0	Williams
	20	Mansfield T.	A	"	1-0	Jackson
	27	Torquay Utd	H	"	0-2	
	30	Boston Utd.	H	"	2-0	Williams, Lockwood
Oct	4	Cheltenham	A	"	1-3	Gall
	11	Oxford Utd.	A	"	0-1	
	14	AFC Bourmesth	H	LDV Vans 1	2-0	Edwards, Williams
	18	Darlington	H	FL Div Three	1-0	Williams
	21	Huddersfield T	H	"	2-1	Skiverton, Johnson
	25	Cambridge Utd	A	"	4-1	Edwards 2, Gall, Way
Nov	1	Bury	A	"	1-2	Edwards
	4	Cochester Utd	H	LDV Vans 2	2-2	Edwards, Gall
	8	Wrexham	H	FA Cup 1	4-1	Gall, Williams, Miles, Edwards
	15	Southend Utd	H	FL Div Three	4-0	Elam, Way, Johnson 2
	22	Hull City	A	"	0-0	
	29	Lincoln City	H	"	3-1	Miles, Stansfield, Gosling
Dec	6	Barnet	H	FA Cup 2	5-1	Miles, Williams 2, Crittenden, Edwards
	13	Bristol Rov.	A	FL Div Three	1-0	Crittenden
	20	Scunthorpe	H	"	2-1	Lindegaard, Jackson
	26	Kidderminster	H	"	1-2	Gall
	28	Swansea	A	"	2-3	Williams, Gall
Jan	4	Liverpool	H	FA Cup 3	0-2	
	6	Shaftesbury	A	Friendly	9-0	Stansfield 3, S Smith, Edwards 2, Welch, Johnson, Giles
	10	Rochdale	H	FL Div Three	1-0	Williams
	17	Carlisle Utd	A	"	0-2	
	24	Leyton Orient	H	"	1-2	Crittenden

## Season 2003-2004

	31	Macclesfield	H	"	2-2	Edwards, Way
Feb	3	Northampton	A	"	0-2	
	7	Kidder Harr	A	"	1-0	Williams
	14	Oxford Utd	H	"	1-0	Bishop
	21	Darlington	A	"	2-3	Johnson, Lockwood
	28	Cambridge Utd	H	"	4-1	Williams, Bishop, Stansfield, Miles
Mar	2	Huddersfield	A	"	1-3	Way
	6	Scunthorpe	A	"	0-3	
	13	Bristol Rov.	H	"	4-0	Lockwood, El Khoti, Williams, Miles
	16	Doncaster Rov	H	"	0-1	
	27	Mansfield T	H	"	1-1	Skiverton
April	3	Torquay Utd	A	"	2-2	Way, Edwards
	10	Cheltenham	H	"	0-0	
	12	Boston Utd	A	"	2-3	Weatherstone, Stansfield
	17	Bury	H	"	2-1	D Rodrigues 2
	20	York City	A	"	2-1	Terry, Lindegaard
	24	Southend Utd	A	"	2-0	D Rodrigues 2
May	1	Hull City	H	"	1-2	Rodrigues
	8	Lincoln City	A	"	3-2	Stansfield, Edwards, Williams



Kevin Gall in action at Darlington





Kevin Gall tries a cross at Southend

**COCA COLA LEAGUE 2 2003-2004**

Doncaster R	46	27	11	8	79	37	92
Hull City	46	25	13	8	82	44	88
Torquay Utd	46	23	12	11	68	44	81
Huddersfield T	46	23	12	11	68	52	81
Mansfield T	46	22	9	15	76	62	75
Northampton T	46	22	9	15	58	51	75
Lincoln City	46	19	17	10	68	47	74
Yeovil Town	46	23	5	18	70	57	74
Oxford Utd	46	18	17	11	55	44	71
Swansea City	46	15	14	17	58	61	59
Boston United	46	16	11	19	50	54	59
Bury	46	15	11	20	54	64	56
Cambridge Utd	46	14	14	18	55	67	56
Cheltenham T	46	14	14	18	57	71	56
Bristol Rovers	46	14	13	19	50	61	55
Kidderminster	46	14	13	19	45	59	55
Southend Utd	46	14	12	20	51	63	54
Darlington	46	14	11	21	53	61	53
Leyton Orient	46	13	14	19	48	65	53
Macclesfield	46	13	13	20	54	69	52
Rochdale	46	12	14	20	49	58	50
Scunthorpe U	46	11	16	19	69	72	49
Carlisle Utd	46	12	9	25	46	69	45
York City	46	10	14	22	35	66	44

**First team appearances:**

Lee Johnson 51, Adam Lockwood, Kevin Gall 49, Gavin Williams 48, Darren Way 44, Colin Miles 41, Chris Weale 40, Paul Terry 39, Hugo Rodrigues 38, Adam Stansfield 35, Kirk Jackson, Nick Crittenden 34, Jake Edwards, Terry Skiverton 31, Abdelhalim El Kholti 26, Andy Lindegaard 25, Jamie Gosling 17, Simon Weatherstone 15, Roy O'Brien 14, Stephen Collis, Lee Elam 12, Ronnie Bull, Stephen Reed 7, Andy Bishop 5, Lee Matthews, Dani Rodrigues 4, Chris Giles, Nathan Talbot 1

**First team goalscorers:**

Gavin Williams 13, Kevin Gall, Jake Edwards 10, Adam Stansfield, Colin Miles 6, Lee Johnson, Kirk Jackson, Darren Way 5, Adam Lockwood, Dani Rodrigues 4, Nick Crittenden 3, Terry Skiverton, Andy Lindegaard, Andy Bishop 2, Paul Terry, Lee Elam, Jamie Gosling, Abdelhalim El Kholti, Simon Weatherstone, Hugo Rodrigues, og 1

**Reserves Season 2003-2004**

Aug	20	Cardiff City	H	Combination	2-3	Stansfield, Lindegaard
	27	Swindon T	A	"	1-3	Terry
Sept	10	Swansea	H	"	8-0	Gosling 3, Edwards 4, Williams
Oct	7	Bristol City	H	Som Pr Cup 1	2-3	Gall, Edwards
	22	Bristol City	A	Combination	2-0	Stansfield 2
Nov	5	Plymouth ArgH	"	"	2-1	Lindegaard, Croft
	12	Oxford Utd	H	"	5-0	Stansfield 2, Elam, El Kholti 2
	26	Bristol R.	A	"	0-3	
Dec	10	Cheltenham	H	"	5-1	S Smith, Edwards, El Kholti 2, Stansfield
Jan	14	Bournemouth	H	"	2-2	Gosling, Edwards
	28	Oxford Utd	A	"	4-4	Gosling, Williams, Lindegaard, S Smith
Feb	24	Plymouth ArgA	"	"	2-4	Gall, Stansfield
Mar	3	Bristol City	H	"	2-2	Williams, Thompson
	24	Bristol R.	H	"	4-2	Jackson 2, Weatherstone,og
	31	Bournemouth	A	"	4-2	Weatherstone, Stansfield, Edwards, Williams
April	6	Cardiff City	A	"	4-2	Reed 2, Jackson, Weatherstone
	14	Swindon T.	H	"	3-3	S Smith, Jackson, Croft
	28	Swansea	A	"	2-1	Reed 2
May	4	Cheltenham	A	"	1-1	Edwards

**Reserve Appearances:**

Stephen Reed 18, Dale Williams 16, Adam Stansfield 15, Sam Croft 13, Andy Lindegaard, Stephen Collis, Charlie Welch 12, Jamie Gosling, Shaun Smith 11, Steve Thompson 10, Jake Edwards, Abdelhalim El Kholti 9, Paul Terry, Kirk Jackson 8, Chris Giles, Hugo Rodrigues 7, Greg Squibb 6, Nick Crittenden, Lee Elam, Kevin Gall, Nathan Talbot, Ryan Northmore 5, Jamie Underwood, Dani Rodrigues, Ian Patchett 4, Andy Martin, Simon Weatherstone 3, Andy Holmes 2, Richard



Cullingford, Ian Joy, Lloyd Walker, Jermaine Johnson, Jamie Barber, Luke Clennell, Andrew Davies, Jamie Gleeson, Nick Matthews, Mark Boyce, Alex Rhodes, Neil Sharp, Elliott Godfrey, Sam Swonnell, Chris Weale, Terry Skiverton, Darren Way, Lee Johnson, Colin Miles, Gavin Williams, Andy Bishop 1

#### Reserve goalscorers:

Jake Edwards 9, Adam Stansfield 8, Jamie Gosling 5, Dale Williams, Abdelhalim El Kholti, Kirk Jackson, Stephen Reed 4, Andy Lindegaard, Shaun Smith, Simon Weatherstone 3, Sam Croft, Kevin Gall 2, Paul Terry, Steve Thompson, Lee Elam, og 1

### Youth Season 2003-2004

Aug	16	Swansea	H	U17 Yth Acad	0-1	
	23	Cirencester	A	"	2-2	Cullingford, Williams
Sept	6	Bournemouth	A	"	2-2	Williams, S Smith
	27	Cheltenham	H	"	2-1	S Smith, Underwood
Oct	4	Exeter City	H	"	3-2	Cullingford, S Smith, Williams
	18	Swindon T.	A	FAY Cup 1	0-5	
	25	Torquay Utd	H	U17 Yth Acad	1-1	Ansell
Nov	1	Swindon T.	A	"	2-1	Clennell, Croft
	8	Bristol R.	H	"	2-1	S Smith, Williams
	15	Bournemouth	H	"	1-3	Hartley
Dec	6	Swansea	A	"	2-2	Holmes, og
Jan	17	Cheltenham	A	"	0-3	
	24	Exeter City	A	"	3-3	Ansell, Holmes, S Smith
Feb	7	Plymouth Arg	H	"	2-0	Williams, Ansell
	18	Plymouth Arg	A	"	0-1	
	21	Swindon T.	H	"	3-1	Welch, Barber, S Smith
	28	Bristol R.	A	"	2-1	Holmes, Barber
Mar	6	Torquay Utd	A	"	2-1	Welch, Cullingford
	20	Cardiff City	H	"	0-4	
	27	Cardiff City	A	"	4-2	Williams 2, Welch, Underwood
April	10	Cirencester	H	"	9-5	Williams 3, S Smith 3, Ansell, Holmes 2

#### Youth scorers:

Dale Williams 10, Shaun Smith 9, Andy Holmes 5, James Ansell 4, Richard Cullingford, Charlie Welch 3, Jamie Underwood, Jamie Barber 2, Luke Clennell, Sam Croft, Paul Hartley, og 1

#### Youth Appearances:

Jamie Underwood 20, Danny Barker, Richard Cullingford 19, Andy Holmes, Dale Williams, Charlie Welch 18, Sam Croft, Greg Squibb, James Ansell, Shaun Smith 17, Andy Martin 15, Bradley Bryant 14, Jamie Price 11, Jamie Barber 10, Luke Clennell, Daryl Kewley 8, Jake Reid 6, Tom Warren, Rob Platt, Paul Hartley 4, Tyson Murray 3, Ross Plain, Kieran Ellis, Shane Adcock-Case, Gary Offord, Kevin Betlem, Jack Adams, Gary Nash, Tim Pearse 1



Hugo and Danni Rodrigues go for goal against Hull City



It's heartbreak at Lincoln as the lads just miss out on a Play-Off place



## *The Glory Days continue....*

The summer saw an exodus of players, including Kirk Jackson, Lee Elam, Jake Edwards, Nick Crittenden, Nathan Talbot and Ryan Northmore, with Adam Stansfield going to Hereford United where he would enjoy a fine season.

The main signing of the summer was Phil Jevons, 25-year old ex-Everton and Grimsby Town striker and he was joined by Scott Guyett, a centre-half from Chester City and Polish striker Bartosz Tarachulski, three signings which would be crucial in the next nine months. The exotic sounding names continued to arrive, with Nicolas Mirza, Yemi Odubade and Kezie Ibe all on board.

Colin Pluck changed his name by deed poll to Colin Miles as the Glovers jetted off to Belgium for the pre-season.

Tarachulski and Jevons were soon on target and although they only took one point from the first two games, four wins in a fortnight soon put things right. Lee Johnson's hat-trick against Plymouth in the League Cup contained a bizarre goal when his knock back to the visiting keeper after a drop ball flew into the net. Possibly for the only time in the club's entire history they then allowed Plymouth to equalise in a sporting gesture which reverberated around the football world.

Gary Johnson added yet another exotic name to the squad when Andrejs Stolcers, a Latvian International with 77 caps, arrived at Huish Park and when Gavin Williams scored the winner against Swansea in September, Yeovil were fourth in the table and a 6-1 win over Oxford United, with a Jevons

treble, did them no harm. As they went top a week later.

Over 8,000 saw Premiership side Bolton Wanderers win 2-0 in the League Cup but October was to prove disappointing as the first win of the month came on the last day as Jevons was again among the goals. The FA Cup arrived and gave Yeovil a daunting trip to Darlington where only a last gasp goal saved them and brought a replay where Darren Way's goal was enough. The draw was unkind as Yeovil found themselves as potential giant-killer fodder at Southern League Histon, but they survived and enjoyed a stunning December with five league wins and 16 goals. But fans favourite Gavin Williams was to play no further part in the season as he was snatched by West Ham United for a club record £250,000. Aaron Davies, Southampton's Welsh U21 cap joined soon after and 1,000 travelled to see the Glovers take on Swansea on New Year's Day where the win took them joint top with Scunthorpe United as they racked up eight wins on the trot.

The FA Cup run continued with a simple demolition of Championship strugglers Rotherham United which gave Yeovil a dream trip to the Valley in the next round to take on Charlton Athletic. A sea of green and white greeted the players among the 23,000 crowd and they put up an epic battle before going down 3-2 despite universal praise from media and press.

Gary Johnson continued to tinker with his squad, releasing Roy O'Brien to take over as player-coach at Weymouth after five years at Huish Park and Adrian Caceres was also released.



*Phil Jevons and Gary Johnson are named Player and Manager of the Month in September*



## Season 2004-2005

July	10	Den Haag	A	Friendly	3-2	Jevons, Ibe, Reed
	11	Uerdingen	A	"	2-2	Tarachulski, Jevons
	14	R. Antwerp	A	"	2-1	Jevons, og
	17	Bournemouth	H	"	1-2	Weatherstone
	20	Bath City	A	"	3-0	Williams, Miles, Gall
	21	Dorchester T	A	"	2-0	Gall, Bulley
	24	Bristol City	H	"	0-3	
	27	Cardiff City	H	"	3-3	Williams, Tarachulski, Caceres
	31	Torquay Utd	A	"	4-2	Tarachulski 3, Caceres
Aug	2	Tiverton T.	A	"	4-1	Weatherstone, Tyler, Odubade, Jevons
	7	Bury	A	League Two	1-3	Caceres
	10	Darlington	H	"	1-1	Jevons
	14	Boston Utd.	H	"	2-0	Jevons, Tarachulski
	21	Notts County	A	"	2-1	Terry, Jevons
	24	Plymouth Arg	H	League Cup 1	3-2	Johnson 3
	28	Rushden & D	H	League Two	3-1	Johnson, Tarachulski, Jevons
	30	Manfield T.	A	"	1-4	Skiverton
Sept	4	Swansea	H	"	1-0	Williams
	11	Cheltenham	A	"	1-1	Way
	18	Oxford Utd	H	"	6-1	Stolcers 2, Jevons 3, Gall
	21	Bolton Wand	H	League Cup 2	0-2	
	25	Shrewsbury	A	League Two	2-1	Johnson, Tarachulski
	28	Torquay Utd	A	LDV Vans I	3-4	Stolcers, Caceres, Tarachulski
Oct	2	Northampton	H	League Two	1-1	Jevons
	8	Rochdale	A	"	1-2	Jevons
	16	Macclesfield	H	"	1-2	Way
	19	Bristol R.	A	"	2-2	Terry, Williams
	23	Scunthorpe Utd	A	"	0-1	
	30	Chester City	H	"	4-1	Jevons 3, Caceres
Nov	6	Wycombe WA	A	"	1-0	Tarachulski
	13	Darlington	A	FA Cup 1 <sup>st</sup> Rd	3-3	Miles, Tarachulski 2
	20	Southend	H	League Two	3-1	Jevons, Guyett, Tarachulski
	23	Darlington	H	FA Cup 1 Rep	1-0	Way
	27	Lincoln City	A	League Two	1-3	Skiverton
Dec	4	Histon	A	FA Cup 2 <sup>nd</sup> Rd	3-1	Jevons, Johnson, Odubade
	7	Kidderminster	H	League Two	2-1	Lindgaard, Stolcers
	11	Grimsby T	H	"	2-1	Johnson, Tarachulski
	18	Leyton Orient	A	"	3-2	Tarachulski, Terry, Davies
	26	Cheltenham	H	"	4-1	Gall, Jevons, Davies, Terry
	28	Cambridge	A	"	5-3	Jevons 3, Way, Johnson, Stolcers
Jan	1	Swansea	A	"	2-0	Stolcers, Jevons

## Season 2004-2005

	3	Shrewsbury	H	"	4-2	Way, Terry, Caceres, Gall
	8	Rotherham	A	FA Cup 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rd	3-0	Jevons, Way, Stolcers
	15	Oxford Utd	A	League Two	1-2	Guyett
	22	Cambridge	H	"	2-1	Terry, Jevons
	25	Rochdale	H	"	2-2	Tarachulski, Johnson
	29	Charlton Ath	A	FA Cup 4 <sup>th</sup> Rd	2-3	Terry, Davies
Feb	5	Macclesfield	T	League Two	1-3	og
	12	Bristol R.	H	"	4-2	Jevons 3, Tarachulski
	19	Chester City	A	"	2-0	Davies, Jevons
	22	Scunthorpe	H	"	4-3	Tarachulski, Johnson, Fallon, Davies
	26	Grimsby	A	"	1-2	Davies
Mar	1	Northampton	A	"	1-1	Davies
	5	Leyton O.	H	"	1-0	Jevons
	12	Darlington	A	"	1-2	Way
	19	Bury	H	"	0-1	
	26	Boston Utd	A	"	2-1	Skiverton 2
	29	Notts C.	H	"	1-3	Jevons
April	2	Rushden & DA	A	"	0-2	
	9	Mansfield T	H	"	5-2	Davies, Way 2, Rose, Jevons
	16	Kidder Harr	A	"	1-1	Davies
	23	Wycombe	H	"	1-1	Johnson
	30	Southend Utd	A	"	1-0	Jevons
May	7	Lincoln City	H	"	3-0	Sodje 2, Jevons



Chairman John Fry and Mike Tidmarsh Sales and Marketing Director of Bradfords sign a sponsorship agreement





The scene in the dressing room after clinching the Coca Cola League Two Championship

### COCA COLA LEAGUE 2 2004-2005

Yeovil Town	46	25	8	13	90	65	83
Scunthorpe U	46	22	14	10	69	42	80
Swansea City	46	24	8	14	62	43	80
Southend Utd	46	22	12	12	65	46	78
Macclesfield T	46	22	9	15	60	49	75
Lincoln City	46	20	12	14	64	47	72
Northampton T	46	20	12	14	62	51	72
Darlington	46	20	12	14	57	49	72
Rochdale	46	16	18	12	54	48	66
Wycombe W	46	17	14	15	58	52	65
Leyton Orient	46	16	15	15	65	67	63
Bristol Rovers	46	13	21	12	60	57	60
Mansfield T	46	15	15	16	56	56	60
Cheltenham T	46	16	12	18	51	54	60
Oxford Utd	46	16	11	19	50	63	59
Boston Utd	46	14	16	16	62	58	58
Bury	46	14	16	16	54	54	58
Grimsby Town	46	14	16	16	51	52	58
Notts County	46	13	13	20	46	62	52
Chester City	46	12	16	18	43	69	52
Shrewsbury T	46	11	16	19	48	53	49
Rushden and D	46	10	14	22	42	63	44
Kidder Harr	46	10	8	28	39	85	38
Cambridge Utd	46	8	16	22	39	62	30

#### First team scorers:

Phil Jevons 29, Bartosz Tarachulski 13, Lee Johnson 11, Darren Way, Arron Davies 9, Paul Terry, Andrejs Stolcers 7, Adrian Caceres, Terry Skiverton 4, Kevin Gall 3, Gavin Williams, Scott Guyett, Efetobore Sodje 2, Andy Lindegaard, Yemi Odubade, Rory Fallon, Michael Rose, Colin Miles, og 1

#### First team appearances:

Darren Way, Lee Johnson, Kevin Gall, Phil Jevons 52, Bartosz Tarachulski 50, Michael Rose 48, Paul Terry 46, Chris Weale 45, Terry Skiverton, Andrejs Stolcers 43, Andy Lindegaard 34, Adrian Caceres 26, Colin Miles, Arron Davies 24, Scott Guyett 23, Roy O'Brien, Liam Fontaine 18, Gavin Williams 16, Kevin Amankwaah 15, Adam Lockwood 11, Stephen Collis 10, Simon Weatherstone 7, Yemi Odubade, Rory Fallon, Efetobore Sodje 6, Stephen Reed, Marcus Richardson, Nicholas Mirza 4, Kezie Ibe 3, Marvin Brown 2, David Wozzley 1

As the season entered its last three months Yeovil were in a strong position ahead of Scunthorpe and a gripping 4-3 win over the Iron put them five points clear at the top.

Defender Kevin Amankwaah joined on loan from Bristol City and he was followed by defender Efe Sodje from Huddersfield Town and striker Marcus Richardson from Lincoln City.

With seven games left the Glovers were four points clear but defeats by Notts County and Rushden and Diamonds gave the supporters a few jitters, their fourth defeat in five games. The squad was given a break before the Mansfield game and it was a master stroke as 6,500 saw a 5-2 win which put everything back on track although Southend were just a point behind with a game in hand, which they won to go top before the crunch game at Roots Hall.

Phil Jevons clinched the victory with a late goal to set up a celebration day at Huish Park. Nearly 9,000 crammed in to see Lincoln City beaten 3-0 and the championship clinched in true style.

Civic receptions and open top bus rides followed as the squad rightly basked in the glory they had brought to the club.



In just a few short years Yeovil Town Football Club had swapped the likes of Molesey and St Albans City in the Isthmian League for Nottingham Forest in the League and had shed the mantle of the most famous non-League club in the country. Already that seems long ago and with a fine stadium with room to expand, financial clout and a sound fan base throughout Somerset, Dorset and the west, the club is ready to move on further still.



Crowds gather to hail the new Champions

**Reserves Season 2004-2005**

Aug	18	Cheltenham	H	Combination	1-4	Mirza
Sept	1	Bristol City	A	"	1-2	Ibe
	7	Plymouth Arg	H	"	0-0	
	15	Swansea	A	"	1-3	Odubade
Oct	6	Keynsham T A	A	Som P.Cup 1	4-2	Croft, Smith, Williams, og
	11	Bristol R.	A	PHCG	2-3	Lindegaard, Miles
	27	Cardiff City	A	Combination	3-1	Caceres 3
Nov	10	Weymouth	H	Friendly	2-1	Mirza, McCullum
	16	Bristol MF	A	Som P. Cup 2	2-0	Lidegaard, Odubade
Dec	1	Plymouth Arg	H	PHCG	3-4	Adams 2, Welch
	13	Bristol R.	A	Combination	4-1	Caceres 3, Odubade
Jan	12	Swansea	H	"	2-3	Odubade 2
Feb	2	Cardiff City	H	"	0-3	
	9	Swansea	A	PHCG	2-3	Ibe, Caceres
	16	Weymouth	A	Friendly	2-2	Cullingford, Verity
Mar	2	Bournemouth A	A	Combination	2-1	Brown 2
	8	Taunton T.	H	SPC Q-Final	2-0	Brown, Williams
	15	Swindon T.	A	Combination	4-3	Williams, Brown 2, Lockwood
	23	Bournemouth H	"	"	2-0	Mirza, Brown
	30	Swindon T.	H	"	3-2	Tarachulski 3
April	5	Weston.S.M	H	SPC S-Final	3-1	Brown 2, Miles
	12	Bristol City	H	Combination	0-0	
	28	Bristol R.	H	"	8-2	Stolcers, Wozzley, Brown, McCullum 3, Richardson, Poole
May	3	Cheltenham	A	"	0-1	
	5	Plymouth Arg	A	"	0-1	
	10	Odd Down	H	SP Cup Final	5-0	Lindegaard, Cullingford, Reed, Stolcers, og

**Reserve scorers:**

Marvin Brown 8, Adrian Caceres 7, Yemi Odubade 5, Dale Williams, Bartosz Tarachulski, Gavin McCullum 3, Kezie Ibe, Andy Lindegaard, Colin Miles, Jacques Adams, Andrejs Stolcers 2, Nicolas Mirza, Kevin Betlem, Sam Croft, Mark Smith, David Poole, Charlie Welch, Adam Lockwood, David Wozzley, Stephen Reed, Richard Cullingford, Marcus Richardson 1, og 2



Phil Jevons celebrates after putting Yeovil 2-0 up against Lincoln as they clinch the Championship

**Youth Season 2004-2005**

Aug	14	Swindon T.	A	Academy	0-8	
	21	Bournemouth H	"	"	1-3	Holmes
Sept	4	Plymouth Arg	A	"	0-1	
	11	Swansea	A	"	1-3	Holmes
	18	Newport Co H	"	"	5-1	Williams 3, Croft, Underwood
	25	Bristol R.	A	"	1-2	
Oct	2	Portsmouth	A	YAC 1	0-2	
	9	Exeter City	H	Academy	1-1	S Smith
	23	Cheltenham	A	"	3-1	Holmes, Underwood, McCullum
	30	Swansea	H	"	2-2	Underwood, Holmes
Nov	6	Newport Co	A	"	4-0	Williams 2, S Smith, Underwood
	9	Swindon T.	A	FAY Cup 1	2-0	Williams, Holmes
	13	Bristol R.	H	Academy	2-1	Williams, Cullingford
	20	Exeter City	A	"	1-2	Reid
	24	Brentford	H	FAY Cup 2	4-0	S Smith 2, Croft, Williams
Dec	11	Cheltenham	H	Academy	2-1	Cullingford, Holmes
	15	Luton Town	H	FAY Cup 3	2-0	Underwood, McCullum
Jan	15	Bournemouth A	A	Academy	1-1	McCullum
	19	Everton	H	FAY Cup 4	0-6	
	22	Plymouth Arg	H	Academy	4-1	Williams, Ansell, S Smith, Barber
Feb	5	Swindon T.	H	"	0-7	
	19	Bristol R.	A	Merit League	2-3	Ansell 2
Mar	5	Walsall	H	"	2-3	S Smith, Underwood
	19	Plymouth Arg	A	"	2-2	S Smith, Barber
April	2	Portsmouth	H	"	2-2	Barber, Croft
	9	Rushden&D	A	"	1-1	Holmes
	16	Brighton	H	"	1-1	Williams
	23	Oxford Utd.	H	"	2-0	Underwood, S Smith
	30	Colchester	A	"	1-5	og





Manager Gary Johnson receives a Certificate of Recognition from the Mayor of Yeovil at a Civic reception after the Championship of Coca Cola League 2 was clinched











## Dedications and Memories

The following people have donated £10 to the Yeovil Town Football Club to have either a personal dedication or a dedication to a deceased loved one, inserted in this book.

1. Norman and Molly Burfield, Martock Somerset.
2. John Sercombe, London. (in memory of Peter Sercombe, father, and Ernest Sercombe, grandfather – both deceased).
3. Bob, Loraine, Lee and Luke Peaty, Yeovil, Somerset.
4. Chris, Peter and Jill Johnson, Yeovil, Somerset.
5. Alun James, Yeovil, Somerset. (in memory of Ceros (Jimmy) James)
6. Roger Allen (in memory of Maurice Allen, Compton Dundon, Somerset).
7. Gavin, Samantha, Holly and Megan Cheetham, Yeovil, Somerset.
8. S.R.J. Jones, Yeovil, Somerset.
9. Patrick and John Enns, Martinstown, Dorset.
10. Jean Stent, Yeovil, Somerset. (in memory of Ray Stent, deceased)
11. Nigel Carter, Midsomer Norton, Somerset.
12. Chris Moon, Bruton, Somerset (on his 21st birthday)
13. Gordon Patten, Yeovil, Somerset.
14. Shaun Weeks, Bourton, Somerset.
15. Ann and Ralph Beaton, Yeovil, Somerset.
16. Keith and Sally Hartnell, Galhampton, Somerset.
17. Rob and Sue Bootle, Plymouth, Devon.
18. John and Lynn Baker, Taunton, Somerset.
19. Ken Hayward, Sherborne, Dorset.
20. Clive and Sandra Robinson, North Cadbury, Somerset.
21. David Martin, Wakefield, Yorkshire. (ex-secretary of the Green and White Supporters' Club).
22. Ernest Waddleton (deceased) Yeovil, Somerset.
23. Andrew and Helen Skirton, Kelvedon, Essex.
24. Ken Newman, Yeovil, Somerset.
25. Malcolm Lamb (deceased) Milborne Port, Somerset.
26. Ken and Sharon Flood, Sparkford, Somerset.
27. Bob Spiller, West Coker, Somerset. (in memory of Archie and Daisy Spiller both deceased).
28. Simon Jenkins, Alweston, Dorset.
29. Carol Spencer, Over Compton, Dorset.
30. Jean, Terry and Steven Cotton, Yeovil, Somerset.
31. Geoff Fowler (deceased) Crewkerne, Somerset.
32. Kenneth Hamblin (deceased).
33. Nicholas Neale, Somerton, Somerset.
34. Victor Old, Yeovil, Somerset.
35. Andy Farmer, Yeovil, Somerset.
36. Joan Horrill, Yeovil, Somerset. (in memory of Eddie Horrill, deceased)
37. Phillip Middleton, Highbridge, Somerset.
38. Tony Fearn, Yeovil, Somerset. (in memory of Bill and May Fearn, both deceased)
39. Phil Oram, Yeovil, Somerset.
40. Alan and Jane Skirton, Sparkford, Somerset.
41. Wilfred James Bartlett, Mickleton, Gloucester.
42. Gill Symons, Yeovil, Somerset. (in memory of Percy Symons, deceased)
43. Vera Masters (deceased), ex Club Secretary of Yeovil Town Football Club.
44. Kevin Riley, Westbury, Wiltshire.
45. Mr. and Mrs. Vallis, Yeovil, Somerset. (in memory of ex players Jack Vallis and Johnny Hayward, both deceased).
46. Ian Montague, Yeovil, Somerset. (in memory of Dennis Montague, ex director, deceased).
47. Ivan Margetts, Stembidge, Somerset.
48. Arthur and Gladys Mounter, Curry Rivel, Somerset.
49. Harry and Andrew Ridgewell, Yeovil, Somerset.
50. Derek Blackmore, Yeovil, Somerset (J.P.S.)
51. Mr. M. Wheller, Lower Odcombe, Somerset (in memory of W.J. Culliford, ex director and W.D.P. Culliford, both deceased).
52. Mrs. Chesterman, Bradford Abbas, Dorset. (in memory of John Chesterman, deceased).
53. Peter Hill, Bath, Somerset. (in memory of Raymond Reginald Cyril Hill, deceased).
54. W.J.M. and A.N. Culliford, Yeovil, Somerset.
55. Bryan and Pauline Moore, Yeovil, Somerset. (in memory of all who have served this great football club over the years).
56. Matthew and Penny Harrington, (Matthew's Hair Designers) Yeovil, Somerset.
57. Len Brooker and family, Yeovil, Somerset.
58. George and Sue Smith, South Petherton, Somerset.
59. Melvin Stroud (Shephard Bros. Tailors, Gillingham, Dorset).
60. David Hawker, Yeovil, Somerset.
61. Colin Stocker, Chesterton, Oxford.
62. The Reverend Canon A.E.H. Rutter, South Chard, Somerset.
63. Dave Gatehouse, Gillingham, Dorset.
64. K.M. Burrows, Trowbridge, Wiltshire.
65. Alan Ball Associates, Architectural Surveyors, Somerton, Somerset
66. E.W. Clarke, Yetminster, Dorset. (in memory of John M. Clarke, ex player and referee)
67. Richard Hines, Street, Somerset.
68. Stephen Beauchamp, Amington, Staffordshire.
69. Peter V. Beauchamp, Yeovil, Somerset.
70. Phil Haynes, Axminster, Devon.
71. Jason McGhee, Yeovil, Somerset.
72. Dot and John Mason, Poyntington, Sherborne, Dorset. (loyal supporters since 1951)
73. I.M. Rees, Cheam, Surrey.
74. Norman Chedzoy, Yeovil, Somerset.
75. Steve, Glenys, Emma and Susie Allinson, Curry Rivel, Somerset.
76. Ken Balfour (deceased) Yeovil, Somerset. (ex match day administrator)
77. Seb Flower, Yeovil, Somerset.
78. Alister Betts, Bath, Somerset.
79. T.C. Lawrence, Somerton, Somerset.
80. Joseph F. Webber, Yeovil, Somerset.
81. John F. Webber, Yeovil, Somerset.
82. Gordon Percy Taylor, Yeovil, Somerset.
83. Norman and Rosemarie House, Beaminstor, Dorset.
84. Gareth Williams, Bridgwater, Somerset. (season ticket holder for 10 years)
85. Rex William Thomas Parker J.P. and family, Higher Odcombe, Somerset.
86. T.F. Burt, Bridport, Dorset. (in memory of Fred Burt and Fred Hansford, both deceased)
87. M.J. Chant, Yeovil, Somerset, Mike Chant, Jim Chant and Matt Tilley.
88. Ivan and Enid Rendall, Martock, Somerset.
89. Mike and Pauline Lock, Yeovil Marsh, Somerset.
90. Dave, Kate, Sarah and Christopher Moore, Yeovil, Somerset.
91. David and Sue Fisher, Bromley Kent.
92. William and Jessie Moore, Yeovil, Somerset.
93. John and Julie Havard, Castle Combe, Wiltshire.
94. Gordon (ex player) and Stephen Chilvers, Bavaria, Germany.
95. Graham Pitman, Character Graphics, Taunton, Somerset.
96. Tony Williams, Team Talk, North Curry, Somerset. (ex director of Yeovil Town Football Club)
97. Tony Fagan, Precision Publishing Papers.
98. John Lukins (in memory of Fred Voizey, Ron Kemble & Eric Pike) all deceased and former colleagues in the press box.
99. Tim Lancaster, Sherborne, Dorset.
100. Michael and Mike Chant, Sherborne, Dorset.
101. William John James, Glovers supporter for over 50 years, love you Grampy! Matthew, Abigail, Kyle, Billy and Keisha xxxxx
102. Ivan Margetts
103. Harry and Andrew Ridgewell, Yeovil, Somerset
104. In memory of Geoff Fowler, Crewkerne, Somerset
105. In memory of Ian Vickers, Jean Vickers (loving wife)
106. Sue and Richard Shutler. In memory of William Muir – (Former player of Yeovil Town)
107. Brian Tutcher – With fondest memories of Brian Tutcher of Ilminster – remembered with tears of love and joy
108. Gilbert Morgan – In fondest memory of an exiled Exeter Glover
109. Tony and Pat Custard, Merriott