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Martin McConachie started watching Yeovil with a good friend, Doug Axe, back in 1971. Since then, he has followed the Glovers home and away with his four children having all been season ticket holders. As well as being a supporter, Martin also writes match reports for the club website and commentates for Soccer Sight.

10

Yeovil Town Football Club's first decade in the Football League

This is a limited edition hardback version of '10'

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Martin McConachie

Martin McConachie

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Foreword

By John Fry, Chairman,
Yeovil Town Football Club

As chairman of Somerset's only professional football club, it is an honour for me to write the foreword to this brilliant book. The Glovers' first ten years in the Football League is, quite simply, an amazing story.

This book should be read by all who love the game at grass roots level. It proves beyond doubt that, against all the

odds - with the right management and players - a small club like Yeovil Town can scale the heights from the bottom to the top of the football pyramid.

The author, Martin McConachie, lives and breathes everything that is Yeovil Town. But even he did not know the crowning glory was still to come when he first told me he planned this book about the club's most successful spell in its 118 year history.

That crowning glory was Wembley, May 2013 and promotion to the



Main: The final whistle is blown at Wembley to secure Yeovil Town victory in the League One play-off final and complete a remarkable decade in the Football League for the club

Championship. The Glovers' greatest ever achievement.

Just ten years earlier, another amazing chapter - Doncaster, April 2003 - and our fervent fans were on the pitch celebrating promotion to the Football League. Those images of sheer pride and joy will remain with Yeovil Town supporters for all time.

Martin's book contains brilliant photographic memories. Every page is crammed with statistics and the stories

of managers, coaches and players whose exploits are legendary.

It took the Glovers 108 years to achieve Football League status, and then just ten years to reach the Championship.

The former Non-League 'giant-killers' are now rubbing shoulders with the 'giants' of the football world.

Yeovil's greatest manager, 'Magic' Johnson, has earned his place in Yeovil Town folklore and deserves the gratitude of us all for his incredible achievements. It is truly the stuff of dreams.

To build a successful football club requires a team performance on the pitch, and by the board of directors, our sponsors and our fantastic supporters.

This book is about their dreams, hard work and achievements.

I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I have enjoyed living it. ■





Introduction

By Martin McConachie, Author

When the idea of writing a book to celebrate Yeovil Town's ten years in the Football League was first mooted, it was almost ahead of its time, quite literally. Originally, publication was planned during the 2012-13 season but with various issues surrounding the release dates and the updating of statistics, it was decided to postpone it.

As decisions go, it was up there as one of the best taken. It started looking like an inspired move when Yeovil Town started progressing through to the later stages of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy, offering the possibility of a Wembley final. But despite Leyton Orient knocking us out at the area semi-final stage, the team continued on a run of eight successive league wins that propelled them up the League One table and eventually into the top six.

Then of course, came the play-offs culminating in the wonderful events of May 19, 2013 when Gary Johnson's side beat Brentford 2-1 at Wembley to reach the Championship. I must admit, thoughts about the book rushed quickly into my mind during the post match celebrations in North London, and how the decision to put the publication back a year appeared totally vindicated. And how!

The book itself tells of a particular journey that has lasted ten years but that some say started many years before. Quite where the beginning of Yeovil Town Football Club's journey is will be subjective of course. Was it 1895 with the forming of the club? 1949 with the famous cup win over Sunderland? 1979 when the unofficial fifth division of the Football League was formed? 1990, 1997, 2002 or 2003 for varying reasons, all of which are valid? But this book begins with the 2003-04 season and ends at Wembley, neatly bookending the finest ten seasons this club has ever, or may ever, enjoy.

Within these pages lies the story of our own personal journeys too, running parallel to that of the club. My journey began years ago, on January 9, 1971 for a home game against Barnet that was significant for no other reason than it was the game after the Arsenal cup tie. I sat on the wall at the old Huish, not three years old, watching a dismal 0-3 defeat to the Bees; it was a good job I wasn't a glory hunter.

For the man who took me to Huish that day, his own journey sadly ended before this decade began. After 70 years following the Glovers and seeing them known as a great cup team but forever faced with the closed shop of the Football League, he passed away. He didn't know Gary Johnson and never managed to enjoy the journey with him. Seventy years with rare glimmers of light now and then is a hard apprenticeship compared to three promotions, two trips to Wembley and an FA Trophy final since. Hardly seems fair, does it?

This book also tells the story of the managers, the players and the supporters of this wonderful club. And it is a wonderful club, don't let anyone tell you any different. Start your journey anytime with Yeovil and the word meteoric doesn't seem to do the rise in fortunes justice. That a club from a town with a population that can fit into Wembley twice over, can reach the second tier of English football is astonishing.

As I said earlier, the journey begins where you want it to. Many, however, will suggest the Doncaster FA Trophy tie on February 23 2002, a match that was incredible in its own right, let alone what it led to. Three goals down at half time and heading out of the Trophy, a second half that defied logic saw Yeovil turn the game on its head to win 5-4. The side went on to eventually triumph 2-0 over Stevenage Borough in the final at Villa Park.

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The club's first major trophy, in Gary Johnson's debut season at the club, was a huge fillip and a confidence boost for a title challenge the next season. The journey continued with a campaign that started with five home games at Dorchester Town's ground as Gary's new signing, a pitch, took time to bed in. The money spent on it proved a bargain as the side remained unbeaten at home and romped to the Conference title, shattering records along the way. The football played that season was surely the best ever played by a Non-League team; the side was unplayable on countless occasions and never knew when it was beaten.

The journey moves on with the first Football League season, beginning on that scorching hot day in Rochdale (not a common phrase, it must be said). Victory in the first two league games, one home and one away, continued the momentum for the year and it ended in May with the heartbreak of missing out on the play-offs on goal difference. Just one solitary goal, to turn a draw into a win, would have seen a dream first campaign end in the top seven. Town's fans had to console themselves with a superb FA Cup performance in the mist against Liverpool and the club's appearance in the UK Top 40 charts with a hit record, "Yeovil True".

Season two showed the side had learned their lesson well and the League Two championship was sewn up on the last day, playing the same side that had hosted the heartbreak 12 months earlier, Lincoln City. Attractive, attacking football had continued again and it was welcome to League One for the Glovers after a season where they had excelled themselves once again.

The League One part of the journey lasted eight seasons and contained its fair share of high points and hiccups. As is usual when setting out on an upwards journey that might take some time, it is important sometimes to draw breath, gather yourself and prepare for the next push. It is equally vital that you don't slip backwards and fall down again. So many of Yeovil's Non-League adversaries had done precisely that and found that it's actually quite hard to prevent a further fall than one might have hoped.



Main: Yeovil legends Darren Way, Gary Johnson and Terry Skiverton celebrate with the League One play-off trophy in 2013

Top: The Yeovil fans bid farewell to the Non-League after winning the Conference in 2003

Aside from the 2006-07 play-off final against Blackpool at Wembley, six of those other seven years can be filed under C for consolidation. Yes, there was the odd squeaky bum season where the Glovers flirted with relegation a little too closely. But it never quite went down to the final day of the season where fans are biting their nails down to their elbows and listening to three radios at once, checking other scores. But those seasons were all part of the journey and as significant as the glory years beforehand. It was necessary to stay where we were - no point making the effort to climb a hill to then slip back down again, is there?

And so we come to season ten. Gary Johnson, the man who loved the club so much, came back for seconds and worked his magic again. In no small measure, he was helped by two others who had been part of his journey before, Terry Skiverton and Darren Way. Both men's testimonies in this book provide fascinating reading from different perspectives. Terry didn't leave the club at all and had three seasons as manager while Darren was here, then left, then

came back again and saw his journey as a player cruelly ended in 2008 after a serious car crash.

The three men masterminded the season to top all seasons. No one could have predicted that 2012-13 would turn out as it did except maybe those three; well, you wouldn't put it past them, would you? Eight successive wins helped them to reach the top six at the end of the season and goals at just the right time in the semi-final against Sheffield United, earning a 2-1 aggregate win, sparked wild scenes among the Huish Park faithful.

Better was to follow at Wembley when Johnson's men took on Uwe Rosler's Brentford. An early goal and another just before half time saw the Glovers two up and although the Bees pulled one goal back, a terrific defensive rearguard in the second half saw Yeovil through in the end and another step forward in this momentous journey. Six seasons after Wembley woe came Wembley wonder and the mouth watering Championship fixture list could commence.

They say that time flies when you're having fun. Well, for me, these ten years have flown past and I've loved pretty much every minute of it. It has been great fun writing this book and it has reminded me of what an incredible journey it has been. I hope when you read it, it reminds you of your journey too and remember, it hasn't finished yet. There may still be more to come. ■

Chapter One

The Sea



asons





2003-04

Nationwide Division Three
Final position: 8th (74 points)

After more than a century of waiting (108 years to be exact), Yeovil Town had a summer like no other with preparation like never before. On August 9, 2003, they would take part in their first ever Football League season, a challenge that thousands of Glovers fans had dreamed of but had sadly passed on before it came to pass.

Having taken his side to Latvia the pre-season before, manager Gary Johnson chose Belgium for his Division Three preparations, taking in a tour of four matches before returning to England for eight more friendlies including lining up against Preston, Wolves and Brighton at Huish Park. The Belgian leg produced two draws and two defeats but form improved back home and Johnson's developing side clocked up six wins and two draws.

One aspect of the build-up that pleased Johnson was the continued good scoring form of Kevin Gall. Signed in February 2003, he struck 14 times in the Conference-winning season and in the summer matches, the Welsh attacker hit another eight goals including a hat trick against Preston to hit the ground running for the new season.

Temperatures on the opening day were red hot, even the thermometer was sweating in heat approaching the mid-nineties as Johnson's men began with a match at Rochdale. Although a home game would have been preferable, more than two thousand Glovers made the 500-mile round trip to the north west, making it feel like a home game. If Johnson was worried about how his side would cope with the heat, the expectation or the step up in class, he need not have. Gall gave the visitors the lead on 26 minutes with an unstoppable finish though Paul Connor levelled right on half-time. In the second half, quick thinking at a free kick by Lee Johnson put Yeovil ahead again and Gall wrapped up the match halfway through the second half with his second as Town's debut match ended in a glorious 3-1 victory.



Main: The Yeovil Town players enter the field of play at Spotland ready for their first ever game in the Football League against Rochdale

Top Left: Gary Johnson and Mark Layder in the dugout at the beginning of the Rochdale match

Top Right: Captain Darren Way poses with the Rochdale captain and officials

Bottom: Kevin Gall celebrates after scoring his second goal of the match to make it 3-1

In a season of firsts, next up was Yeovil's first League Cup match, a tricky looking tie at Luton Town. Despite the best efforts of the team, they were beaten comfortably by four goals to one, even the one was scored by a Luton player, Emmerson Boyce. Disappointing, maybe, but there was no time to feel downhearted as the club's first ever home Football League match against Carlisle United was four days away.

Sticking to his favoured 3-4-1-2 formation, it was striker Kevin Gall who struck twice in the first 18 minutes as his golden season continued. More

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The Seasons | 2003-04

than 6,000 fans witnessed another impressive display and Gall set up Kirk Jackson for a late third to cap Yeovil's second successive league victory. Of equal delight was the re-appearance of Adam Stansfield for the first time in a competitive match for 12 months, coming on straight after the third goal to mark his return after a horrific broken leg.

Three defeats in a week followed before four consecutive wins (all clean sheets) lifted the Somerset side up to third place in the table behind the Citys of Swansea and Hull. Dizzy heights for the club as the side showed signs of settling down to life at the higher level. The inconsistency continued with three defeats in four followed by a run of four straight victories as the exciting season continued. Among them was an LDV Vans Trophy win over local rivals AFC Bournemouth before an exit in the second round to Phil Parkinson's Colchester United at Huish Park.

Over the past century, Yeovil and the FA Cup had gone hand in hand, or should that be glove in glove, with each other. Numerous famous upsets had set the Glovers up as the ultimate Non-League giant-killers but how would they react as 'semi-giants'; a League side with an exemption to the first round but still small in comparison to the other teams they could meet in this famous old competition.

The pre-Christmas build-up would answer that question emphatically. A first round tie at home to Wrexham, mid-table in the division above, attracted the Sky cameras and the home side didn't let the viewing audience down. One of the best performances of the season ended in a terrific 4-1 win with the Welsh club's 88th minute consolation not taking any gloss off the display.

If that was good, was the second round demolition of Barnet even better? Martin Allen's side arrived in Somerset hot on the heels of watching 'Blood Brothers' in the West End as the manager tried an alternative team-bonding exercise. However, it was his own side, dressed in blood red shirts, that haemorrhaged goals regularly, going down by five goals to one. Although Colin Pluck's early goal was immediately replied to by Peter Beadle,



a Gavin Williams double followed by further strikes from Nick Crittenden and Jake Edwards ensured a comprehensive win.

League form was holding up well with seven wins in nine games from the programme during October, November and December. Prolific in the FA Cup, the side were equally productive in Division Three putting four goals past Cambridge United and Southend United and another three past Lincoln City as they maintained fifth place in the table, perfect for a post-Christmas push.

First of all came one of the biggest matches yet staged at Huish Park with the visit of Premiership giants Liverpool. A then-record crowd of 9,348 crammed into the stadium for the fixture including hundreds who had camped out all night in freezing temperatures the week before to get their hands on tickets for the game. What they witnessed in the first



Main: Adam Stansfield celebrates putting Yeovil ahead at Lincoln City

Right: Andy Bishop celebrates scoring in Yeovil's 4-1 home win over Cambridge United



Top: Lee Elam scores in the 4-0 win against Southend United at Huish Park
Left: The Yeovil Town players salute the fans after their final game of the season at Lincoln City

half will stay with them forever; a new Football League side going toe to toe with one of world football's biggest names and matching, if not playing better than them.

Ultimately class told and a strong Reds side triumphed 2-0. Without Gerrard and Owen, they were still able to boast the likes of Dudek, Hyypia, Riise, Diouf, Hamann, Kewell, Murphy and Heskey. The last two on the list scored a goal apiece in the last 20 minutes to seal the victory.

So as the match ended, Gary Johnson was left with the second half of his league season to complete. No more cup games to interfere with the schedule, just a straight run of 22 games towards hopefully a play-off spot. The inconsistency from earlier in the season

returned and until a final flourish near the end, the side could only string two successive wins together once and won just five times in 17 games.

As the club entered the final five games, they sat in ninth position just five points off the play-offs with a game in hand. Despite a great run-in featuring wins over Bury, York City and Southend United, the home defeat to Hull City meant that their hopes of making the top seven would lie partially at the hands of others in the final match. The game ended in a 2-1 win for the Tigers, a result that saw them promoted automatically, but at least saw cult hero Hugo Rodrigues thump home a header for his first, and only, goal.

The season ended as it began with a long road trip, this time to the east and Lincoln City. The scenario was simple, well sort of. Yeovil had to win, anything

else would be no good. Mansfield hosted Northampton and if the away side dropped any points, it would be the Somerset side in the top seven for a remarkable end to a remarkable season.

In the end, the 1,200 Yeovil Town fans who crossed the width of the country to Sincil Bank saw a cracking game which was played at times in an almost surreal atmosphere. Fans with one eye on the action and one ear on the radio, trying to concentrate on both matches; cheers, both false and true, from both sets of supporters; it was a strange day all right. As an aside, Lincoln just had to avoid a five goal defeat to make the play-offs so when Yeovil went two up with 20 minutes remaining, the impossible was becoming possible.

Sadly, it was to end in tears; brave, proud and emotional tears. Yeovil won the game 3-2 but Northampton's victory over Mansfield meant that both those sides, and Lincoln, all qualified for the end of season play-offs. The Glovers were left as the odd ones out at the end of a superb debut campaign in Division Three but had so much to be proud of. Apart from the top two, no team won more matches than the attack-minded Glovers and it gave everyone an authentic belief that next year could be even better. ■

Fixtures and Results

August 2003

09-08-03	A	Rochdale	ND3	3-1	4,611	Gall 26, 67, Johnson 55
12-08-03	A	Luton Town	CC1	1-4	4,337	Own Goal 47
16-08-03	H	Carlisle United	ND3	3-0	6,347	Gall 4, 18, Jackson 79
23-08-03	A	Leyton Orient	ND3	0-2	4,431	
25-08-03	H	Northampton Town	ND3	0-2	6,105	
30-08-03	A	Macclesfield Town	ND3	1-4	2,221	Lockwood 63

September

06-09-03	H	Swansea City	ND3	2-0	6,655	Stansfield 39, Jackson 55
13-09-03	H	York City	ND3	3-0	5,653	Jackson 21, Miles 34, Stansfield 90
16-09-03	A	Doncaster Rovers	ND3	1-0	4,716	G Williams 35
20-09-03	A	Mansfield Town	ND3	1-0	5,270	Jackson 42
27-09-03	H	Torquay United	ND3	0-2	7,718	
30-09-03	H	Boston United	ND3	2-0	5,093	G Williams 21, Lockwood 38

October

04-10-03	A	Cheltenham Town	ND3	1-3	4,960	Gall 40
11-10-03	A	Oxford United	ND3	0-1	6,301	
14-10-03	H	AFC Bournemouth	LDV1	2-0	5,035	Edwards 74, G Williams 86
18-10-03	H	Darlington	ND3	1-0	4,892	G Williams 5
21-10-03	H	Huddersfield Town	ND3	2-1	5,274	Skiverton 4, Johnson 51
25-10-03	A	Cambridge United	ND3	4-1	4,072	Edwards 16, 59, Gall 61, Way 87

November

01-11-03	A	Bury	ND3	1-2	3,086	Edwards 31
04-11-03	H	Colchester United	LDV2	2-2	3,052	Edwards 11, Gall 66
08-11-03	H	Wrexham	FAC1	4-1	5,049	Gall 39, G Williams 46, Miles 59, Edwards 66
15-11-03	H	Southend United	ND3	4-0	5,248	Elam 33, Way 40, Johnson 43, 56
22-11-03	A	Hull City	ND3	0-0	14,367	
29-11-03	H	Lincoln City	ND3	3-1	4,867	Miles 54, Stansfield 85, Gosling 90

December

06-12-03	H	Barnet	FAC2	5-1	5,973	Miles 9, G Williams 18, 27, Crittenden 74, Edwards 78
13-12-03	A	Bristol Rovers	ND3	1-0	9,812	Crittenden 43
20-12-03	H	Scunthorpe United	ND3	2-1	5,714	Lindegaard 71, Jackson 82
26-12-03	H	Kidderminster Harriers	ND3	1-2	5,640	Gall 58
28-12-03	A	Swansea City	ND3	2-3	9,800	G Williams 73, Gall 89

January 2004

04-01-04	H	Liverpool	FAC3	0-2	9,348	
10-01-04	H	Rochdale	ND3	1-0	5,806	G Williams 13
17-01-04	A	Carlisle United	ND3	0-2	5,455	
24-01-04	H	Leyton Orient	ND3	1-2	6,299	Crittenden 76
31-01-04	H	Macclesfield Town	ND3	2-2	5,257	Edwards 30, Way 60

February

03-02-04	A	Northampton Town	ND3	0-2	4,363	
07-02-04	A	Kidderminster Harriers	ND3	1-0	3,255	G Williams 64
14-02-04	H	Oxford United	ND3	1-0	7,404	Bishop 29
21-02-04	A	Darlington	ND3	2-3	4,500	Johnson 22, Lockwood 90
28-02-04	H	Cambridge United	ND3	4-1	5,694	G Williams 18, Bishop 19, Stansfield 27, Miles 48

March

02-03-04	A	Huddersfield Town	ND3	1-3	9,395	Way 78
06-03-04	A	Scunthorpe United	ND3	0-3	3,355	
13-03-04	H	Bristol Rovers	ND3	4-0	8,726	Lockwood 16, El Kholti 43, G Williams 49, Miles 72
16-03-04	H	Doncaster Rovers	ND3	0-1	7,587	
27-03-04	H	Mansfield Town	ND3	1-1	6,002	Skiverton 61

April

03-04-04	A	Torquay United	ND3	2-2	6,156	Way 17, Edwards 27
10-04-04	H	Cheltenham Town	ND3	0-0	6,613	
12-04-04	A	Boston United	ND3	2-3	2,848	Weatherstone 4, Stansfield 51
17-04-04	H	Bury	ND3	2-1	5,172	D Rodrigues 55, 59
20-04-04	A	York City	ND3	2-1	2,802	Terry 46, Lindegaard 70
24-04-04	A	Southend United	ND3	2-0	5,676	D Rodrigues 21, 32

May

01-05-04	H	Hull City	ND3	1-2	8,760	Rodrigues 64
08-05-04	A	Lincoln City	ND3	3-2	8,154	Stansfield 47, Edwards 71, G Williams 89

KEY: ND3 = Nationwide Division Three, FAC = FA Cup, LDV = LDV Vans Trophy, CC = Carling Cup

Nationwide Division Three Table

	P	Home				Away				GD	Pts		
		W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L			F	A
1 Doncaster Rovers (C)	46	17	4	2	47	13	10	7	6	32	24	42	92
2 Hull City (P)	46	16	4	3	50	21	9	9	5	32	23	38	88
3 Torquay United (P)	46	15	6	2	44	18	8	6	9	24	26	24	81
4 Huddersfield Town (P)	46	16	4	3	42	18	7	8	8	26	34	16	81
5 Mansfield Town	46	13	5	5	44	25	9	4	10	32	37	14	75
6 Northampton Town	46	13	4	6	30	23	9	5	9	28	28	7	75
7 Lincoln City	46	9	11	3	36	23	10	6	7	32	24	21	74
8 Yeovil Town	46	14	3	6	40	19	9	2	12	30	38	13	74
9 Oxford United	46	14	8	1	34	13	4	9	10	21	31	11	71
10 Swansea City	46	9	8	6	36	26	6	6	11	22	35	-3	59
11 Boston United	46	11	7	5	35	21	5	4	14	15	33	-4	59
12 Bury	46	10	7	6	29	26	5	4	14	25	38	-10	56
13 Cambridge United	46	6	7	10	26	32	8	7	8	29	35	-12	56
14 Cheltenham Town	46	11	4	8	37	38	3	10	10	20	33	-14	56
15 Bristol Rovers	46	9	7	7	29	26	5	6	12	21	35	-11	55
16 Kidderminster Harriers	46	9	5	9	28	29	5	8	10	17	30	-14	55
17 Southend United	46	8	4	11	27	29	6	8	9	24	34	-12	54
18 Darlington	46	10	4	9	30	28	4	7	12	23	33	-8	53
19 Leyton Orient	46	8	9	6	28	27	5	5	13	20	38	-17	53
20 Macclesfield Town	46	8	9	6	28	25	5	4	14	26	44	-15	52
21 Rochdale	46	7	8	8	28	26	5	6	12	21	32	-9	50
22 Scunthorpe United	46	7	10	6	36	27	4	6	13	33	45	-3	49
23 Carlisle United (R)	46	8	5	10	23	27	4	4	15	23	42	-23	45
24 York City (R)	46	7	6	10	22	29	3	8	12	13	37	-31	44

Appearances

	ND3	C	T
1 Lee Johnson	45	6	51
2 Adam Lockwood	43	6	49
3 Kevin Gall	39 ⁽⁴⁾	6	49
4 Gavin Williams	42	6	48
5 Darren Way	38 ⁽¹⁾	5	44
6 Colin Miles	36	5	41
7 Chris Weale	35	5	40
8 Paul Terry	22 ⁽¹²⁾	4 ⁽¹⁾	39
9 Hugo Rodrigues	23 ⁽¹¹⁾	4	38
10 Adam Stansfield	7 ⁽²⁴⁾	0 ⁽⁴⁾	35
11 Kirk Jackson	19 ⁽¹¹⁾	2 ⁽²⁾	34
12 Nick Crittenden	20 ⁽⁹⁾	5	34
13 Jake Edwards	17 ⁽¹⁰⁾	3 ⁽¹⁾	31
14 Terry Skiverton	25 ⁽¹⁾	5	31
15 Abdelhalim El Kholti	19 ⁽⁴⁾	1 ⁽²⁾	26
16 Andy Lindegaard	12 ⁽¹¹⁾	0 ⁽²⁾	25
17 Jamie Gosling	4 ⁽⁸⁾	1 ⁽⁴⁾	17
18 Simon Weatherstone	11 ⁽⁴⁾	0	15
19 Roy O'Brien	13	1	14
20 Stephen Collis	11	1	12
21 Lee Elam	6 ⁽⁶⁾	0	12
22 Ronnie Bull	7	0	7
23 Stephen Reed	3 ⁽²⁾	0 ⁽²⁾	7
24 Andy Bishop	4 ⁽¹⁾	0	5
25 Lee Matthews	2 ⁽²⁾	0	4
26 Dani Rodrigues	3 ⁽¹⁾	0	4
27 Chris Giles	0 ⁽¹⁾	0	1
28 Nathan Talbott	0 ⁽¹⁾	0	1

Goalscorers

	ND3	C	T
1 Gavin Williams	9	4	13
2 Kevin Gall	8	2	10
3 Jake Edwards	6	4	10
4 Adam Stansfield	6	0	6
5 Colin Miles	4	2	6
6 Lee Johnson	5	0	5
7 Kirk Jackson	5	0	5
8 Darren Way	5	0	5
9 Adam Lockwood	4	0	4
10 Dani Rodrigues	4	0	4
11 Nick Crittenden	2	1	3
12 Terry Skiverton	2	0	2
13 Andy Lindegaard	2	0	2
14 Andy Bishop	2	0	2
15 Paul Terry	1	0	1
16 Lee Elam	1	0	1
17 Jamie Gosling	1	0	1
18 Abdelhalim El Kholti	1	0	1
19 Simon Weatherstone	1	0	1
20 Hugo Rodrigues	1	0	1
21 Own Goal	0	1	1

KEY: ND3 = Nationwide Division Three, C = Cup Competitions (includes FA Cup, Carling Cup & LDV Vans Trophy), T = Total

Season 2003-04



2004-05

Coca-Cola League Two
Final position: 1st (83 points)



Having lifted silverware in two of the last three seasons and only missing out on last season's league play-offs on goal difference, supporters at Huish Park could have been forgiven for feeling spoilt. The emotion going into the summer break was a mixed one at the previous season's exploits; pride that in their debut Football League season, Yeovil had done so well to finish eighth but a major degree of frustration that they had come so close.

Manager Gary Johnson would have shared those emotions just like the rest of the supporters but it would be his decision on how to react to it. The end result was a cull of players that went into double figures, some of them popular names at the club. Strikers Jake Edwards and Kirk Jackson both left along with crowd favourites Nick Crittenden and Abdelhalim El Kholti. Others to depart included Jamie Gosling, Lee Elam, giant defender Hugo Rodrigues and popular forward Adam Stansfield who joined Hereford United.

In their place came an array of talent from all around the world, quite literally. An Argentinean-born winger, an Australian defender, a Polish striker and a French midfielder all signed for the club during the summer months and started to make their marks in the squad. In that order, Adrian Caceres, Scott Guyett, Bartosz Tarachulski and Nicolas Mirza were the four foreign imports and they were backed up by goal-hungry former Everton striker Phil

Jevons, cultured left back Michael Rose (an ex Manchester United trainee) and two promising young strikers in Kezie Ibe and Yemi Odubade.

Johnson had promised in May that he would add quality signings to his squad and he was true to his word. In addition, Gavin Williams renewed his contract further and Roy O'Brien made a return to playing action in the pre-season friendly schedule after almost nine months out with injury. Those two being available to play a part in the coming season might yet prove to be important in the Glovers' second season at Football League level.

Sadly one person who wouldn't be around to enjoy the football was David Hawker. A local estate agent who took on the chairman's role for eight years across the seventies and eighties, David passed away in July and would be sorely missed by family and friends alike.

Pre-season started with a whirlwind mini-tour of Europe to play teams from Holland, Germany and Belgium. Dutch side FC Den Haag, were beaten 3-2 by a nine man Yeovil side (Terry Skiverton and Adam Lockwood both red carded). Next up was German outfit KFC Uerdingen that ended in a 1-1 draw and the trip was wrapped up with a 2-1 win over Belgian club Royal Antwerp.

Back in England, pre-season took on a distinctly local look with all seven matches featuring sides from not too far away. As the squad began to develop, they also started to score regularly and aside from a dismal show against Bristol City, they generally performed well. Tarachulski netted a hat-trick against Tiverton Town, Jevons continued to find the net frequently as did Caceres.

The first competitive game of the season saw Yeovil travel to

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Main: Yeovil's seven summer signings - from left to right, back row; Nicolas Mirza, Bartosz Tarachulski, Phil Jevons, Michael Rose. Front row; Kezie Ibe, Yemi Odubade and Adrian Caceres
Right: Paul Terry celebrates with Michael Rose and the Yeovil players after scoring in the 2-1 win over Notts County



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the Manchester area again. Last year Rochdale, this year Bury; last year 3-1, this year 3-1 though this time it was a defeat to begin with. And the mediocre start to the season continued with a 1-1 draw at home to Darlington which saw Johnson keep his side in the dressing room well after the final whistle.

Two seasons beforehand, Yeovil Town began their Conference title-winning season with a defeat and a draw yet won the title at a canter so all was not lost. They needed to build some momentum, a word that the manager loved to use, so subsequent wins over Boston United and Notts County gave a timely boost to the club.

Then came Plymouth in the Carling Cup, a night no one there would ever forget. The Glovers took the lead in fluky and controversial circumstances on 28 minutes. Argyle had kicked the ball out so that Graham Coughlin could receive treatment but when midfielder Lee Johnson returned the ball to keeper Luke McCormick, the man in gloves had ventured out wide from his area and the ball sailed into his unguarded net.

Following much discussion and a glare from visiting manager Bobby Williamson, Gary Johnson agreed to let Plymouth walk the ball into the net for an equaliser, a gesture that later saw the boss nominated for a UEFA Fair Play award. Steve Crawford scored the easiest goal he'd score all season to make it 1-1. Paul Wotton scored a spot kick to make it 2-1 to the Devonians but Johnson junior levelled with a stunning long range shot before bettering that with a fantastic free kick in extra time to make the final score 3-2.

Home wins over Rushden & Diamonds and Swansea followed before a 6-1 demolition of Oxford United. Phil Jevons went home with the match ball to add to an Andrejs Stolcers double and Kevin Gall's volley. Three days later, the Carling Cup run came to a brave end with a 2-0 defeat to Premiership Bolton Wanderers, the Trotters going through courtesy of two late goals at Huish Park in front of more than 8,000 fans.

The following Saturday saw Yeovil reach top of the Coca-Cola League Two table for the first time in the campaign after coming back from a goal down to beat Shrewsbury 2-1 at Gay Meadow. If Johnson had hoped the achievement would help his side to kick on, he would have been wrong as they then came up with the worst run of form all season. After a 4-3 extra time defeat at Torquay in



the LDV Trophy, the Glovers' impressive league form went strangely to pot as a draw with Northampton Town was backed up with losses at Rochdale and Macclesfield Town.

A fiery, tempestuous local derby at Bristol Rovers offered a chance to get the season back on track and after taking the lead through Paul Terry, Rovers ill-discipline saw them reduced to nine men before half time through the dismissals of Dave Savage and Steve Elliott. When Gavin Williams made it 2-0 before the hour, the three points seemed in the bag. But an inexplicable change in style saw the visitors let Rovers back into the game and two goals from James Hunt and Junior Agogo levelled the match.

Defeat at Scunthorpe four days later meant there had been no win in five matches, leaving the side in eighth place as they prepared to meet Chester City as October closed. Phil Jevons had been a constant source of goals throughout the season though and his hat-trick including two penalties saw Yeovil trounce City 4-1 at Huish Park.

The Jevons/Tarachulski partnership was a fruitful one, combining regularly with each other as the Merseysider reached a dozen goals by November. That month however saw the big Pole chip in with four goals in three games, two of which earned Yeovil an FA Cup replay in a 3-3 draw at Darlington. Darren Way scored the winner in the replay ten days later earning Yeovil a December date with Histon.

The second round tie pitched Gary Johnson against his old boss John Beck in a real clash of styles. Yeovil went through 3-1 at the Cambridgeshire side's ground and the win triggered an astonishing run of nine successive victories. Playing some quite breathtaking football at times, Town attacked and scored at will and the statistics of that run take some believing. Nine games, nine wins; scored 28, conceded 11; 11 different players scoring and three quarters of those goals scored after the half time mark a glowing tribute to a side bursting with confidence, not knowing how to lose and setting a high level of fitness.

The last of those wins, in the FA Cup Third Round, was arguably the most impressive. Taking on a Rotherham United team two divisions higher in the Championship, the Yorkshire side were taken apart time and time again by



Yeovil's high tempo, fluent football and the 3-0 scoreline could have easily been more one sided with a little more luck. It meant Yeovil reached the fourth round of the competition for the first time since THAT season against Sunderland.

By now Yeovil were three points clear at the top of League Two but the run came to an end at the Kassam Stadium as Oxford gained a little revenge for their 6-1 September drubbing at Huish Park by winning 2-1. A late Phil Jevons penalty earned Yeovil a 2-1 victory over Cambridge United before a 2-2 home draw with Rochdale.

January closed with the attractive looking FA Cup Fourth Round tie at Charlton Athletic. It was set up to be a thriller and so it turned out with the Addicks taking a lead that was cancelled out seven minutes later following a brilliant run from Kevin Gall that set up Paul Terry. Two goals in six second half minutes saw the hosts in front and seemingly set for round five but a Gary Johnson team rarely gives up and after Arron Davies pulled a goal back, Yeovil pressed desperately for a third goal to earn a replay but it didn't come despite two good chances near the end.

If there was a silver lining to the cup exit, it was the fixture list. Having suffered from a regular list of crooked players throughout the season, now there was only one prize to focus on, Coca-Cola League Two. Just 17 games in 14 weeks stood between Yeovil Town and promotion in their second season.

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Main: Phil Jevons celebrates scoring in the last minute in Yeovil's 2-0 win at Swansea City

Top: Bartosz Tarachulski is mobbed after opening the scoring in a thrilling 4-3 win at home to Scunthorpe United



February started in ignominious fashion with a 3-1 loss at Macclesfield, even Yeovil's goal coming from an opposition player but they roared back to form with a satisfying 4-2 win over Bristol Rovers at Huish Park. With Gas manager Ian Atkins playing mind games in the build up yet going down with a mysterious bug and missing the match, Phil Jevons hit his third treble of the season to wipe the memories of the heated draw five months earlier.

The Glovers then beat Chester City again and won a thrilling match against



Main: Adam Lockwood and Arron Davies celebrate with the League Two trophy

Top: Gary Johnson celebrates after Yeovil's vital 1-0 victory at Roots Hall against Southend

Scunthorpe by the odd goal in seven but then stumbled with one point from away games at Grimsby Town and Northampton Town. Thankfully the lead at the top was still a healthy six points with the chasing pack gathering behind them, ready to pounce should there be any further slipups.

The next six games were full of them. Slipups, that is. Four defeats and only two wins seemed to show a level of wobbliness not seen before since the October period. What made results even more puzzling was that three of the



losses came against sides in the bottom six of the table. A serious case of the jitters saw Town's six point advantage turn into a two point deficit as Southend's brilliant run of form saw them overtake the Glovers at speed.

Johnson needed to pull a rabbit out of the hat with five games left. His team had been the best in the division by some margin for large parts of the season but with a month to go, they weren't top anymore. That rabbit came in the shape of a 5-2 win over Mansfield where

Town came from 2-1 down to score four times in just over 25 minutes to return to normal.

Two 1-1 draws with Kidderminster Harriers and Wycombe Wanderers set up a showdown with Southend United at Roots Hall. For long periods, it looked like ending in a stalemate but Phil Jevons chose a great time for his 28th goal of the campaign, coming up with a late winner.

Barring a highly unlikely set of results, Yeovil Town would be promoted but the bigger prize was the championship trophy, guaranteed with a win against

Lincoln City on the last day of the season. Almost 9,000 packed into Huish Park to see if they could do it, and do it they did. Efe Sodje scored in the first half before who else but Jevons made it 2-0 and Sodje thumped home a header to seal the title with ten minutes to go.

It hadn't been as clear cut as the Conference title two years before but ultimately, it was just as satisfying to the supporters. More than a century had been spent getting into the lowest tier of the Football League; just two more years to leave it behind. Great stuff! ■

Fixtures and Results

August 2004

07-08-04	A	Bury	CCL2	1-3	3,171	Caceres 39
10-08-04	H	Darlington	CCL2	1-1	5,116	Jevons 6
14-08-04	H	Boston United	CCL2	2-0	5,178	Jevons 49, Tarachulski 65
21-08-04	A	Notts County	CCL2	2-1	5,024	Terry 68, Jevons 81
24-08-04	H	Plymouth Argyle	CC1	3-2	6,217	Johnson 28, 69, 109
28-08-04	H	Rushden & Diamonds	CCL2	3-1	5,088	Johnson 18, Tarachulski 44, Jevons 45
30-08-04	A	Mansfield Town	CCL2	1-4	3,826	Skiverton 24

September

04-09-04	H	Swansea City	CCL2	1-0	5,826	G Williams 85
11-09-04	A	Cheltenham Town	CCL2	1-1	3,966	Way 29
18-09-04	H	Oxford United	CCL2	6-1	5,467	Stolcers 38, 49, Jevons 59, 69, 79, Gall 75
21-09-04	H	Bolton Wanderers	CC2	0-2	8,047	
25-09-04	A	Shrewsbury Town	CCL2	2-1	4,196	Johnson 69, Tarachulski 72
28-09-04	A	Torquay United	LDV1	3-4	1,610	Stolcers 42, Caceres 67, Tarachulski 84

October

02-10-04	H	Northampton Town	CCL2	1-1	5,944	Jevons 14
08-10-04	A	Rochdale	CCL2	1-2	2,402	Jevons 48
16-10-04	H	Macclesfield Town	CCL2	1-2	5,313	Way 51
19-10-04	A	Bristol Rovers	CCL2	2-2	9,295	Terry 27, G Williams 57
23-10-04	A	Scunthorpe United	CCL2	0-1	4,470	
30-10-04	H	Chester City	CCL2	4-1	5,741	Jevons 25, 63, 90, Caceres 56

November

06-11-04	A	Wycombe Wanderers	CCL2	1-0	5,453	Tarachulski 84
13-11-04	A	Darlington	FAC1	3-3	3,698	Miles 46, Tarachulski 55, 90
20-11-04	H	Southend United	CCL2	3-1	5,839	Jevons 43, Guyett 83, Tarachulski 85
23-11-04	H	Darlington	FAC1R	1-0	5,365	Way 56
27-11-04	A	Lincoln City	CCL2	1-3	4,714	Skiverton 81

December

04-12-04	A	Histon	FAC2	3-1	2,564	Jevons 52, Johnson 57, Odubade 90
07-12-04	H	Kidderminster Harriers	CCL2	2-1	4,639	Lindegaard 38, Stolcers 83
11-12-04	H	Grimby Town	CCL2	2-1	5,733	Johnson 43, Tarachulski 47
18-12-04	A	Leyton Orient	CCL2	3-2	3,867	Tarachulski 26, Terry 45, Davies 77
26-12-04	H	Cheltenham Town	CCL2	4-1	7,320	Gall 30, Jevons 44, Davies 80, Terry 86
28-12-04	A	Cambridge United	CCL2	5-3	3,828	Jevons 55, 81, Way 56, Johnson 69, Stolcers 90

January 2005

01-01-05	A	Swansea City	CCL2	2-0	11,225	Stolcers 78, Jevons 90
03-01-05	H	Shrewsbury Town	CCL2	4-2	7,250	Way 34, Terry 78, Caceres 84, Gall 89
08-01-05	A	Rotherham United	FAC3	3-0	5,397	Jevons 61, Way 87, Stolcers 90
15-01-05	A	Oxford United	CCL2	1-2	6,778	Guyett 82
22-01-05	H	Cambridge United	CCL2	2-1	6,204	Terry 46, Jevons 86
25-01-05	H	Rochdale	CCL2	2-2	5,180	Tarachulski 54, Johnson 85
29-01-05	A	Charlton Athletic	FAC4	2-3	22,873	Terry 44, Davies 66

February

05-02-05	A	Macclesfield Town	CCL2	1-3	2,471	Own Goal 90
12-02-05	H	Bristol Rovers	CCL2	4-2	9,153	Jevons 26, 53, 64, Tarachulski 72
19-02-05	A	Chester City	CCL2	2-0	3,072	Davies 12, Jevons 32
22-02-05	H	Scunthorpe United	CCL2	4-3	7,598	Tarachulski 16, Johnson 47, Fallon 82, Davies 86
26-02-05	A	Grimby Town	CCL2	1-2	4,414	Davies 11

March

01-03-05	A	Northampton Town	CCL2	1-1	5,630	Davies 31
05-03-05	H	Leyton Orient	CCL2	1-0	6,545	Jevons 9
12-03-05	A	Darlington	CCL2	1-2	4,121	Way 81
19-03-05	H	Bury	CCL2	0-1	6,269	
26-03-05	A	Boston United	CCL2	2-1	3,069	Skiverton 10, 82
29-03-05	H	Notts County	CCL2	1-3	7,221	Jevons 86

April

02-04-05	A	Rushden & Diamonds	CCL2	0-2	3,726	
09-04-05	H	Mansfield Town	CCL2	5-2	6,471	Davies 5, Way 53, 81, Rose 71, Jevons 72
16-04-05	A	Kidderminster Harriers	CCL2	1-1	4,014	Davies 61
23-04-05	H	Wycombe Wanderers	CCL2	1-1	7,421	Johnson 25
30-04-05	A	Southend United	CCL2	1-0	11,735	Jevons 83

May

07-05-05	H	Lincoln City	CCL2	3-0	8,855	Sodje 45, 78, Jevons 54
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KEY: CCL2 = Coca-Cola League Two, FAC = FA Cup, LDV = LDV Vans Trophy, CC = Carling Cup

Coca-Cola League Two Table

	P	Home				Away				GD	Pts		
		W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L			F	A
1 Yeovil Town (C)	46	16	4	3	57	28	9	4	10	33	37	25	83
2 Scunthorpe United (P)	46	16	5	2	43	16	6	9	8	26	26	27	80
3 Swansea City (P)	46	15	5	3	36	16	9	3	11	26	27	19	80
4 Southend United (P)	46	13	5	5	31	14	9	7	7	34	32	19	78
5 Macclesfield Town	46	15	3	5	39	24	7	6	10	21	25	11	75
6 Lincoln City	46	11	8	4	37	22	9	4	10	27	25	17	72
7 Northampton Town	46	11	9	3	35	20	9	3	11	27	31	11	72
8 Darlington	46	13	4	6	33	21	7	8	8	24	28	8	72
9 Rochdale	46	11	8	4	34	21	5	10	8	20	27	6	66
10 Wycombe Wanderers	46	8	7	8	28	26	9	7	7	30	26	6	65
11 Leyton Orient	46	10	8	5	40	30	6	7	10	25	37	-2	63
12 Bristol Rovers	46	10	12	1	39	22	3	9	11	21	35	3	60
13 Mansfield Town	46	9	8	6	29	24	6	7	10	27	32	0	60
14 Cheltenham Town	46	10	5	8	27	23	6	7	10	24	31	-3	60
15 Oxford United	46	11	4	8	29	24	5	7	11	21	39	-13	59
16 Boston United	46	11	8	4	39	24	3	8	12	23	34	4	58
17 Bury	46	8	9	6	26	18	6	7	10	28	36	0	58
18 Grimsby Town	46	8	10	5	28	19	6	6	11	23	33	-1	58
19 Notts County	46	6	7	10	21	27	7	6	10	25	35	-16	52
20 Chester City	46	7	8	8	25	33	5	8	10	18	36	-26	52
21 Shrewsbury Town	46	9	7	7	34	18	2	9	12	14	35	-5	49
22 Rushden & Diamonds	46	8	6	9	29	29	2	8	13	13	34	-21	44
23 Cambridge United (R)	46	7	6	10	22	27	1	10	12	17	35	-23	40
24 Kidderminster Harriers (R)	46	6	6	11	21	39	4	2	17	18	46	-46	38

Appearances

	CCL2	C	T
1 Darren Way	45	7	52
2 Lee Johnson	44	7 ⁽¹⁾	52
3 Kevin Gall	30 ⁽¹⁴⁾	6 ⁽²⁾	52
4 Phil Jevons	45 ⁽¹⁾	6	52
5 Bartosz Tarachulski	27 ⁽¹⁵⁾	7 ⁽¹⁾	50
6 Michael Rose	37 ⁽⁴⁾	5 ⁽²⁾	48
7 Paul Terry	35 ⁽⁴⁾	6 ⁽¹⁾	46
8 Chris Weale	37 ⁽¹⁾	6	45
9 Terry Skiverton	36 ⁽²⁾	5	43
10 Andrejs Stolcers	23 ⁽¹³⁾	6 ⁽¹⁾	43
11 Andy Lindegaard	19 ⁽¹⁰⁾	4 ⁽¹⁾	34
12 Adrian Caceres	7 ⁽¹⁴⁾	3 ⁽²⁾	26
13 Colin Miles	20 ⁽¹⁾	3	24
14 Arron Davies	15 ⁽⁷⁾	0 ⁽²⁾	24
15 Scott Guyett	13 ⁽⁵⁾	5	23
16 Roy O'Brien	10 ⁽⁴⁾	2 ⁽²⁾	18
17 Liam Fontaine	15	3	18
18 Gavin Williams	12 ⁽¹⁾	2 ⁽¹⁾	16
19 Kevin Amankwaah	10 ⁽⁵⁾	0	15
20 Adam Lockwood	6 ⁽⁴⁾	1	11
21 Stephen Collis	9	1	10
22 Simon Weatherstone	0 ⁽⁶⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	7
23 Yemi Odubade	0 ⁽⁴⁾	0 ⁽²⁾	6
24 Rory Fallon	2 ⁽⁴⁾	0	6
25 Efetobore Sodje	6	0	6
26 Stephen Reed	1 ⁽²⁾	1	4
27 Marcus Richardson	2 ⁽²⁾	0	4
28 Nicolas Mirza	0 ⁽³⁾	1	4
29 Kezie Ibe	0 ⁽³⁾	0	3
30 Marvin Brown	0 ⁽²⁾	0	2
31 David Woosley	0 ⁽¹⁾	0	1

Goalscorers

	CCL2	C	T
1 Phil Jevons	27	2	29
2 Bartosz Tarachulski	10	3	13
3 Lee Johnson	7	4	11
4 Darren Way	7	2	9
5 Arron Davies	8	1	9
6 Paul Terry	6	1	7
7 Andrejs Stolcers	5	2	7
8 Adrian Caceres	3	1	4
9 Terry Skiverton	4	0	4
10 Kevin Gall	3	0	3
11 Gavin Williams	2	0	2
12 Scott Guyett	2	0	2
13 Efetobore Sodje	2	0	2
14 Andy Lindegaard	1	0	1
15 Yemi Odubade	0	1	1
16 Rory Fallon	1	0	1
17 Michael Rose	1	0	1
18 Colin Miles	0	1	1
19 Own Goal	1	0	1

KEY: CCL2 = Coca-Cola League Two,
C = Cup Competitions (includes FA Cup,
Carling Cup & LDV Vans Trophy), T = Total

Season 2004-05

2005-06

Coca-Cola League One
Final position: 15th (56 points)

Once the euphoria of the club's second promotion in three seasons had settled down a tad, it was time to build again for the club's first ever season at third tier level. Not that it was a major reconstruction job though; Gary Johnson's modus operandi was to give the existing squad a chance to prove themselves while tweaking his options in one or two areas.

Up front was one such challenge and Matt Harrold was brought in from Brentford with another important arrival that summer being Welshman Nathan Jones who joined after half a decade at Brighton. He added much needed experience and quality from his left back position and there was great excitement at the hitch-ridden arrival of Pablo Bastianini, an Argentinean forward from Quilmes. International red tape is rarely easily negotiated though and the big South American had to wait until his side's fourth league game to make his Glovers debut.

By then, the Yeovil Town faithful had seen their side play a dozen friendlies against a wide range of opposition. Three games in Germany, a further six against local or Non-League opposition and topped off with three big games against Premier League sides West Ham United and Portsmouth and Championship side Southampton all at Huish Park. The likes of Bobby Zamora, Theo Walcott, Nathan Dyer and Kenwyne Jones were all on show in those warm-ups.

When the 'real' matches began in earnest, Town faced their third successive season opener in the Manchester area with a tricky looking encounter with Oldham Athletic. Two

goals in two minutes (the second from future Yeovil star Paul Warne) gave the Latics all three points and in fact Town would have to wait until their fifth game of the campaign for their first victory.

When it came, it was against the strongest challengers thus far, Ipswich Town in the Carling Cup. Joe Royle's Tractor Boys were humbled 2-0 on their own patch in front of 500 travelling Glovers fans who were finally able to celebrate a victory. Life wouldn't get much easier though as defeats to Swindon Town and Chesterfield left the side bottom of the table.

Wins over Hartlepool and Walsall were followed by a creditable point at Bradford and a loss to Millwall at Huish Park in the Carling Cup. But the Glovers season was to be blown out of the water when manager Gary Johnson made an emotional departure from the club to join fellow League One side Bristol City. Admitting to having cried when he passed the club, it was with mixed emotions that Town fans said goodbye to Johnson; sadness that he linked up with a side lower in the table than Yeovil but immense pride that four seasons had given two titles and an FA Trophy win.

His assistant Steve Thompson, who had taken charge for four months back in the 1999-2000 season, was given the job on a rolling deal and immediately started dragging Town back up the League One table with four wins in his first six league games including a 3-0 thumping of Nottingham Forest.

However, the positivity suffered a big knock during an awful run of form that saw Thompson's side lose six league games in a row, the gloom only partially lifted with a 4-0 demolition of Macclesfield Town in the FA Cup First Round. That gloom then reappeared with



Right: Argentinean striker Pablo Bastianini who joined the Glovers from Quilmes



a disappointing second round exit, 2-0 at Walsall.

As Christmas came, Santa brought a much improved run of results with 15 points taken from eight games, promotion form indeed. One of the draws pitched Steve Thompson versus Gary Johnson as Bristol City met Yeovil at Huish Park, the spoils shared in a 1-1 draw after David Poole scored on two minutes.

Out of all cups, Yeovil had a distraction free run in the second half of their season. Four games in January



Main: Manager Steve Thompson celebrates with Anthony Barry and the rest of the players after League One safety was secured at Huddersfield
Top: Arron Davies about to score one of three goals in a brilliant hat-trick away at Chesterfield
Bottom: Phil Jevons celebrates his second goal with Arron Davies in Yeovil's 3-0 home win over Nottingham Forest

produced seven points but also saw the departure of the best midfield pair the club had seen for years – Lee Johnson headed to Scottish Premier League side Hearts while Darren Way departed for Swansea City. Four games in February saw just one goal and one point as the inconsistencies of the season resurfaced again. The final 13 games of the season were looking more than a little shaky with Thompson's side sat just inside the bottom four and they would need another good run of decent form to escape the trap door.

Arron Davies fired a fantastic hat-trick at Chesterfield in a 3-0 win but one

point from three games followed as the season's destiny looked to be headed down to the wire. Revenge for the Walsall Cup defeat came in the shape of a 2-0 victory at the Bescot Stadium but again the Glovers faltered with one win from the next five games; a thrilling, nervy 4-3 home victory over Gillingham.

That result went a long way to ensuring League One survival at the first time of asking but the champagne corks could finally be popped seven days later at Huddersfield courtesy of a certain Phil Jevons. His 29 goals the season before

had fired Yeovil in to League One but the final two of his 16 strikes this season were equally as important. Finding themselves a goal down with 25 minutes left, the Mersey goal machine coolly converted a penalty before curling a brilliant free kick winner to seal the victory and third tier safety.

The final game saw Colchester United gain promotion at Huish Park in a 0-0 stalemate but the bigger picture for the majority of the huge 8,785 crowd was that once more, Yeovil had defied logic by holding their own in their debut League One season. ■

Fixtures and Results

August 2005

06-08-05	A	Oldham Athletic	CCL1	0-2	6,979	
09-08-05	H	Rotherham United	CCL1	0-0	5,856	
13-08-05	H	Blackpool	CCL1	1-1	5,698	Amankwaah 45
20-08-05	A	Barnsley	CCL1	0-1	8,153	
23-08-05	A	Ipswich Town	CC1	2-0	11,299	Way 45, Gall 87
27-08-05	A	Swindon Town	CCL1	2-4	6,973	Bastianini 1, Skiverton 87
29-08-05	H	Chesterfield	CCL1	1-3	6,079	Alvarez 36

September

03-09-05	A	Hartlepool United	CCL1	1-0	4,572	Bastianini 68
10-09-05	H	Walsall	CCL1	2-1	5,979	Jevons 65, Gall 70
17-09-05	A	Bradford City	CCL1	1-1	7,826	Skiverton 6
20-09-05	H	Millwall	CC2	1-2	5,108	Davies 87
24-09-05	H	Port Vale	CCL1	1-0	5,901	Harrold 85
27-09-05	A	Southend United	CCL1	1-4	6,654	Jevons 45

October

01-10-05	A	Scunthorpe United	CCL1	4-3	4,311	Way 26, Jevons 37, Harrold 59, 66 Skiverton 39
08-10-05	H	Swansea City	CCL1	1-0	7,578	Skiverton 39
15-10-05	A	Gillingham	CCL1	0-0	6,848	
18-10-05	A	Leyton Orient	LDV1	0-2	958	
22-10-05	H	Nottingham Forest	CCL1	3-0	9,072	Jevons 6, 26, Davies 82
29-10-05	A	Colchester United	CCL1	2-3	3,409	Bastianini 32, Harrold 51

November

05-11-05	A	Macclesfield Town	FAC1	1-1	1,943	Jevons 81
12-11-05	H	Huddersfield Town	CCL1	1-2	6,742	Johnson 47
15-11-05	H	Macclesfield Town	FAC1R	4-0	4,456	Way 23, Terry 73, Johnson 75, Davies 90
18-11-05	A	Swansea City	CCL1	0-2	19,288	
26-11-05	H	Oldham Athletic	CCL1	0-2	5,852	

December

03-12-05	A	Walsall	FAC2	0-2	4,580	
06-12-05	A	Brentford	CCL1	2-3	5,131	Harrold 38, Johnson 68
10-12-05	A	Rotherham United	CCL1	2-1	3,929	Own Goal 32, Harrold 36
17-12-05	H	Barnsley	CCL1	2-1	5,620	Poole 46, Sodje 73
23-12-05	H	AFC Bournemouth	CCL1	1-1	8,178	Jevons 80
28-12-05	A	Tranmere Rovers	CCL1	1-4	6,327	Jevons 32
31-12-05	H	Bristol City	CCL1	1-1	9,178	Poole 3

January 2006

02-01-06	A	Doncaster Rovers	CCL1	1-0	5,680	Jevons 12
07-01-06	H	Hartlepool United	CCL1	2-0	5,480	Jevons 26, 60
14-01-06	A	Milton Keynes Dons	CCL1	1-1	5,548	Skiverton 13
21-01-06	H	Bradford City	CCL1	0-1	6,186	

February

04-02-06	H	Southend United	CCL1	0-2	6,289	
11-02-06	A	Port Vale	CCL1	0-1	4,732	
14-02-06	H	Milton Keynes Dons	CCL1	1-1	5,048	Gall 71
25-02-06	A	Blackpool	CCL1	0-2	5,747	

March

04-03-06	A	Chesterfield	CCL1	3-0	4,843	Davies 37, 90, 90
07-03-06	H	Brentford	CCL1	1-2	5,137	Skiverton 26
11-03-06	H	Swindon Town	CCL1	0-0	7,451	
18-03-06	A	AFC Bournemouth	CCL1	0-1	7,959	
21-03-06	A	Walsall	CCL1	2-0	4,464	Harrold 24, Davies 33
25-03-06	H	Tranmere Rovers	CCL1	2-2	5,409	Harrold 5, 69

April

01-04-06	A	Bristol City	CCL1	1-2	15,889	Davies 64
08-04-06	H	Doncaster Rovers	CCL1	3-0	5,456	Skiverton 8, Jevons 57, Davies 86
14-04-06	H	Scunthorpe United	CCL1	0-1	6,759	
17-04-06	A	Nottingham Forest	CCL1	1-2	28,193	Jevons 9
22-04-06	H	Gillingham	CCL1	4-3	6,040	Jevons 17, Cohen 35, Terry 51, Davies 55
29-04-06	A	Huddersfield Town	CCL1	2-1	14,473	Jevons 66, 72

May

06-05-06	H	Colchester United	CCL1	0-0	8,785	
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KEY: CCL1 = Coca-Cola League One, FAC = FA Cup, LDV = LDV Vans Trophy, CC = Carling Cup

Coca-Cola League One Table

	P	Home				Away				GD	Pts		
		W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L			F	A
1 Southend United (C)	46	13	6	4	37	16	10	7	6	35	27	29	82
2 Colchester United (P)	46	15	4	4	39	21	7	9	7	19	19	18	79
3 Brentford	46	10	8	5	35	23	10	8	5	37	29	20	76
4 Huddersfield Town	46	13	6	4	40	25	6	10	7	32	34	13	73
5 Barnsley (P)	46	11	11	1	37	19	7	7	9	25	25	18	72
6 Swansea City	46	11	9	3	42	23	7	8	8	36	32	23	71
7 Nottingham Forest	46	14	5	4	40	15	5	7	11	27	37	15	69
8 Doncaster Rovers	46	11	6	6	30	19	9	3	11	25	32	4	69
9 Bristol City	46	11	7	5	38	22	7	4	12	28	40	4	65
10 Oldham Athletic	46	12	4	7	32	24	6	7	10	26	36	-2	65
11 Bradford City	46	8	9	6	28	25	6	10	7	23	24	2	61
12 Scunthorpe United	46	8	8	7	36	33	7	7	9	32	40	-5	60
13 Port Vale	46	10	5	8	30	26	6	7	10	19	28	-5	60
14 Gillingham	46	13	4	6	31	21	3	8	12	19	43	-14	60
15 Yeovil Town	46	8	8	7	27	24	7	3	13	27	38	-8	56
16 Chesterfield	46	6	7	10	31	37	8	7	8	32	36	-10	56
17 AFC Bournemouth	46	7	11	5	25	20	5	8	10	24	33	-4	55
18 Tranmere Rovers	46	7	8	8	32	30	6	7	10	18	22	-2	54
19 Blackpool	46	9	8	6	33	27	3	9	11	23	37	-8	53
20 Rotherham United	46	7	9	7	31	26	5	7	11	21	36	-10	52
21 Hartlepool United (R)	46	6	10	7	28	30	5	7	11	16	29	-15	50
22 Milton Keynes Dons (R)	46	8	8	7	28	25	4	6	13	17	41	-21	50
23 Swindon Town (R)	46	9	5	9	31	31	2	10	11	15	34	-19	48
24 Walsall (R)	46	7	7	9	27	34	4	7	12	20	36	-23	47

Appearances

	CCL1	C	T
1 Nathan Jones	37 ⁽⁵⁾	5 ⁽¹⁾	48
2 Matt Harrold	28 ⁽¹⁴⁾	3 ⁽³⁾	48
3 Paul Terry	34 ⁽⁷⁾	4 ⁽¹⁾	46
4 Arron Davies	26 ⁽¹³⁾	3 ⁽³⁾	45
5 Kevin Amankwaah	38	6	44
6 Phil Jevons	35 ⁽³⁾	5	43
7 Kevin Gall	11 ⁽²⁵⁾	3 ⁽³⁾	42
8 Terry Skiverton	36	6	42
9 Colin Miles	18 ⁽¹¹⁾	5	34
10 Lee Johnson	26	6	32
11 Chris Weale	25	6	31
12 Chris Cohen	29 ⁽¹⁾	1	31
13 Pablo Bastianini	15 ⁽⁵⁾	5 ⁽¹⁾	26
14 David Poole	20 ⁽⁵⁾	0	25
15 Efetobore Sodje	17 ⁽²⁾	3 ⁽²⁾	24
16 Stephen Collis	21 ⁽²⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	24
17 Andy Lindgaard	14 ⁽⁹⁾	0	23
18 Adam Lockwood	18 ⁽²⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	21
19 Scott Guyett	16 ⁽⁵⁾	0	21
20 Darren Way	15	3	18
21 Liam Fontaine	10	1 ⁽¹⁾	12
22 Craig Rocastle	5 ⁽³⁾	0	8
23 Luciano Alvarez	4	0 ⁽¹⁾	5
24 Daniel Webb	0 ⁽⁴⁾	0	4
25 Anthony Barry	4	0	4
26 Luke Oliver	0 ⁽³⁾	0	3
27 Marc Wilson	1 ⁽¹⁾	0	2
28 Alejandro Meloño	1	1	2
29 Michael Rose	0 ⁽¹⁾	0	1
30 Tommy Doherty	1	0	1
31 Dale Williams	0 ⁽¹⁾	0	1

Goalscorers

	CCL1	C	T
1 Phil Jevons	15	1	16
2 Arron Davies	8	2	10
3 Matt Harrold	9	0	9
4 Terry Skiverton	6	0	6
5 Pablo Bastianini	3	0	3
6 Kevin Gall	2	1	3
7 Darren Way	1	2	3
8 Lee Johnson	2	1	3
9 Paul Terry	1	1	2
10 David Poole	2	0	2
11 Kevin Amankwaah	1	0	1
12 Luciano Alvarez	1	0	1
13 Efetobore Sodje	1	0	1
14 Chris Cohen	1	0	1
15 Own Goal	1	0	1

KEY: CCL1 = Coca-Cola League One,
C = Cup Competitions (includes FA Cup,
Carling Cup & LDV Vans Trophy), T = Total

Season 2005-06

2006-07

Coca-Cola League One

Final position: 5th (79 points)

Yeovil Town's first season in League One had been somewhat of a triumph. The League Two title winners of season 2004-05 had adapted fairly well to life at the higher level and despite losing manager Gary Johnson after a few weeks of the season, Steve Thompson had steadied the ship and led the club to 15th place in the table, the highest position in the club's history.

Almost immediately that the season ended, speculation began as to Thompson's future. The usual rumour-obsessed sources were plucking names such as Ian Holloway and Danny Wilson to link them with the job but neither were anywhere near getting it in truth. Chairman John Fry decided early in the summer that the time was right for a change so after negotiations with Thompson, the club announced they would be looking for a new boss with the aim that the previous one would remain as assistant.

Former Sheffield United and Notts County manager Russell Slade was formally unveiled as the new man in the seat early in June, less than a fortnight after leading Grimsby Town to an unsuccessful League Two play-off campaign. He arrived in Somerset with a reputation of being a firm hand but also of playing direct football on occasions, an accusation he partially admitted to in early press interviews though as with most managers, those tactics were more of a horses-for-courses type, "play to your strengths" plan.

Taking over with less than two months to the season opener, Slade's in tray was bulging. Having lost the likes of Kevin Gall, Michael Rose and Stephen Reed (all released by Thompson); Adam Lockwood, Phil Jevons (to Bristol City) and Steve Collis, he had to recruit and recruit fast to get his first Glovers squad together. During the summer months, he began with the youngsters, signing

teenagers Darren Behcet and Stephen Maher. Terry Skiverton, Arron Davies, Paul Terry, Scott Guyett and Andy Lindegaard all re-signed for the club.

The big guns were drafted in after Slade arrived, bringing in players he knew and trusted. Following the seemingly inevitable loss of Chris Weale to Bristol City, Slade brought in Steve Mildenhall, a giant imposing keeper; Jean-Paul Kadumimba-Kalala, a tenacious hard tackling midfielder and Terrell Forbes, an assured, reliable, versatile defender. They all signed contracts and he added young winger Ishmael Welsh, striker Wayne Gray and persuaded Chris Cohen (and parent club West Ham United) to turn his loan agreement into a permanent deal, a great piece of business.

Pre-season saw six wins and two losses from eight games but also saw the new boss lose his right back, Kevin Amankwaah, to a big money offer from Swansea City. The first game of the season, and the new regime, was a trip to Millwall while the Carling Cup draw offered up an interesting tie away at Southampton's St Mary's Stadium.

The first three league games of the season saw the Glovers unbeaten. They returned from the Den after a 1-1 draw to a goalless encounter at Huish Park against AFC Bournemouth before beating Carlisle United 2-1. An encouraging start was then ruined by just one win in the next six games and a cup hammering at Southampton.

Port Vale were then beaten at Huish Park before the August transfer deadline saw Matt Harrold leave for Championship side Southend United. Days earlier, Slade had moved to bring in Bristol City's vastly experienced striker Marcus Stewart on a three month loan to bolster his forward line.

The former Sunderland and Ipswich star scored twice in his first three games to earn points against Swansea City and Northampton Town. Slade's men settled down and produced some great wins over strong teams, defeating both

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Main: Russell Slade is unveiled as Yeovil's new manager during the summer of 2006







Huddersfield and Brentford on their own patch and also winning over Crewe Alexandra and Brighton & Hove Albion at home. This left Yeovil sitting nicely in second place, the meat in a sandwich of Nottingham Forest (above) and Bristol City (below).

October wasn't as kind. The fixtures looked easier on paper but only one win from five dented their hopes of maintaining that position. November arrived with a fascinating match up at Huish Park as Bristol City visited. Gary Johnson, Lee Johnson, Liam Fontaine, Chris Weale and Phil Jevons all came back but found Yeovil Town, and a crowd of 9,009, a hard nut to crack; the Glovers winning 2-1 with Jevons' last minute penalty a mere consolation.

The team were brought back down to earth with a bump when they were dumped out of the FA Cup by Non-League Rushden & Diamonds. Injuries and suspensions weren't helping matters so Slade moved into the loan market to sign

Yeovil-born defender Martin Cranie and striker Leon Best from Southampton. Marcus Stewart returned to Ashton Gate but for how long, nobody was sure.

To say Best's impact on Yeovil's fortunes was impressive would be a huge understatement. When he arrived, few would have heard of him aside from a brief loan spell earlier in the campaign with AFC Bournemouth. After he left three months later, he was lauded as potentially one of the best players to play in the green and white for years. Pace, poise and power were three of his top attributes and the ability to score regularly didn't hurt either!

Best started off like an express train hitting five in his first six games including a sweet finish in

a Huish Park win against Huddersfield and a quickfire double against Crewe Alexandra. Across December and January's busy period, Yeovil pooled 20 points from ten games and entered February firmly in the play-off berths.

What helped the young striker was the return of Marcus Stewart, the benefits obvious of someone of his experience playing with a raw talent such as Best. Opposites attract and they certainly did as February proved a good month too with ten points from six games. Best had added three more goals, making it ten in 15 appearances, with a great double at Carlisle United in a 4-1 win. He then left to return to his parent club at the end of the month.

Cranie returned for a second loan spell with Mark Lynch and Nathan Jones sidelined through injuries at the start of March. Still in the top six but changing positions most weeks, Yeovil won two and lost four of their next six fixtures though one of the wins broke two curses. The Glovers 2-1 win over Leyton Orient at Huish Park on Easter Monday saw their first penalty of the season and also marked the first time they'd come from behind to win at home.



Main: Wayne Gray fires home Yeovil's winner in their 1-0 home win over Doncaster Rovers

Left: Loan striker Leon Best in action

Right: Lee Morris shows his delight after Yeovil's incredible play-off victory at Nottingham Forest



Defeat to Bristol City at Ashton Gate was hard to swallow thanks to a harsh penalty decision and red card against Scott Guyett but with just three games left, three successive wins over Rotherham United, Doncaster Rovers and Gillingham lifted Town back up to fifth place in the final table and a two legged play-off semi-final against Nottingham Forest.

The first leg, at Huish Park, was a disaster for Russell Slade's men. Kris Commons and James Perch both scored penalties after fouls from Nathan Jones and Terrell Forbes respectively and the dream of reaching Wembley for the first time ever in their history looked over.

Two down and facing a trip to a heaving City Ground was sure to be beyond the little team from Somerset. Wasn't it?

What happened on that night, Friday, May 18, 2007, will live with the 1,095 Yeovil fans for the rest of their lives. To be honest, it will also live with the 26,724 Forest fans as well though obviously for totally different reasons. Arron Davies scored in the first half to give Yeovil hope but when Scott Dobie levelled on 47 minutes, the deficit was back to two. Chances went begging and with eight minutes left, it appeared that it would be



Forest heading down the M1 later that month to Wembley.

An extraordinary piece of good luck allowed Yeovil a lifeline as Jean-Paul Kalala's shot rebounded off the post on to Alan Wright's head and into the net for an own goal and there were further incredible scenes as Marcus Stewart made it all square on aggregate on 87 minutes with a perfect downward header.

Lee Morris intercepted an awful Wes Morgan back pass to make it 4-3 early in

extra time but Gary Holt's low rifled shot tied things up again at 4-4. But just as Davies had started the comeback, so he finished it too with a tidy finish with ten minutes left to put Yeovil 5-4 up in the tie. Amazingly, there were no further goals and the final whistle was greeted by the Yeovil fans, completely surrounded by Forest supporters, singing and dancing long into the night.

The final at Wembley saw the Glovers paired with Blackpool. The Tangerines were the inform side going into the end-of-season play-offs and were brimming with confidence. 28,000 Glovers made the trip to the home of football and found themselves outnumbered and out sung by the Lancashire side's fans. Andy D'Urso's controversial award of a free kick set up Robbie Williams for the opener and Keigan Parker added a second on a damp, dour, dismal day for all Yeovil fans.

The end came not a moment too soon. The gamble of playing a half fit Chris Cohen in the final failed though his influence and creativity throughout the season made it a gamble worth risking. While Blackpool celebrated promotion to the Championship, Yeovil slunk quietly out of the stadium licking their wounds. ■

Fixtures and Results

August 2006

05-08-06	A	Millwall	CCL1	1-1	10,012	Gray 35
08-08-06	H	AFC Bournemouth	CCL1	0-0	6,451	
12-08-06	H	Carlisle United	CCL1	2-1	4,709	Cohen 16, Welsh 42
19-08-06	A	Tranmere Rovers	CCL1	1-2	6,023	Cohen 44
23-08-06	A	Southampton	CC1	2-1	20,653	Gray 30, Harrold 90
26-08-06	H	Port Vale	CCL1	1-0	4,827	Terry 5

September

01-09-06	A	Swansea City	CCL1	1-1	14,513	Stewart 53
09-09-06	H	Nottingham Forest	CCL1	0-1	6,925	
12-09-06	A	Northampton Town	CCL1	1-1	4,583	Stewart 68
16-09-06	A	Huddersfield Town	CCL1	3-2	9,573	Morris 14, Davies 51, Cohen 77
23-09-06	H	Crewe Alexandra	CCL1	2-0	5,333	Own Goal 45, Terry 71
26-09-06	H	Brighton	CCL1	2-0	5,243	Stewart 6, Gray 82
30-09-06	A	Brentford	CCL1	2-1	5,770	Skiverton 57, Cohen 88

October

06-10-06	H	Cheltenham Town	CCL1	0-1	6,220	
14-10-06	A	Blackpool	CCL1	1-1	6,812	Stewart 86
21-10-06	H	Oldham Athletic	CCL1	1-0	5,471	Skiverton 45
28-10-06	A	Chesterfield	CCL1	1-1	5,413	Stewart 89
31-10-06	A	Shrewsbury Town	JPT2	1-2	1,795	Barry 67

November

04-11-06	H	Bristol City	CCL1	2-1	9,009	Davies 78, Gray 90
11-11-06	A	Rushden and Diamonds	FAC1	1-3	2,530	Cohen 62
18-11-06	A	Leyton Orient	CCL1	0-0	4,842	
25-11-06	H	Scunthorpe United	CCL1	0-2	5,921	

December

02-12-06	A	Rotherham United	CCL1	2-3	4,823	Best 25, Morris 31
09-12-06	H	Gillingham	CCL1	2-0	4,933	Best 17, Cohen 59
23-12-06	H	Bradford City	CCL1	0-0	6,208	
26-12-06	A	Brighton	CCL1	3-1	6,554	Best 38, Morris 47, Davies 59
30-12-06	A	Crewe Alexandra	CCL1	3-2	5,450	Best 5, 8, Morris 70

January 2007

01-01-07	H	Northampton Town	CCL1	0-0	5,361	
05-01-07	H	Huddersfield Town	CCL1	3-1	5,554	Morris 4, Best 23, Own Goal 36
13-01-07	A	Nottingham Forest	CCL1	0-1	17,885	
20-01-07	H	Brentford	CCL1	1-0	5,373	Best 55
27-01-07	A	Bradford City	CCL1	2-0	7,474	Davies 5, 67

February

03-02-07	H	Millwall	CCL1	0-1	5,810	
10-02-07	A	Carlisle United	CCL1	4-1	7,112	Gray 49, Best 72, 90, Cohen 90
17-02-07	H	Tranmere Rovers	CCL1	0-2	5,168	
20-02-07	A	AFC Bournemouth	CCL1	2-0	7,285	Gray 30, Best 77
24-02-07	H	Swansea City	CCL1	1-0	5,984	Stewart 56
27-02-07	A	Doncaster Rovers	CCL1	0-0	8,046	

March

03-03-07	A	Port Vale	CCL1	2-4	4,202	Gray 37, Stewart 38
10-03-07	A	Cheltenham Town	CCL1	2-1	5,314	Gray 20, 63
17-03-07	H	Blackpool	CCL1	0-1	6,012	
24-03-07	H	Chesterfield	CCL1	1-0	4,735	Jones 89
31-03-07	A	Oldham Athletic	CCL1	0-1	6,035	

April

06-04-07	A	Scunthorpe United	CCL1	0-1	7,883	
09-04-07	H	Leyton Orient	CCL1	2-1	5,206	Gray 77, Davies 83
14-04-07	A	Bristol City	CCL1	0-2	19,002	
21-04-07	H	Rotherham United	CCL1	1-0	5,878	Stewart 45
28-04-07	H	Doncaster Rovers	CCL1	1-0	6,253	Gray 72

May

05-05-07	A	Gillingham	CCL1	2-0	7,484	Kalala 63, Gray 68
11-05-07	H	Nottingham Forest	LISF1	0-2	8,935	
18-05-07	A	Nottingham Forest	LISF2	5-2	27,819	Davies 22, 109, Own Goal 82, Stewart 87, Morris 92
27-05-07	N	Blackpool	LIPF	0-2	59,313	

KEY: CCL1 = Coca-Cola League One, FAC = FA Cup, JPT = Johnstone's Paint Trophy, CC = Carling Cup, N = Wembley Stadium

Coca-Cola League One Table

	P	Home				Away				GD	Pts		
		W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L			F	A
1 Scunthorpe United (C)	46	15	6	2	40	17	11	7	5	33	18	38	91
2 Bristol City (P)	46	15	5	3	35	20	10	5	8	28	19	24	85
3 Blackpool (P)	46	12	6	5	40	25	12	5	6	36	24	27	83
4 Nottingham Forest	46	14	5	4	37	17	9	8	6	28	24	24	82
5 Yeovil Town	46	14	3	6	22	12	9	7	7	33	27	16	79
6 Oldham Athletic	46	13	4	6	36	18	8	8	7	33	29	22	75
7 Swansea City	46	12	6	5	36	20	8	6	9	33	33	16	72
8 Carlisle United	46	12	5	6	35	24	7	6	10	19	31	-1	68
9 Tranmere Rovers	46	13	5	5	33	22	5	8	10	25	31	5	67
10 Millwall	46	11	8	4	33	19	8	1	14	26	43	-3	66
11 Doncaster Rovers	46	8	10	5	30	23	8	5	10	22	24	5	63
12 Port Vale	46	12	3	8	34	25	6	3	14	29	39	-1	60
13 Crewe Alexandra	46	11	4	8	39	38	6	5	12	27	34	-6	60
14 Northampton Town	46	8	5	10	27	28	7	9	7	21	23	-3	59
15 Huddersfield Town	46	9	8	6	37	33	5	9	9	23	36	-9	59
16 Gillingham	46	14	2	7	29	24	3	6	14	27	53	-21	59
17 Cheltenham Town	46	8	6	9	25	27	7	3	13	24	34	-12	54
18 Brighton	46	5	7	11	23	34	9	4	10	26	24	-9	53
19 AFC Bournemouth	46	10	5	8	28	27	3	8	12	22	37	-14	52
20 Leyton Orient	46	6	10	7	30	32	6	5	12	31	45	-16	51
21 Chesterfield (R)	46	9	5	9	29	22	3	6	14	15	30	-8	47
22 Bradford City (R)	46	5	9	9	27	31	6	5	12	20	34	-18	47
23 Rotherham United (R)	46	8	4	11	37	39	5	5	13	21	36	-17	38
24 Brentford (R)	46	5	8	10	24	41	3	5	15	16	38	-39	37

Appearances

	CCL1	C	T
1 Wayne Gray	27 ⁽²²⁾	3	52
2 Terrell Forbes	49	3	52
3 Steve Mildenhall	49	3	52
4 Chris Cohen	47	2 ⁽¹⁾	50
5 Nathan Jones	45	2	47
6 Arron Davies	37 ⁽⁵⁾	3	45
7 Jean-Paul Kalala	35 ⁽⁵⁾	1 ⁽¹⁾	42
8 Terry Skiverton	38	1	39
9 Lee Morris	26 ⁽¹⁰⁾	1 ⁽¹⁾	38
10 Marcus Stewart	34	0	34
11 Anthony Barry	16 ⁽¹¹⁾	2	29
12 Paul Terry	20	3	23
13 Mark Lynch	17 ⁽¹⁾	3	21
14 Ishmael Welsh	4 ⁽⁴⁾	2 ⁽¹⁾	21
15 Scott Guyett	13 ⁽⁶⁾	1	20
16 Andy Lindgaard	15 ⁽²⁾	0	17
17 Martin Brittain	12 ⁽³⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	16
18 Leon Best	14 ⁽¹⁾	0	15
19 Martin Cranie	11 ⁽¹⁾	0	12
20 Matthew Rose	7 ⁽²⁾	0	9
21 Peter Sweeney	5 ⁽³⁾	0	8
22 Kevin James	2 ⁽⁴⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	7
23 Anthony Tonkin	1 ⁽⁴⁾	2	7
24 Daniel Webb	0 ⁽⁴⁾	1 ⁽¹⁾	6
25 Matt Harrold	2 ⁽³⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	6
26 Nicky Law	5 ⁽¹⁾	0	6
27 Darryl Knights	0 ⁽⁵⁾	0	5
28 Kevin Cooper	4	0	4
29 David Poole	1 ⁽³⁾	0	4
30 Adam Rooney	1 ⁽²⁾	0	3
31 Stephen Maher	0 ⁽¹⁾	0	1
32 Gavin McCallum	0 ⁽¹⁾	0	1
33 Craig Alcock	0 ⁽¹⁾	0	1
34 Tom Clarke	1	0	1
35 Bradley Thomas	0	0 ⁽¹⁾	1

Goalscorers

	CCL1	C	T
1 Wayne Gray	11	1	12
2 Marcus Stewart	10	0	10
3 Leon Best	10	0	10
4 Arron Davies	8	0	8
5 Chris Cohen	6	1	7
6 Lee Morris	6	0	6
7 Own Goal	3	0	3
8 Paul Terry	2	0	2
9 Terry Skiverton	2	0	2
10 Matt Harrold	0	1	1
11 Ishmael Welsh	1	0	1
12 Anthony Barry	0	1	1
13 Nathan Jones	1	0	1
14 Jean-Paul Kalala	1	0	1

KEY: CCL1 = Coca-Cola League One,
C = Cup Competitions (includes FA Cup,
Carling Cup & Johnstone's Paint Trophy), T = Total

Season 2006-07



2007-08

Coca-Cola League One
Final position: 18th (52 points)

With the disappointment of Wembley still fresh in the minds of Glovers fans, manager

Russell Slade set about rebuilding his squad during the shorter than usual summer break. Seven players were released including fans favourite Andy Lindgaard who departed after nearly 200 first team appearances for the club. The exodus then continued with the boss losing Chris Cohen and Arron Davies to defeated play-off victims Nottingham Forest for £1.2 million and Paul Terry, Jean-Paul Kalala and Wayne Gray also leaving for pastures new.

Slade brought in experience in the shape of Paul Warne from Oldham Athletic and added the likes of Gary Dempsey (previously with Aberdeen), Marc Bircham (QPR), Darryl Knights (Ipswich Town), Marvin Williams (Millwall) and Justin Cochrane (QPR). Lee Peltier joined the club on loan from Premier League Liverpool; a six month deal offered initially and up front, Lloyd Owusu became the spearhead of the attack.

Pre-season results were disappointing with just one win from eight fixtures; the most attractive opposition being provided by Portsmouth, Cardiff City and Bristol City. And initially the slump in form continued with a 1-0 loss at Huddersfield in the league opener and an awful 4-1 setback at Hereford United in the Carling Cup.

Form improved at last with a run of one defeat in six, prompted by Owusu netting four vital goals in single-goal victories and the season had turned round. LDV Trophy progress was advanced with wins over Shrewsbury and Hereford but then a spell of inconsistency haunted Slade's side and it would be early December before they could win back to back league games. Goals were also proving hard to come



by with just seven in a run of 11 games that saw Yeovil slip to 16th spot in the table. There was also the small matter of complete embarrassment as the side were humbled by a 4-1 FA Cup defeat live on BBC by Torquay United.

Russell Slade then played his trump card by signing a loan player from Swansea City. Not just ANY player but the legendary Darren Way, returning after nearly two years at the Liberty Stadium. His restoration to the team inspired the team to a dramatic 2-1 win over Gillingham, live on Sky. What a difference a week made though Way would only be around for eight matches.

Defeat to Millwall then followed but December was kinder to the Town as players returned from injury. Aside from a Boxing Day loss to Swindon, the month saw Yeovil amass 13 points to raise them up the table and, buoyed by the upturn, Slade moved in the January transfer window to strengthen his squad. Striker Andy Kirk, prolific at several clubs including Boston United and Northampton Town, arrived as did Jaime Peters from Ipswich Town and Simon Church on a loan deal from Reading. But the highest profile deal was at the other end of the pitch as Lee Peltier converted his loan deal into a permanent contract until June 2010.

Results wise though, things weren't as positive and it would be mid-February before fans could celebrate all three points in the New Year. Even that was a struggle, a 90th minute winner from Terry Skiverton at Huish Park against Northampton. The victory was a rare

bright spot in a gloomy start to 2008 that saw Slade's men score just seven times in 15 games.

Injuries continued to plague Yeovil's season. Lee Morris had barely featured all season through a knee injury and subsequently retired, Nathan Jones suffered a broken arm, keeper Steve Mildenhall (knee), Jaime Peters (ankle) - the seemingly endless list went on. Forays into the loan market continued at a rate with fringe youngsters sent out the other way to get some match fitness.

Points had to be picked up to avoid a slip into the real danger zone of the bottom four. For most of the second half of the campaign, they had flirted with the relegation positions but always seemed to produce a win when necessary. After March defeats to Millwall and AFC Bournemouth, they returned to form with a 2-1 win over promotion-chasing Doncaster Rovers at Huish Park, Owusu grabbing the winner after robbing the ball from Donny keeper Neil Sullivan as he tried to play the ball out.

A draw against Bristol Rovers at home led to the final five games of the season, four of which were away. The result that mathematically clinched a League One berth for 2008-09 came, of all places, at Swansea's Liberty Stadium. The Welshmen, already promoted and chasing the championship, were beaten 2-1 by Slade's men with goals from Terry Skiverton and Aidan Downes sealing a valuable victory. Everyone went home happy that day; the Swans won the title after Southend United denied their nearest challengers Carlisle United with a stoppage time goal.

The Glovers then lost to Leeds United and Nottingham Forest in their final two games, the latter winning promotion in front of 28,000 fans at the City Ground. For Yeovil though, it would mean a fourth season in League One and hope for a better, and more exciting, season next time round. ■

Main: Lloyd Owusu celebrates his winning goal in Yeovil's 2-1 home win over Doncaster Rovers

Top: Darren Way passes the ball in his comeback game against Gillingham

Fixtures and Results

August 2007

11-08-07	A	Huddersfield Town	CCL1	0-1	9,876	
14-08-07	A	Hereford United	CC1	1-4	2,085	Owusu 50
18-08-07	H	Port Vale	CCL1	1-0	5,071	Cochrane 17
25-08-07	A	Northampton Town	CCL1	2-1	4,555	Cochrane 26, Owusu 90

September

01-09-07	H	Tranmere Rovers	CCL1	1-1	4,985	Stewart 57
04-09-07	H	Shrewsbury Town	JPT1	1-0	1,669	Owusu 53
09-09-07	A	Swindon Town	CCL1	1-0	6,944	Owusu 77
15-09-07	H	Leyton Orient	CCL1	0-1	5,217	
22-09-07	A	Brighton	CCL1	2-1	5,231	Owusu 15, Warne 43
29-09-07	H	Nottingham Forest	CCL1	0-3	6,818	

October

02-10-07	H	Luton Town	CCL1	0-0	4,818	
06-10-07	A	Leeds United	CCL1	0-1	27,808	
09-10-07	A	Hereford United	JPT2	0-0	1,859	
13-10-07	H	Carlisle United	CCL1	2-1	4,757	Owusu 54, Jones 65
20-10-07	A	Bristol Rovers	CCL1	1-1	7,726	Rose 62
27-10-07	H	Swansea City	CCL1	1-2	6,207	Betsy 48

November

03-11-07	A	Crewe Alexandra	CCL1	0-2	4,363	
06-11-07	A	Cheltenham Town	CCL1	1-1	3,169	Owusu 31
11-11-07	A	Torquay United	FAC1	1-4	3,718	Stewart 20
13-11-07	A	Swansea City	JPT3	0-1	6,644	
18-11-07	H	Gillingham	CCL1	2-1	4,408	Owusu 66, Walker 88
24-11-07	A	Millwall	CCL1	1-2	8,105	Walker 49

December

04-12-07	H	AFC Bournemouth	CCL1	2-1	5,321	Skiverton 3, Walker 37
08-12-07	H	Hartlepool United	CCL1	3-1	4,694	Skiverton 27, Stewart 31, Owusu 77
16-12-07	A	Doncaster Rovers	CCL1	2-1	5,967	Way 37, Stewart 78
22-12-07	A	Leyton Orient	CCL1	0-0	4,687	
26-12-07	H	Swindon Town	CCL1	0-1	6,539	
29-12-07	H	Brighton	CCL1	2-1	6,881	Dempsey 42, Stieber 50

January 2008

01-01-08	A	Luton Town	CCL1	0-1	6,811	
08-01-08	H	Walsall	CCL1	0-2	4,319	
12-01-08	A	Southend United	CCL1	1-1	7,352	Owusu 71
19-01-08	H	Oldham Athletic	CCL1	0-0	4,905	
26-01-08	A	Tranmere Rovers	CCL1	1-2	5,386	Kirk 51
29-01-08	A	Port Vale	CCL1	2-1	2,869	Dempsey 6, Kirk 52

February

02-02-08	H	Huddersfield Town	CCL1	0-2	4,823	
09-02-08	A	Walsall	CCL1	0-2	5,034	
12-02-08	H	Northampton Town	CCL1	1-0	5,001	Skiverton 90
16-02-08	A	Oldham Athletic	CCL1	0-3	4,781	
23-02-08	H	Southend United	CCL1	0-3	4,820	

March

01-03-08	A	Gillingham	CCL1	0-0	5,083	
08-03-08	H	Cheltenham Town	CCL1	2-1	4,588	Own Goal 9, Kirk 73
11-03-08	H	Millwall	CCL1	0-1	4,439	
15-03-08	A	AFC Bournemouth	CCL1	0-2	4,145	
21-03-08	H	Doncaster Rovers	CCL1	2-1	6,149	Skiverton 22, Owusu 31
24-03-08	A	Hartlepool United	CCL1	0-2	3,808	
29-03-08	H	Bristol Rovers	CCL1	0-0	6,654	

April

05-04-08	A	Carlisle United	CCL1	1-2	6,843	Stewart 38
12-04-08	H	Crewe Alexandra	CCL1	0-3	4,785	
19-04-08	A	Swansea City	CCL1	2-1	18,321	Skiverton 23, Downes 60
25-04-08	H	Leeds United	CCL1	0-1	9,527	

May

03-05-08	A	Nottingham Forest	CCL1	2-3	28,520	Peters 20, Kirk 75
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KEY: CCL1 = Coca-Cola League One, FAC = FA Cup, JPT = Johnstone's Paint Trophy, CC = Carling Cup

Coca-Cola League One Table

	P	Home				Away				GD	Pts		
		W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L			F	A
1 Swansea City (C)	46	13	5	5	38	21	14	6	3	44	21	40	92
2 Nottingham Forest (P)	46	13	8	2	37	13	9	8	6	27	19	32	82
3 Doncaster Rovers (P)	46	14	4	5	34	18	9	7	7	31	23	24	80
4 Carlisle United	46	17	3	3	39	16	6	8	9	25	30	18	80
5 Leeds United	46	15	4	4	41	18	12	6	5	31	20	34	76
6 Southend United	46	12	6	5	35	20	10	4	9	35	35	15	76
7 Brighton	46	12	6	5	37	25	7	6	10	21	25	8	69
8 Oldham Athletic	46	10	7	6	32	21	8	6	9	26	25	12	67
9 Northampton Town	46	12	6	5	38	21	5	9	9	22	34	5	66
10 Huddersfield Town	46	12	4	7	29	22	8	2	13	21	40	-12	66
11 Tranmere Rovers	46	13	4	6	32	18	5	7	11	20	29	5	65
12 Walsall	46	7	9	7	27	26	9	7	7	25	20	6	64
13 Swindon Town	46	12	5	6	41	24	4	8	11	22	32	7	61
14 Leyton Orient	46	9	6	8	27	29	7	6	10	22	34	-14	60
15 Hartlepool United	46	11	5	7	40	26	4	4	15	23	40	-3	54
16 Bristol Rovers	46	5	10	8	25	30	7	7	9	20	23	-8	53
17 Millwall	46	9	4	10	30	26	5	6	12	15	34	-15	52
18 Yeovil Town	46	9	4	10	19	27	5	6	12	19	32	-21	52
19 Cheltenham Town	46	10	8	5	23	21	3	4	16	19	43	-22	51
20 Crewe Alexandra	46	8	6	9	27	33	4	8	11	20	32	-18	50
21 AFC Bournemouth (R)	46	10	4	9	31	35	7	3	13	31	37	-10	48
22 Gillingham (R)	46	9	9	5	26	22	2	4	17	18	51	-29	46
23 Port Vale (R)	46	5	8	10	26	35	4	3	16	21	46	-34	38
24 Luton Town (R)	46	10	5	8	29	25	1	5	17	14	38	-20	33

Appearances

	CCL1	C	T
1 Lloyd Owusu	31 ⁽¹²⁾	5	48
2 Terrell Forbes	39	5	44
3 Anthony Barry	25 ⁽¹¹⁾	5	41
4 Marcus Stewart	35 ⁽¹⁾	4	40
5 Scott Guyett	35	4	39
6 Lee Peltier	34	4	38
7 Paul Warne	26 ⁽⁷⁾	3 ⁽¹⁾	37
8 Nathan Jones	29 ⁽²⁾	5	36
9 Matthew Rose	27 ⁽³⁾	1 ⁽²⁾	33
10 Steve Mildenhall	29	4	33
11 Terry Skiverton	27 ⁽⁴⁾	2	33
12 Marvin Williams	8 ⁽¹⁵⁾	1	24
13 Andy Kirk	15 ⁽⁴⁾	0	19
14 Gary Dempsey	10 ⁽⁶⁾	1 ⁽¹⁾	18
15 Mark Lynch	12 ⁽²⁾	2 ⁽¹⁾	17
16 James Walker	11 ⁽²⁾	2	15
17 Zoltán Stieber	14 ⁽¹⁾	0	15
18 Jaime Peters	12 ⁽²⁾	0	14
19 Craig Alcock	5 ⁽³⁾	3 ⁽²⁾	13
20 Marc Bircham	9 ⁽⁴⁾	0	13
21 Justin Cochrane	6 ⁽⁶⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	13
22 Ritchie Jones	6 ⁽³⁾	1 ⁽¹⁾	11
23 Liam Bridcutt	6 ⁽³⁾	0	9
24 Scott Flinders	9	0	9
25 Darren Way	8	0	8
26 Romain Larrieu	6	1	7
27 Stephen Maher	4 ⁽²⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	7
28 Nathan Smith	6 ⁽¹⁾	0	7
29 Simon Church	2 ⁽⁴⁾	0	6
30 Kevin Betsy	5	1	6
31 Wilfried Domoraud	0 ⁽⁵⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	6
32 JF Christophe	4 ⁽¹⁾	0	5
33 Aidan Downes	3 ⁽²⁾	0	5
34 Darryl Knights	0 ⁽³⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	4
35 Simon Gillett	2 ⁽¹⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	4
36 Ishmael Welsh	0 ⁽³⁾	0	3
37 Martin Woods	3	0	3
38 Jerahl Hughes	0 ⁽¹⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	2
39 Asmir Begovic	2	0	2
40 Lee Morris	0 ⁽¹⁾	1	2

Goalscorers

	CCL1	C	T
1 Lloyd Owusu	9	2	11
2 Marcus Stewart	4	1	5
3 Terry Skiverton	5	0	5
4 Andy Kirk	4	0	4
5 James Walker	3	0	3
6 Justin Cochrane	2	0	2
7 Gary Dempsey	2	0	2
8 Paul Warne	1	0	1
9 Nathan Jones	1	0	1
10 Matthew Rose	1	0	1
11 Kevin Betsy	1	0	1
12 Darren Way	1	0	1
13 Zoltán Stieber	1	0	1
14 Jaime Peters	1	0	1
15 Aidan Downes	1	0	1
16 Own Goal	1	0	1

KEY: CCL1 = Coca-Cola League One,
C = Cup Competitions (includes FA Cup,
Carling Cup & Johnstone's Paint Trophy), T = Total

Season 2007-08

2008-09

Coca-Cola League One
Final position: 17th (51 points)

After the trials, the tribulations (and the incessant injuries) of the previous campaign, one would hope for a quieter summer to build and stabilise ahead of Yeovil's sixth season in the Football League. But it was to prove to be anything but quiet as a total of 15 players departed Somerset in the summer.

While some of them were fringe players, some of the top stars left in the three months of close season. Steve Mildenhall (Southend United) and Marcus Stewart (Exeter City) were the biggest two names while Mark Lynch and Anthony Barry were two of seven players released in May.

Popular midfielder Darren Way rejoined the club he'd enjoyed major success with and he was one of seven summer arrivals, the most high profile being Danny Schofield from Huddersfield Town and London youngsters Gavin Tomlin and Keiran Murtagh.

Pre-season was encouraging with eight wins in 11 games but no contracted goalkeeper turned up until very late, two coming along at once with giant Bosnian Asmir Begovic joining on an initial three month deal and Canadian Josh Wagenaar signing permanently.

The season started really well with a four game unbeaten run including a marvellous 1-0 win at Charlton in the Carling Cup. The addition of a winger with Premier League experience in Andy Welsh also boosted the side. However, after holding Leeds United at home, two hefty



Right: Bosnian goalkeeper Asmir Begovic joined the Glovers for a three month loan spell

defeats to Middlesbrough (Carling Cup) and Carlisle United sparked a dismal run of form that lasted until Christmas. Just three wins from the next 20 matches would deal a crippling blow to any positivity after a bright start to the season.

The four months threw up some nightmare matches, probably none more so than a shocking 5-0 defeat at Stockport County in an FA Cup First Round replay, albeit playing 75 minutes with ten men after Aaron Brown's dismissal. It was an awful day but the inconsistent side came back with a 1-0 win over Tranmere Rovers three days later. The following day saw a sad piece of history being made; the last surviving player from the 1949 FA Cup giant-killers of Sunderland passed away. Dickie Dyke was a reluctant hero from that team playing a huge part as the goalkeeper on that magical day.

Town then lost again to Stockport, this time at Huish Park in the league, before the event that put football right to the back of everyone's minds.

On Wednesday, December 17, midfielder Darren Way and stadium employee Bruce James were involved in an horrific car accident near Yeovil when two vehicles collided. Both men were taken to hospital with serious injuries, Darren's involving multiple fractured and broken bones that would be set to rule him out for a long time.

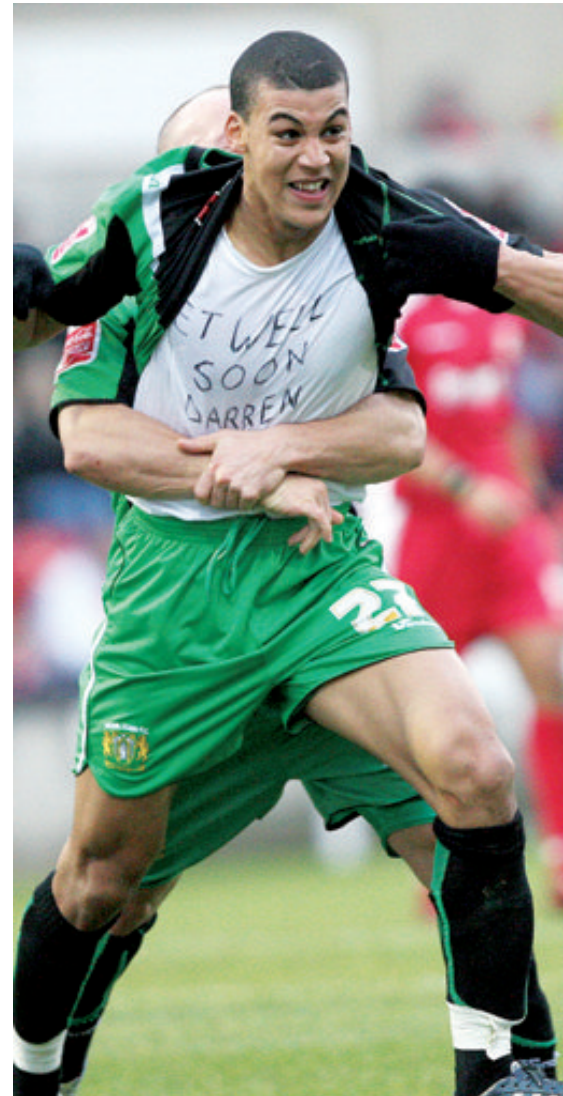
With the retirement of Marc Bircham through injury seemingly imminent, Russell Slade's midfield had been ripped apart but the side reacted brilliantly at the weekend after the crash. Facing a Swindon side just ahead in the table, they won 3-2 in an emotion-charged afternoon at the County Ground.

The victory, dedicated to both Darren and Bruce,



sparked a mini revival in the Glovers' fortunes with 14 points from the next eight games. Goals were hard to come by despite the signing of striker Luke Rodgers; in seven of those eight games, they netted just once or not at all. In the eighth, a marvellous 3-1 win at Peterborough United was overshadowed by the announcement two days later that manager Slade had left the club.

There was little time to chew over the news with a local derby at Bristol



Main: Nathan Jones and Terry Skiverton being unveiled as Yeovil Town's new management duo

Top: Lee Peltier reveals a message of support for Darren Way after scoring in the 3-2 win at Swindon Town - the first game after Way and Bruce James' terrible car crash in Yeovil

Rovers for caretaker manager Steve Thompson to prepare for the following evening. In the event, it was another bad night in a season of them with the Gas thumping their rivals 3-0 at the Memorial Stadium. Rickie Lambert's brilliant free kick capped a rare highlight for the Bristolians in their relationship with the Glovers.

The board of directors moved quickly and appointed club captain Terry Skiverton as manager and defender Nathan Jones as his assistant with Thompson leaving the club. The

pair were just 33 and 35 years old respectively and many observers saw it as a huge gamble. The management debut ended in a 2-2 draw against Oldham, a game most notable for the appearance of Darren Way in an electric wheelchair at half time.

Town lay 15th in the League One table, six points from the bottom four, but initially stuttered under the new regime. Three draws and three losses were then reversed by a five match undefeated run,

all clean sheets, that featured several new loan signings, principally Spurs striker Jonathan Obika who scored three times in four games.

Even with the good run, Yeovil weren't safe and needed an extraordinary 95th minute equaliser from loan goalkeeper Chris Weale to save a point in a 2-2 draw against Hereford United. Safety was assured with an impressive 1-1 draw at Tranmere Rovers in the penultimate game, an achievement that led to the club extending the contracts of both Skiverton and Jones at the season's end. ■

Fixtures and Results

August 2008

09-08-08	H	Walsall	CCL1	1-1	4,518	Tomlin 10
12-08-08	A	Charlton Athletic	CC1	1-0	6,239	Warne 28
16-08-08	A	Hereford United	CCL1	2-1	3,476	Schofield 19, Warne 22
23-08-08	H	Leeds United	CCL1	1-1	6,580	Owusu 62
26-08-08	A	Middlesbrough	CC2	1-5	15,651	Tomlin 45
30-08-08	A	Carlisle United	CCL1	1-4	6,286	Tomlin 16

September

02-09-08	A	Brentford	JPT1	2-2	1,339	Bircham 39, Tomlin 77
06-09-08	A	Milton Keynes Dons	CCL1	0-3	7,959	
13-09-08	H	Brighton	CCL1	1-1	4,451	Way 80
20-09-08	H	Bristol Rovers	CCL1	2-2	5,748	Skiverton 6, Roberts 45
27-09-08	A	Scunthorpe United	CCL1	0-2	4,829	

October

04-10-08	H	Southend United	CCL1	1-2	4,008	Schofield 88
18-10-08	A	Northampton Town	CCL1	0-3	5,217	
21-10-08	H	Crewe Alexandra	CCL1	3-2	3,536	Schofield 45, 66, Way 85
25-10-08	H	Leyton Orient	CCL1	0-0	4,320	
28-10-08	A	Huddersfield Town	CCL1	0-0	10,719	

November

01-11-08	A	Oldham Athletic	CCL1	2-0	5,318	Brown 62, Warne 65
08-11-08	H	Stockport County	FAC1	1-1	3,582	Skiverton 60
11-11-08	A	Leicester City	CCL1	0-1	16,528	
15-11-08	H	Peterborough United	CCL1	0-1	4,001	
18-11-08	A	Stockport County	FAC1R	0-5	3,260	
22-11-08	H	Tranmere Rovers	CCL1	1-0	3,445	Skiverton 23
25-11-08	A	Colchester United	CCL1	0-1	3,214	

December

06-12-08	A	Hartlepool United	CCL1	0-0	3,393	
13-12-08	H	Stockport County	CCL1	2-4	3,687	Smith 26, Warne 43
20-12-08	A	Swindon Town	CCL1	3-2	7,072	Alcock 10, Peltier 28, Own Goal 72
26-12-08	H	Cheltenham Town	CCL1	1-1	4,989	Rodgers 75
28-12-08	A	Millwall	CCL1	1-1	9,042	Rodgers 37

January 2009

13-01-09	H	Scunthorpe United	CCL1	1-2	3,275	McCollin 90
19-01-09	H	Leicester City	CCL1	0-2	4,569	
24-01-09	A	Southend United	CCL1	1-0	6,409	Brown 6
27-01-09	H	Huddersfield Town	CCL1	1-0	3,703	MacDonald 45
31-01-09	A	Leyton Orient	CCL1	1-0	4,597	Tomlin 90

February

14-02-09	A	Peterborough United	CCL1	3-1	6,129	Warne 31, Brown 33, MacDonald 69
17-02-09	A	Bristol Rovers	CCL1	0-3	8,049	
21-02-09	H	Oldham Athletic	CCL1	2-2	4,150	Tomlin 16, 33
24-02-09	A	Crewe Alexandra	CCL1	0-2	3,432	
28-02-09	A	Walsall	CCL1	0-2	3,916	

March

07-03-09	H	Carlisle United	CCL1	1-1	3,892	Roberts 31
10-03-09	A	Leeds United	CCL1	0-4	18,847	
14-03-09	A	Brighton	CCL1	0-5	6,291	
21-03-09	H	Milton Keynes Dons	CCL1	0-0	4,028	
28-03-09	H	Swindon Town	CCL1	1-0	5,476	Obika 33
31-03-09	H	Northampton Town	CCL1	1-0	3,884	Obika 79

April

04-04-09	A	Stockport County	CCL1	0-0	5,664	
10-04-09	H	Millwall	CCL1	2-0	6,230	Obika 40, Tomlin 49
13-04-09	A	Cheltenham Town	CCL1	0-1	3,775	
18-04-09	H	Hartlepool United	CCL1	2-3	4,332	Tomlin 7, Townsend 57
21-04-09	H	Hereford United	CCL1	2-2	3,870	Rodgers 78, Weale 90
25-04-09	A	Tranmere Rovers	CCL1	1-1	8,306	Obika 67

May

02-05-09	H	Colchester United	CCL1	0-2	5,237	
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KEY: CCL1 = Coca-Cola League One, FAC = FA Cup, JPT = Johnstone's Paint Trophy, CC = Carling Cup

Coca-Cola League One Table

	P	Home				Away				GD	Pts		
		W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L			F	A
1 Leicester City (C)	46	13	9	1	41	16	14	6	3	43	23	45	96
2 Peterborough United (P)	46	14	6	3	41	22	12	5	6	37	31	25	89
3 Milton Keynes Dons	46	12	4	7	42	25	14	5	4	41	22	36	87
4 Leeds United	46	17	2	4	49	20	9	4	10	28	29	28	84
5 Millwall	46	13	4	6	29	21	12	3	8	33	32	9	82
6 Scunthorpe United (P)	46	13	5	5	44	24	9	5	9	38	39	19	76
7 Tranmere Rovers	46	15	5	3	41	20	6	6	11	21	29	13	74
8 Southend United	46	13	2	8	29	20	8	6	9	29	41	-3	71
9 Huddersfield Town	46	9	8	6	32	28	9	6	8	30	37	-3	68
10 Oldham Athletic	46	9	9	5	35	24	7	8	8	31	41	1	65
11 Bristol Rovers	46	11	4	8	44	29	6	8	9	35	32	18	63
12 Colchester United	46	7	4	12	21	24	11	5	7	37	34	0	63
13 Walsall	46	10	3	10	34	36	7	7	9	27	30	-5	61
14 Leyton Orient	46	6	6	11	24	33	9	5	9	21	24	-12	56
15 Swindon Town	46	8	7	8	37	34	4	10	9	31	37	-3	53
16 Brighton	46	6	6	11	32	40	7	7	9	23	30	-15	52
17 Yeovil Town	46	6	10	7	26	29	6	5	12	15	37	-25	51
18 Stockport County	46	9	7	7	34	28	7	5	11	25	29	2	50
19 Hartlepool United	46	8	7	8	45	40	5	4	14	21	39	-13	50
20 Carlisle United	46	8	7	8	36	32	4	7	12	20	37	-13	50
21 Northampton Town (R)	46	8	8	7	38	29	4	5	14	23	36	-4	49
22 Crewe Alexandra (R)	46	8	4	11	30	38	4	6	13	29	44	-23	46
23 Cheltenham Town (R)	46	7	6	10	30	38	2	6	15	21	53	-40	39
24 Hereford United (R)	46	6	4	13	23	28	3	3	17	19	51	-3	34

Appearances

	CCL1	C	T
1 Paul Warne	38 ⁽⁶⁾	4 ⁽¹⁾	49
2 Gavin Tomlin	29 ⁽¹³⁾	3 ⁽²⁾	47
3 Terrell Forbes	38	4 ⁽¹⁾	43
4 Danny Schofield	34 ⁽⁴⁾	3	41
5 Lee Peltier	34 ⁽¹⁾	4	39
6 Andy Welsh	23 ⁽¹³⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	37
7 Craig Alcock	25 ⁽⁵⁾	3 ⁽²⁾	35
8 Gary Roberts	27 ⁽³⁾	4	34
9 Nathan Smith	31	1	32
10 Keiran Murtagh	16 ⁽¹⁰⁾	4	30
11 Terry Skiverton	25	4	29
12 Josh Wagenaar	22 ⁽¹⁾	5	28
13 Nathan Jones	15 ⁽⁸⁾	4	27
14 Aidan Downes	15 ⁽⁹⁾	2	26
15 Aaron Brown	16 ⁽⁷⁾	2	25
16 Luke Rodgers	10 ⁽¹²⁾	0	22
17 Darren Way	15	3 ⁽¹⁾	19
18 Asmir Begovic	14	0	14
19 Andre McCollin	0 ⁽¹¹⁾	0 ⁽²⁾	13
20 Chris Weale	10	0	10
21 Jonathan Obika	10	0	10
22 Andros Townsend	10	0	10
23 Jonathan Worthington	9	0	9
24 Danny Hutchins	8 ⁽¹⁾	0	9
25 Gifton Noel-Williams	6	2	8
26 Gareth Owen	7	0	7
27 Scott Rendell	5	0 ⁽¹⁾	6
28 Lloyd Owusu	0 ⁽⁴⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	5
29 Marc Bircham	3	1 ⁽¹⁾	5
30 James Dayton	0 ⁽²⁾	2	4
31 Aleksandar Prijovic	4	0	4
32 Shaun MacDonald	4	0	4
33 David Noble	2	0	2
34 Danny Maguire	1	0	1

Goalscorers

	CCL1	C	T
1 Gavin Tomlin	7	2	9
2 Paul Warne	4	1	5
3 Danny Schofield	4	0	4
4 Jonathan Obika	4	0	4
5 Terry Skiverton	2	1	3
6 Aaron Brown	3	0	3
7 Luke Rodgers	3	0	3
8 Darren Way	2	0	2
9 Gary Roberts	2	0	2
10 Shaun MacDonald	2	0	2
11 Lloyd Owusu	1	0	1
12 Nathan Smith	1	0	1
13 Craig Alcock	1	0	1
14 Lee Peltier	1	0	1
15 Andre McCollin	1	0	1
16 Chris Weale	1	0	1
17 Andros Townsend	1	0	1
18 Marc Bircham	0	1	1
19 Own Goal	1	0	1

KEY: CCL1 = Coca-Cola League One,
C = Cup Competitions (includes FA Cup,
Carling Cup & Johnstone's Paint Trophy), T = Total

Season 2008-09

2009-10

Coca-Cola League One

Final position: 15th (53 points)

As usual in the summer of 2009, the most action at Huish Park was around the entrance/exit door with another high turnover of players.

Contract negotiations with some players seemed somewhat troubled and with Lee Peltier's deal to Huddersfield going through and a dozen players released or returning to their parent club, it would be a busy off-season for the new management team of Terry Skiverton and Nathan Jones.

The group that came in offered a little of everything. Vast experience in ex-Bristol City attacker Scott Murray, promising strike options in Sam Williams (ex-Aston Villa) and Dean Bowditch (formerly of Ipswich Town) plus three exciting loan signings. Ryan Mason, an attacking midfielder and centre back Steven Caulker signed from Tottenham Hotspur while Reading keeper Alex McCarthy also arrived late in the summer.

The manager himself had enjoyed some light relief in a summer of wheeling and dealing. The club hosted a testimonial which saw Skiverton lead a team against a side managed by Gary Johnson. More than 3,000 spectators watched a 4-4 draw, the final equaliser coming from a cheeky Skivo penalty kick after Johnson had laid the ball sideways for him to shoot. The emotion was clear to the boss, none more so than when great friend Darren Way appeared for the last minute of the game.

The first home league game pitched the Glovers against Tranmere Rovers, a managerial debut for former Liverpool and England winger John Barnes. Town triumphed 2-0 but were then thumped 4-0 by Norwich City in the Carling Cup, Grant Holt netting a hat trick. The re-arrival of Spurs loan striker Jonathan Obika boosted the forward choices but at the back, Yeovil were as leaky as an old sieve. A total of 19 goals were conceded in just nine games; as a result, the points return was limited to just three draws.

Sitting uncomfortably in the relegation zone, Skiverton's men chose a good time to produce their longest unbeaten run of the season, six games. It was another successful loan deal that assisted the Glovers; Welsh midfielder Shaun MacDonald returned after a month's loan the previous season and his second coming saw three wins and three draws, giving 12 points. It propelled Yeovil eight places higher – the last of those wins even saw Terrell Forbes score his first ever goal after more than 360 career appearances!

But as good as the run was, a poor sequence of results then followed from autumn into winter. Twelve games, including a 4-0 thumping at Leeds and a lacklustre exit from the FA Cup at Oxford United, offered only two wins. Defensive frailties had returned with a vengeance, erasing any advantage earned by the regular scoring of Bowditch and Obika. Nobody could complain that the Christmas build-up was boring with 24 goals in 6 games but the points return was only a point a game.

The start of 2010 saw loan deals for the two Macs, McCarthy and MacDonald, extended. It also saw some pretty cold weather too and the team went more than three weeks without a game due to frost, snow and at times, both! When football finally returned, three defeats in four games meant Yeovil slid down to five points above the bottom four but an improved February brought ten points from six fixtures, the best of which was a 4-1 away trouncing of Wycombe.

Promotion-chasing Norwich City were next on the menu for the Glovers who couldn't cope with the attacking instincts of the Canaries. A goal down inside two minutes, the 3-0 scoreline was a blessed relief for those who made the long journey from Yeovil, it could have been much worse. Terry Skiverton moved to strengthen by bringing in a very familiar face, the mercurial Welshman Gavin Williams on loan from Bristol City.





Main: Dean Bowditch celebrates with Shaun MacDonald after giving Yeovil the lead in the 1-1 draw with Millwall

Top: Loan defender Steven Caulker who made a big impact throughout the season for the Glovers

Left: Gavin Williams scores a free kick against Hartlepool on his return to Yeovil on loan

the home side who'd endured a dismal season with only five wins. A 26th minute goal from Bowditch earned Yeovil a point against Millwall and they inched their way closer to mathematical survival with a great point at Brentford.

The perfect ending came on May 1 with a 3-0 success over Oldham Athletic at Huish Park. Who else but Gavin Williams was at the heart of it, scoring twice in the final ten minutes to cap a highly profitable loan spell with the club. Supporters also waved goodbye to Steven Caulker, a new star in the making and Jarnail Singh, the most popular of officials who retired after officiating the game. The season ended with a quiet 1-0 defeat at Brighton's Withdean Stadium.

Season seven in the esteemed Football League was over, what would another busy summer bring for those of a green and white persuasion? ■

The move paid instant dividends, sort of! 'Super Gav' hit a peach of a free kick against Hartlepool to put his side two ahead but then was dismissed for violent conduct later on, forcing him to miss three games through suspension. Those three games saw no goals and just a single point and when Town lost 2-1 at home to Leeds United, the gap between Yeovil and safety was down to four points.

A vital victory came at Stockport County, the 3-1 scoreline relegating

Fixtures and Results

August 2009

08-08-09	H	Tranmere Rovers	CCL1	2-0	4,349	Bowditch 23, Tomlin 76
11-08-09	H	Norwich City	CC1	0-4	3,860	
15-08-09	A	Colchester United	CCL1	1-2	4,263	Mason 82
18-08-09	A	Exeter City	CCL1	1-1	6,650	Mason 72
22-08-09	H	Leyton Orient	CCL1	3-3	3,827	Tomlin 11, Obika 40, Schofield 52
29-08-09	A	Huddersfield Town	CCL1	1-2	12,646	Murtagh 6

September

01-09-09	A	AFC Bournemouth	JPT1	1-2	2,655	Obika 87
05-09-09	H	Swindon Town	CCL1	0-1	4,807	
12-09-09	H	Stockport County	CCL1	2-2	3,519	Tomlin 33, S Williams 68
19-09-09	A	Southampton	CCL1	0-2	19,907	
26-09-09	H	Brentford	CCL1	2-0	4,249	Alcock 25, Welsh 51
29-09-09	A	Millwall	CCL1	0-0	6,617	

October

03-10-09	A	Oldham Athletic	CCL1	0-0	4,208	
10-10-09	H	Brighton	CCL1	2-2	4,412	Murray 45, 82
17-10-09	H	Carlisle United	CCL1	3-1	4,333	Mason 13, 43, Murtagh 87
24-10-09	A	Bristol Rovers	CCL1	2-1	7,812	Obika 61, Forbes 64
31-10-09	A	Leeds United	CCL1	0-4	24,482	

November

07-11-09	A	Oxford United	FAC1	0-1	6,144	
14-11-09	H	Southend United	CCL1	1-0	3,906	Bowditch 76
21-11-09	H	Charlton Athletic	CCL1	1-1	5,632	Obika 44
24-11-09	A	Gillingham	CCL1	0-1	4,450	

December

01-12-09	H	Walsall	CCL1	1-3	3,508	Obika 30
05-12-09	A	Milton Keynes Dons	CCL1	2-1	8,965	Bowditch 1, MacDonald 17
12-12-09	H	Norwich City	CCL1	3-3	4,964	Bowditch 21, MacDonald 67, Obika 90
19-12-09	A	Hartlepool United	CCL1	1-1	2,778	S Williams 33
26-12-09	H	Wycombe Wanderers	CCL1	4-0	5,055	Murtagh 36, Kalala 71, Obika 74, S Williams 87
28-12-09	A	Swindon Town	CCL1	1-3	8,509	Tomlin 27

January 2010

19-01-10	A	Leyton Orient	CCL1	0-2	2,669	
23-01-10	H	Exeter City	CCL1	2-1	6,282	Stam 6, Mason 41
26-01-10	A	Tranmere Rovers	CCL1	1-2	4,584	Mason 90
30-01-10	H	Huddersfield Town	CCL1	0-1	4,110	

February

06-02-10	A	Wycombe Wanderers	CCL1	4-1	4,793	Bowditch 16, 67, Welsh 52, Tudur Jones 60
13-02-10	H	Gillingham	CCL1	0-0	3,853	
16-02-10	H	Colchester United	CCL1	0-1	3,469	
20-02-10	A	Charlton Athletic	CCL1	0-2	15,991	
23-02-10	A	Walsall	CCL1	1-0	2,929	S Williams 5
27-02-10	H	Milton Keynes Dons	CCL1	1-0	3,844	MacDonald 23

March

06-03-10	A	Norwich City	CCL1	0-3	24,868	
13-03-10	H	Hartlepool United	CCL1	4-0	4,169	Tomlin 20, G Williams 38, Own Goal 50, Bowditch 71
16-03-10	A	Carlisle United	CCL1	0-1	3,731	
20-03-10	H	Bristol Rovers	CCL1	0-3	5,968	

April

03-04-10	A	Southend United	CCL1	0-0	6,854	
05-04-10	H	Leeds United	CCL1	1-2	6,308	Bowditch 66
10-04-10	A	Stockport County	CCL1	3-1	3,587	Bowditch 21, G Williams 32, 74
13-04-10	H	Millwall	CCL1	1-1	4,713	Bowditch 26
17-04-10	H	Southampton	CCL1	0-1	7,484	
24-04-10	A	Brentford	CCL1	1-1	5,395	Tomlin 3

May

01-05-10	H	Oldham Athletic	CCL1	3-0	4,513	Tomlin 18, G Williams 83, 90
08-05-10	A	Brighton	CCL1	0-1	7,323	

KEY: CCL1 = Coca-Cola League One, FAC = FA Cup, JPT = Johnstone's Paint Trophy, CC = Carling Cup

Coca-Cola League One Table

	P	Home				Away				GD	Pts		
		W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L			F	A
1 Norwich City (C)	46	17	3	3	48	22	12	5	6	41	25	42	95
2 Leeds United (P)	46	14	6	3	41	19	11	5	7	36	25	33	86
3 Millwall (P)	46	17	5	1	48	15	7	8	8	28	29	32	85
4 Charlton Athletic	46	14	6	3	41	22	9	9	5	30	26	23	84
5 Swindon Town	46	13	8	2	42	25	9	8	6	31	32	16	82
6 Huddersfield Town	46	14	8	1	52	22	9	3	11	30	34	26	80
7 Southampton	46	15	5	3	48	21	8	9	6	37	26	38	73
8 Colchester United	46	15	5	3	37	21	5	7	11	27	31	12	72
9 Brentford	46	9	12	2	34	21	5	8	10	21	31	3	62
10 Walsall	46	10	8	5	36	26	6	6	11	24	37	-3	62
11 Bristol Rovers	46	13	3	7	32	30	6	2	15	27	40	-11	62
12 Milton Keynes Dons	46	10	5	8	31	28	7	4	12	29	40	-8	60
13 Brighton	46	7	4	12	26	30	8	10	5	30	30	-4	59
14 Carlisle United	46	10	4	9	34	28	5	9	9	29	38	-3	58
15 Yeovil Town	46	9	7	7	36	26	4	7	12	19	33	-4	53
16 Oldham Athletic	46	7	7	9	23	28	6	6	11	16	29	-18	52
17 Leyton Orient	46	10	6	7	35	25	3	6	14	18	38	-10	51
18 Exeter City	46	9	10	4	30	20	2	8	13	18	40	-12	51
19 Tranmere Rovers	46	11	3	9	30	32	3	6	14	15	40	-27	51
20 Hartlepool United	46	10	6	7	33	26	4	5	14	26	41	-8	50
21 Gillingham (R)	46	12	8	3	35	15	0	6	17	13	49	-16	50
22 Wycombe Wanderers (R)	46	6	7	10	26	31	4	8	11	30	45	-20	45
23 Southend United (R)	46	7	10	6	29	27	3	3	17	22	45	-21	43
24 Stockport County (R)	46	2	6	15	21	51	3	4	16	14	44	-60	25

Appearances

	CCL1	C	T
1 Steven Caulker	44	2	46
2 Andy Welsh	28 ⁽¹⁴⁾	3	45
3 Alex McCarthy	44	1	45
4 Craig Alcock	39 ⁽³⁾	1	43
5 Terrell Forbes	35 ⁽³⁾	3	41
6 Gavin Tomlin	29 ⁽⁶⁾	2	37
7 Sam Williams	28 ⁽⁶⁾	3	37
8 Nathan Smith	28 ⁽⁷⁾	1 ⁽¹⁾	37
9 Jean-Paul Kalala	32 ⁽²⁾	0	34
10 Shaun MacDonald	31	1	32
11 Dean Bowditch	26 ⁽⁴⁾	0	30
12 Ryan Mason	26 ⁽²⁾	1	29
13 Keiran Murtagh	13 ⁽¹⁴⁾	2	29
14 Jonathan Obika	13 ⁽⁹⁾	1 ⁽²⁾	25
15 Scott Murray	10 ⁽¹⁰⁾	2	22
16 Stefan Stam	18	2	20
17 Nathan Jones	17	2	19
18 George O'Callaghan	7 ⁽⁵⁾	2 ⁽¹⁾	15
19 Arron Davies	4 ⁽⁶⁾	0	10
20 Danny Hutchins	4 ⁽³⁾	1 ⁽¹⁾	9
21 Gavin Williams	7 ⁽¹⁾	0	8
22 Owain Tudur Jones	6	0	6
23 Andy Lindegaard	2 ⁽³⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	6
24 Richard Martin	2 ⁽¹⁾	2	5
25 Aidan Downes	2 ⁽³⁾	0	5
26 Danny Schofield	4	1	5
27 Craig Davies	2 ⁽²⁾	0	4
28 Scott Davies	4	0	4
29 Luke Ayling	1 ⁽³⁾	0	4
30 Andre McCollin	0 ⁽²⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	3

Goalscorers

	CCL1	C	T
1 Dean Bowditch	10	0	10
2 Gavin Tomlin	7	0	7
3 Jonathan Obika	6	1	7
4 Ryan Mason	6	0	6
5 Gavin Williams	5	0	5
6 Sam Williams	4	0	4
7 Keiran Murtagh	3	0	3
8 Shaun MacDonald	3	0	3
9 Andy Welsh	2	0	2
10 Scott Murray	2	0	2
11 Danny Schofield	1	0	1
12 Craig Alcock	1	0	1
13 Terrell Forbes	1	0	1
14 Jean-Paul Kalala	1	0	1
15 Stefan Stam	1	0	1
16 Owain Tudur Jones	1	0	1
17 Own Goal	1	0	1

KEY: CCL1 = Coca-Cola League One,
C = Cup Competitions (includes FA Cup,
Carling Cup & Johnstone's Paint Trophy), T = Total

Season 2009-10

2010-11

League One

Final position: 14th (59 points)

The summer of 2010 passed fairly quickly, helped by the World Cup in South Africa and also by another busy time at Huish Park. Injury-hit Aidan Downes, veteran Scott Murray and the trio of Terrell Forbes, Gavin Tomlin and Keiran Murtagh all departed the club, either released or going of their own accord.

In their place came some quality young talent, a step up from previous years. At the back, the imposing figure of Paul Huntington (ex-Newcastle United) was joined by Adam Virgo, formerly of Celtic and Brighton. Talented youngsters Luke Ayling and Ed Upson came to enhance the midfield with Arsenal and Ipswich on their CV's while Ayling's former team mate Luke Freeman joined on loan from the Gunners and Bristol Rovers' attacker Andy Williams was signed.

Yet it also seemed like the time to say 'goodbye' too. Manager Terry Skiverton officially retired from playing and Darren Way, injured in a serious car accident 18 months previously, also called time prematurely on his playing career. He was rewarded with a benefit match against a Manchester United side managed by Ole Gunnar Solskjaer; Town won 3-2 before nearly 7,000 spectators with Way taking to the pitch for the final time in an emotional finale.

The fixture list in August was very kind to Yeovil. Drawn at home to Crystal Palace in the Carling Cup, they also faced two home league games and a short trip to Bristol Rovers as well as Oldham away. Dean Bowditch's beauty set Yeovil on the way to a 2-1 opening day win over Russell Slade's Leyton Orient and they fought like tigers three days later against Palace but were cruelly undone by a 90th minute winner from their Championship opponents.

But any sadness at the result was nothing compared to that which engulfed the club later that evening. A statement on Exeter City's website revealed that former Yeovil Town striker Adam Stansfield had sadly lost his battle with



Top: Exeter City fans reveal a giant shirt in dedication to Adam Stansfield who sadly passed away at the start of the season



Left: Darren Way salutes the Yeovil crowd at the end of his benefit match against Manchester United

bowel cancer. Aged just 31, his tragic passing leaving a wife and three young children rocked the world of football. He would never be forgotten.

Yeovil then lost four of their next five matches. In a twist of fate, Adam's last club Exeter City were the visitors to Huish Park three weeks after his death in a poignant Johnstone's Paint Trophy tie, going away with a 3-1 victory. A 4-0 drubbing at Notts County left the Glovers 22nd in the League One table but a tremendous first half hour saw them record a 3-1 win over Tranmere Rovers.

A point against Southampton was followed by important away victories at Walsall and Rochdale. But the fixtures were getting tougher and matches against the bigger boys of Sheffield Wednesday, Brighton & Hove Albion, Swindon Town and Milton Keynes Dons yielded only one point and ten goals conceded.

Andy Williams opened his account for the season with the winner against Rushden & Diamonds in the FA Cup first round but it would be another six games before Yeovil tasted victory again. The tail off in form saw Skiverton's side drop to bottom of the division and exit the cup at Hartlepool at the second stage.

December was a cold, cold month. So much so that three successive games fell victim to the weather giving some much-needed rest to the tired looking squad. The Glovers brought in two new faces in QPR loan defender Max Ehmer and Plymouth's highly experienced midfielder general Paul Wotton; their debuts coming at Plymouth on New Year's Day in a 0-0 draw.

The subsequent change in fortunes was remarkable. Three consecutive



victories (all with clean sheets) over Milton Keynes Dons, Brentford and Swindon Town raised spirits; a 1-0 loss at Rochdale was a blip as Yeovil then grabbed an invaluable point in an extraordinary match at Sheffield Wednesday. Leading 1-0 and then 2-1 with 25 minutes left, both Luke Ayling and Adam Virgo were sent off within five minutes of each other leaving Town with nine men. Incredibly, Wednesday could only level and nothing more, the match ending two apiece.

That outcome seemed to typify a new belief within the squad that all was not lost yet. By February 1, they had climbed out of the bottom four and even though there was then a worrying return to the pre-Christmas form with just one win



Main: Shaun MacDonald scores from the spot to complete his hat-trick against Leyton Orient
Top: The Yeovil players train in the snow during the cold winter of 2010

in eight, the positive conviction was still there. Even with that spell, the club remained just outside the bottom four.

More than ever, it was important to try to build some momentum for the final

dozen games. A draw with Walsall and a win at Exeter led the Glovers to Leyton Orient where Shaun MacDonald played the game of his life, hitting a first half hat-trick in a stunning 5-1 victory. Wins over Carlisle and Notts County continued the good run and an astonishing last five minutes saw ten-man Yeovil come from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 with AFC Bournemouth.

Safety was finally assured with another exciting 2-2 draw, this time at Peterborough where Yeovil led 1-0 with three minutes to go. Results elsewhere condemned others to League Two; for Yeovil the season finished in style with two more wins over the Uniteds of Colchester and Carlisle ensuring a lofty 14th placed finish. ■

Fixtures and Results

August 2010

07-08-10	H	Leyton Orient	NPL1	2-1	4,126	Bowditch 12, Freeman 45
10-08-10	H	Crystal Palace	CC1	0-1	3,720	
14-08-10	A	Bristol Rovers	NPL1	1-2	6,438	Virgo 89
21-08-10	H	Hartlepool United	NPL1	0-2	3,537	
28-08-10	A	Oldham Athletic	NPL1	0-0	4,180	
31-08-10	H	Exeter City	JPT1	1-3	2,954	Welsh 76

September

04-09-10	A	Notts County	NPL1	0-4	6,288	
11-09-10	H	Tranmere Rovers	NPL1	3-1	3,364	Bowditch 7, Welsh 10, Huntington 27
18-09-10	A	Huddersfield Town	NPL1	2-4	13,479	Bowditch 9, Tudur Jones 15
25-09-10	H	Exeter City	NPL1	1-3	5,886	S Williams 57
28-09-10	H	Southampton	NPL1	1-1	5,854	Virgo 65

October

02-10-10	A	Walsall	NPL1	1-0	3,172	Virgo 70
09-10-10	A	Rochdale	NPL1	1-0	3,150	Freeman 66
16-10-10	H	Sheffield Wednesday	NPL1	0-2	5,927	
23-10-10	A	Brighton	NPL1	0-2	7,253	
30-10-10	H	Swindon Town	NPL1	3-3	4,671	G Williams 45, Bowditch 50, 61

November

02-11-10	A	Milton Keynes Dons	NPL1	2-3	7,281	Bowditch 19, Virgo 75
06-11-10	A	Rushden and Diamonds	FAC1	1-0	1,666	A Williams 83
13-11-10	H	Dagenham & Redbridge	NPL1	1-3	3,586	A Williams 45
20-11-10	A	Charlton Athletic	NPL1	2-3	15,184	A Williams 17, Own Goal 55
23-11-10	A	AFC Bournemouth	NPL1	0-2	6,465	

December

11-12-10	A	Colchester United	NPL1	0-0	3,748	
14-12-10	A	Hartlepool United	FAC2	2-4	1,914	A Williams 18, Upson 31

January 2011

01-01-11	A	Plymouth Argyle	NPL1	0-0	9,720	
03-01-11	H	Milton Keynes Dons	NPL1	1-0	3,508	Huntington 11
08-01-11	H	Brentford	NPL1	2-0	3,688	Huntington 32, A Williams 69
15-01-11	A	Swindon Town	NPL1	1-0	7,950	Bowditch 65
22-01-11	H	Rochdale	NPL1	0-1	3,711	
25-01-11	A	Sheffield Wednesday	NPL1	2-2	16,618	Bowditch 15, Huntington 57
29-01-11	A	Brentford	NPL1	2-1	4,753	Johnson 24, Wotton 83

February

01-02-11	H	Plymouth Argyle	NPL1	1-0	5,208	A Williams 66
05-02-11	H	Charlton Athletic	NPL1	0-1	4,651	
12-02-11	A	Dagenham & Redbridge	NPL1	1-2	2,119	Johnson 33
15-02-11	H	Peterborough United	NPL1	0-2	3,351	
26-02-11	A	Tranmere Rovers	NPL1	1-0	8,016	Johnson 77

March

01-03-11	H	Brighton	NPL1	0-1	3,832	
05-03-11	H	Huddersfield Town	NPL1	1-1	3,620	A Williams 39
08-03-11	A	Southampton	NPL1	0-3	18,623	
12-03-11	H	Walsall	NPL1	1-1	3,737	A Williams 45
19-03-11	A	Exeter City	NPL1	3-2	5,841	S Williams 43, Bowditch 58, 64
26-03-11	A	Leyton Orient	NPL1	5-1	4,258	MacDonald 9, 18, 42, Welsh 47, Bowditch 88
29-03-11	H	Carlisle United	NPL1	1-0	3,331	Obika 59

April

02-04-11	H	Bristol Rovers	NPL1	0-1	6,281	
09-04-11	A	Hartlepool United	NPL1	1-3	2,834	Obika 10
12-04-11	H	Notts County	NPL1	2-1	3,533	Bowditch 32, 57
16-04-11	H	Oldham Athletic	NPL1	1-1	3,350	Welsh 85
23-04-11	H	AFC Bournemouth	NPL1	2-2	6,150	Virgo 86, MacDonald 90
25-04-11	A	Peterborough United	NPL1	2-2	6,489	Wotton 23, Tutte 87
30-04-11	H	Colchester United	NPL1	4-2	3,797	Alcock 15, Tutte 22, Bowditch 44, Welsh 64

May

07-05-11	A	Carlisle United	NPL1	2-0	6,473	Obika 26, Bowditch 69
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KEY: NPL1 = npower League One, FAC = FA Cup, JPT = Johnstone's Paint Trophy, CC = Carling Cup

npower League One Table

	P	Home					Away					GD	Pts
		W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
1 Brighton (C)	46	17	4	2	54	22	11	7	5	31	18	45	95
2 Southampton (P)	46	16	4	3	44	13	12	4	7	42	25	48	92
3 Huddersfield Town	46	12	8	3	38	21	13	4	6	39	27	29	87
4 Peterborough United (P)	46	15	5	3	69	40	8	5	10	37	35	31	79
5 Milton Keynes Dons	46	14	5	4	35	23	9	3	11	32	37	7	77
6 AFC Bournemouth	46	13	5	5	47	24	6	9	8	28	30	21	71
7 Leyton Orient	46	12	6	5	37	25	7	7	9	34	37	9	70
8 Exeter City	46	12	5	6	40	31	8	5	10	26	42	-7	70
9 Rochdale	46	9	8	6	36	30	9	6	8	27	25	8	68
10 Colchester United	46	12	7	4	38	30	4	7	12	19	33	-6	62
11 Brentford	46	9	5	9	24	28	8	5	10	31	34	-7	61
12 Carlisle United	46	9	7	7	34	26	7	4	12	26	36	-2	59
13 Charlton Athletic	46	10	6	7	29	29	5	8	10	33	37	-4	59
14 Yeovil Town	46	8	6	9	27	30	8	5	10	29	36	-10	59
15 Sheffield Wednesday	46	10	5	8	38	29	6	5	12	29	38	0	58
16 Hartlepool United	46	9	6	8	32	32	6	6	11	15	33	-18	57
17 Tranmere Rovers	46	9	4	10	28	27	6	7	10	25	33	-7	56
18 Oldham Athletic	46	7	9	7	29	31	6	8	9	24	29	-7	56
19 Notts County	46	9	3	11	24	25	5	5	13	22	35	-14	50
20 Walsall	46	9	3	11	33	36	3	9	11	23	39	-19	48
21 Dagenham & Red (R)	46	8	6	9	28	27	4	5	14	24	43	-18	47
22 Bristol Rovers (R)	46	6	7	10	24	35	5	5	13	24	47	-34	45
23 Plymouth Argyle (R)	46	9	4	10	27	33	6	3	14	24	41	-23	42
24 Swindon Town (R)	46	5	9	9	20	27	4	5	14	30	45	-22	41

Appearances

	NPL1	C	T
1 Dean Bowditch	40 ⁽¹⁾	4	45
2 Paul Huntington	40	3	43
3 Nathan Smith	35 ⁽⁵⁾	1 ⁽¹⁾	42
4 Sam Williams	23 ⁽¹³⁾	3 ⁽¹⁾	40
5 Luke Ayling	31 ⁽⁶⁾	2 ⁽¹⁾	40
6 Andy Williams	27 ⁽¹⁰⁾	3	40
7 Adam Virgo	28 ⁽⁵⁾	3	36
8 Andy Welsh	30 ⁽³⁾	3	36
9 Stephen Henderson	33	0	33
10 Craig Alcock	19 ⁽⁷⁾	3	29
11 Shaun MacDonald	26	2	28
12 Max Ehmer	26 ⁽¹⁾	0	27
13 Ed Upson	15 ⁽⁸⁾	1	24
14 Paul Wotton	23	0	23
15 Jean-Paul Kalala	13 ⁽²⁾	4	19
16 Oli Johnson	16 ⁽²⁾	0	18
17 John Sullivan	13	4	17
18 Owain Tudur Jones	12 ⁽²⁾	2	16
19 Luke Freeman	5 ⁽⁸⁾	1 ⁽¹⁾	15
20 Andrew Tutte	12 ⁽³⁾	0	15
21 Alex Russell	2 ⁽¹²⁾	0	14
22 Gavin Williams	11 ⁽¹⁾	0	12
23 Nathan Jones	7 ⁽¹⁾	3	11
24 Jonathan Obika	11	0	11
25 Cameron Stewart	1 ⁽⁴⁾	1	6
26 Craig Calver	0 ⁽⁵⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	6
27 Billy Gibson	0 ⁽⁴⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	5
28 Antonio German	0 ⁽⁴⁾	0	4
29 Adam Phillip	0 ⁽³⁾	0	3
30 Stefan Stam	3	0	3
31 Rob Kiernan	1 ⁽²⁾	0	3
32 Tom Parkes	0 ⁽¹⁾	1	2
33 Ivan Sproule	2	0	2
34 Martin Gritton	0 ⁽²⁾	0	2
35 Ben Roberts	0 ⁽¹⁾	0	1

Goalscorers

	NPL1	C	T
1 Dean Bowditch	15	0	15
2 Andy Williams	6	2	8
3 Adam Virgo	5	0	5
4 Andy Welsh	4	1	5
5 Paul Huntington	4	0	4
6 Shaun MacDonald	4	0	4
7 Oli Johnson	3	0	3
8 Jonathan Obika	3	0	3
9 Luke Freeman	2	0	2
10 Sam Williams	2	0	2
11 Paul Wotton	2	0	2
12 Andrew Tutte	2	0	2
13 Owain Tudur Jones	1	0	1
14 Gavin Williams	1	0	1
15 Ed Upson	0	1	1
16 Craig Alcock	1	0	1
17 Own Goal	1	0	1

KEY: NPL1 = npower League One,
C = Cup Competitions (includes FA Cup,
Carling Cup & Johnstone's Paint Trophy), T = Total

Season 2010-11

2011-12

League One

Final position: 17th (54 points)

Although supporters of Yeovil Town had grown used to a large turnaround of players each summer, the 2011 exodus was more spectacular than ever. No fewer than a dozen players waved goodbye to Huish Park during the recess and to make matters worse, some of them were big players.

Top scorer Dean Bowditch rejected a contract to join up with perennial under-achievers Milton Keynes Dons, Andy Welsh left to return to the north west area with Carlisle United and defenders Adam Virgo, Nathan Smith and Craig Alcock also said farewell to life with the Glovers. Add in the five loan signings that returned to their parent clubs and the released list that manager Terry Skiverton determined weren't part of his plans (Martin Gritton, Sam Williams, Stefan Stam and Craig Calver) and even by Yeovil standards, the rebuilding job facing the young manager was more daunting than ever.

The summer trundled along with rumours, counter rumours and complete fabrications appearing through social media channels. One of Skiverton's first signings for the new season was aided by *twitter* however with former Everton youngster Kieran Agard suggested as a good shout. Kieran was joined by returning magician Gavin Williams for his fourth spell at the club and gradually as June turned into July, more joined the boat as it prepared to sail once more on its journey into the League One ocean.

Giant centre half Bondz N'Gala came from Plymouth to add backbone and presence to the squad and another former West Ham star, winger Anthony Edgar soon enlisted with the crew. Dominic Blizzard (Bristol Rovers), Steve MacLean (Rangers, Sheffield Wednesday & Plymouth), Alan O'Brien (Newcastle United) and Rory Fallon (Swindon Town, Plymouth, New Zealand) were more



Main: Paul Wotton celebrates with Ed Upson after scoring in Yeovil's first win of the season - a 3-1 home victory over Oldham Athletic

Top: Yeovil manager Terry Skiverton welcomes new signing Kieran Agard to the club

recognisable names for fans to mull over. Once more the loan card was well played with a new keeper, Jed Steer, coming from Norwich City and the pairing of Max Ehmer (QPR) and Jonathan Obika (Tottenham) coming 'home' again.

Somewhat unsurprisingly, pre-season results started stutteringly with defeats to Dorchester Town and Inverness Caledonian Thistle followed by a draw with Truro City. Trialists came and went with varying lengths of time to impress but as time went on, Town began to find their feet and they beat Bristol City before drawing with Cardiff City and Southampton, all at Huish Park. It would be a very different squad that turned up at Griffin Park, Brentford on August 6, 2011.

The Bees despatched their visitors comfortably by two goals to nil that day and Yeovil moved on to face Exeter City in the Carling Cup, almost a year to the day since the death of Adam Stansfield.

Different opposition, same scoreline though as once again, Town failed to get their cup form up and running, going down 2-0.

Ex-Arsenal star Kerrea Gilbert was drafted in and his debut against Oldham added balance to the side at right back. The Latics were beaten 3-1 at Huish Park with Yeovil taking 50 minutes to score through Ed Upson and adding two more before a late Oldham consolation. Having scored three times in half an hour, the Glovers then scored just once in the next four matches; draws with Walsall and Tranmere (away) were interspersed with home defeats to the 'giants' of Milton Keynes Dons and Sheffield United.

Another big game arrived in the shape of Preston North End at Deepdale, a sobering thought for a team on a run of one win in seven. But the match was an absolute thriller, Skiverton's men giving as good as they got for long periods of the game but eventually going down by the odd goal in seven. The performance inspired the side to their second home win of the season thanks to an Upson blockbuster from 30 yards against Wycombe Wanderers.

Sheffield Wednesday were next up at Huish Park and left with all three points after an exciting encounter that saw them win 3-2 despite a double from Kieran Agard. It was to trigger a terrible run of league form that lasted from mid-September to the end of November; a sequence of five draws and five defeats in ten matches that wasn't helped by a back four that leaked 20 goals in that time, and only one clean sheet.

Given that Skiverton's side were in 16th place before the run, it was no real shock that by the time the run ended with a 1-0 win at Hartlepool (the first away victory of the season), they had dropped to 22nd position, level on points with basement club Chesterfield. The only bright spots within those sorry nine weeks was the signing of keeper Marek Stech, following an injury to Steer, and a 3-0 thumping of former Non-League rivals Hereford United in the FA Cup.

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The Seasons | 2011-12

The next round of football's favourite cup competition paired Yeovil with the up-and-coming Fleetwood Town. Picked as a plum tie for live television coverage, it was entertaining for the neutral watcher but a nightmare for Glovers as they let a 2-0 lead slip in the last eight minutes. In the replay, worse was to follow as ten-man Yeovil went out 1-0 to their Non-League opponents in a poor display capped by the dismissal of N'Gala.

Christmas was coming and a point at both Rochdale and Exeter City were the only presents given. Home losses to Charlton Athletic and AFC Bournemouth, in both cases conceding three goals, hurt the team still further as they struggled to escape the clutches of the relegation zone, albeit with more than 20 games left. They needed some inspiration from somewhere.

That inspiration came from a familiar face, a very familiar face. On Monday January 9, at precisely 2.00pm, Gary Johnson was named as the new first team manager of Yeovil Town Football Club. After more than six hours of talks with Terry Skiverton, the pair shook hands on the deal that would see Johnson take over the reins with Skiverton staying on as his number two. First team assistant manager Nathan Jones would continue as first team coach with Darren Way taking on the role of technical coach.

The phrase "baptism of fire" could have been invented for Johnson's second 'debut' as manager, Sheffield United away. Faced with less than 36 hours to prepare the squad, the ensuing 4-0 defeat was disappointing but not entirely an eye-opener. But it gave the new boss plenty to chew on ahead of his first home game against Tranmere Rovers four days later.

If asked what sort of result he'd have liked from his home bow, Johnson might well have chosen a 2-1 win with a last minute winner. And so it was, Andy Williams coming up trumps. Games like those seem so much more inspiring than routine 2-0's or 3-1's; ultimately they still only offer three points for the win but they get supporters off their feet, beginning to believe in the team and committing to the cause.

Steve MacLean's late goal at Bury was a mere consolation in a 3-2 loss but an Andy Williams brace earned all three



points at home to Preston North End. Defeat in Sheffield occurred for the second time in a month, this time at Wednesday, but two fantastically gutsy comebacks in a week really got things going. Trailing 1-0 at Wycombe, a stunning 14 minute burst of three goals sealed a win despite the Chairboys replying late on. Then, one down to Colchester at Huish Park, they produced another three goal salvo to topple the U's who grabbed a late goal themselves.

Incredibly it came so close to three 3-2 comeback wins in a week. Up at Carlisle United, Johnson's men came from 1-0 and 2-1 down to level and even hit the crossbar late on but a stoppage time strike from Francois Zoko denied

Main: Gary Johnson is unveiled as Yeovil's new manager for the second time

Left: Andy Williams does a David Brent style celebration after scoring in the 2-1 win at home to Walsall



Johnson the week of all weeks. But the change in form, allied with some exciting performances saw Town reach the heady heights of 18th place.

The impressive turnaround continued into March, a good month if you were called Williams. Andy scored twice, the latter an 87th minute effort, as Yeovil beat Brentford 2-1 then Gavin scored the winner at Milton Keynes Dons in a 1-0 triumph. Both Andy then Gavin netted once each as the Glovers made it five wins from six but the comeback kings received some of their own medicine as Scunthorpe United snatched a point from two goals down. Normal service was resumed next time out though when Andy hit another double to overcome Walsall by two goals to one.

Amazingly by now, Yeovil Town were on the first page of the *Sky Sports News* League One table. They'd made the top half of the division with a spurt of 25 points in 13 games, promotion form. The appointment of the new old boss in a near-unique partnership with the former manager had paid massive dividends and with eight games left, the prospect of relegation into League Two was looking less and less likely.

The last eight games threw up their own issues as some of the wind dropped from the YTFC sails. A 3-0 defeat at Charlton started a run of one win in seven games, the sixth of which was a drubbing from Stevenage. A goal down after 13 minutes, a man down after 30, the side curiously caved in and finally lost 6-0 in a scarcely believable match.

Mathematically, League One football was secured with a 2-2 draw at Leyton Orient, Jonathan Obika netting a last minute equaliser to cap yet another comeback. The final home game of the season produced one more stirring revival when Andy Williams made it 17 goals for the season with an 80th minute winner against Chesterfield, relegated after the defeat. The Spireites had been 1-0 and 2-1 up but couldn't cope with the resurgent Glovers.

Defeat to play-off chasing Huddersfield came as the season closed, one of the most remarkable campaigns in recent times considering there was no silverware at the end of it. Not for the first time, Yeovil Town had generated a great second half of the season; one was left wondering what would happen if they could just start a little quicker! ■

Fixtures and Results

August 2011

06-08-11	A	Brentford	NPL1	0-2	6,278	
09-08-11	A	Exeter City	CC1	0-2	3,856	
13-08-11	H	Oldham Athletic	NPL1	3-1	3,237	Upson 49, A Williams 74, Wotton 82
16-08-11	H	Milton Keynes Dons	NPL1	0-1	3,274	
20-08-11	A	Walsall	NPL1	1-1	4,247	G Williams 42
27-08-11	H	Sheffield United	NPL1	0-1	5,001	

September

03-09-11	A	Tranmere Rovers	NPL1	0-0	5,037	
09-09-11	A	Preston North End	NPL1	3-4	11,474	Edgar 31, MacLean 64, 81
13-09-11	H	Wycombe Wanderers	NPL1	1-0	3,134	Upson 8
17-09-11	H	Sheffield Wednesday	NPL1	2-3	4,445	Agard 28, 38
24-09-11	A	Scunthorpe United	NPL1	1-2	4,086	Wotton 45

October

01-10-11	H	Bury	NPL1	1-3	3,127	Agard 17
04-10-11	A	AFC Bournemouth	JPT2	2-3	3,265	MacLean 63, Ehmer 88
08-10-11	A	Colchester United	NPL1	2-2	3,521	Massey 1, 63
15-10-11	H	Carlisle United	NPL1	0-3	3,673	
22-10-11	A	Stevenage Borough	NPL1	0-0	3,036	
25-10-11	H	Leyton Orient	NPL1	2-2	3,121	Agard 37, N'Gala 41
29-10-11	H	Huddersfield Town	NPL1	0-1	3,486	

November

05-11-11	A	Chesterfield	NPL1	2-2	5,882	Massey 29, Own Goal 76
12-11-11	A	Hereford United	FAC1	3-0	2,469	Upson 25, A Williams 57, Blizzard 72
19-11-11	H	Exeter City	NPL1	2-2	5,635	Upson 2, Blizzard 65
26-11-11	A	Hartlepool United	NPL1	1-0	4,604	N'Gala 25

December

02-12-11	A	Fleetwood Town	FAC2	2-2	3,319	Upson 32, Clifford 49
10-12-11	H	Notts County	NPL1	1-0	3,663	A Williams 88
13-12-11	H	Fleetwood Town	FAC2R	0-2	3,276	
17-12-11	A	Rochdale	NPL1	0-0	2,692	
26-12-11	H	Charlton Athletic	NPL1	2-3	4,977	Obika 8, Huntington 50
31-12-11	H	AFC Bournemouth	NPL1	1-3	5,632	Huntington 66

January 2012

02-01-12	A	Exeter City	NPL1	1-1	5,912	A Williams 40
10-01-12	A	Sheffield United	NPL1	0-4	15,965	
14-01-12	H	Tranmere Rovers	NPL1	2-1	4,083	Edwards 19, A Williams 90
21-01-12	A	Bury	NPL1	2-3	2,527	Dickson 10, MacLean 87
28-01-12	H	Preston North End	NPL1	2-1	4,245	A Williams 30, 62

February

04-02-12	A	Sheffield Wednesday	NPL1	1-2	17,213	Obika 41
14-02-12	A	Wycombe Wanderers	NPL1	3-2	3,529	A Williams 59, 67, Agard 73
18-02-12	H	Colchester United	NPL1	3-2	3,442	Parrett 55, D'Ath 70, A Williams 72
25-02-12	A	Carlisle United	NPL1	2-3	4,265	Obika 46, Blizzard 82

March

03-03-12	H	Brentford	NPL1	2-1	3,930	A Williams 49, 87
06-03-12	A	Milton Keynes Dons	NPL1	1-0	6,624	G Williams 40
10-03-12	A	Oldham Athletic	NPL1	2-1	4,689	G Williams 10, A Williams 65
13-03-12	H	Scunthorpe United	NPL1	2-2	3,767	G Williams 30, Franks 68
17-03-12	H	Walsall	NPL1	2-1	3,705	A Williams 63, 84
20-03-12	A	Charlton Athletic	NPL1	0-3	13,717	
24-03-12	H	Hartlepool United	NPL1	0-1	4,033	
31-03-12	A	AFC Bournemouth	NPL1	0-0	6,170	

April

07-04-12	H	Rochdale	NPL1	3-1	3,859	Franks 7, Hinds 29, Woods 75
09-04-12	A	Notts County	NPL1	1-3	5,852	Franks 79
14-04-12	H	Stevenage Borough	NPL1	0-6	3,610	
21-04-12	A	Leyton Orient	NPL1	2-2	4,888	A Williams 82, Obika 90
28-04-12	H	Chesterfield	NPL1	3-2	4,563	Blizzard 26, Agard 73, A Williams 80

May 2

05-05-12	A	Huddersfield Town	NPL1	0-2	13,520	
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KEY: NPL1 = npower League One, FAC = FA Cup, JPT = Johnstone's Paint Trophy, CC = Carling Cup

npower League One Table

	P	Home				Away				GD	Pts		
		W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L			F	A
1 Charlton Athletic (C)	46	15	6	2	46	20	15	5	3	36	16	46	101
2 Sheffield Wednesday (P)	46	17	4	2	48	19	11	5	7	33	29	33	93
3 Sheffield United	46	16	4	3	54	27	11	5	7	38	24	41	90
4 Huddersfield Town (P)	46	14	6	3	34	19	7	12	4	44	28	31	81
5 Milton Keynes Dons	46	12	6	5	45	22	10	8	5	39	25	37	80
6 Stevenage Borough	46	10	10	3	36	23	8	9	6	33	21	25	73
7 Notts County	46	13	5	5	42	29	8	5	10	33	34	12	73
8 Carlisle United	46	12	7	4	41	30	6	8	9	24	36	-1	69
9 Brentford	46	10	6	7	36	24	8	7	8	27	28	11	67
10 Colchester United	46	8	11	4	38	33	5	9	9	23	33	-5	59
11 AFC Bournemouth	46	9	5	9	23	23	6	8	9	25	29	-4	58
12 Tranmere Rovers	46	9	11	3	27	16	5	3	15	22	36	-3	56
13 Hartlepool United	46	6	6	11	21	22	8	8	7	29	33	-5	56
14 Bury	46	8	8	7	31	32	7	3	13	29	47	-19	56
15 Preston North End	46	7	9	7	30	35	6	6	11	24	33	-14	54
16 Oldham Athletic	46	9	5	9	26	26	5	7	11	24	40	-16	54
17 Yeovil Town	46	10	3	10	34	41	4	9	10	25	39	-21	54
18 Scunthorpe United	46	5	10	8	28	33	5	12	6	27	26	-4	52
19 Walsall	46	7	9	7	27	27	3	11	9	24	30	-6	50
20 Leyton Orient	46	6	6	11	23	34	7	5	11	25	41	-27	50
21 Wycombe Wanderers (R)	46	7	6	10	37	38	4	4	15	28	50	-23	43
22 Chesterfield (R)	46	7	6	10	26	33	3	6	14	30	48	-25	42
23 Exeter City (R)	46	8	8	7	31	29	2	4	17	15	46	-29	42
24 Rochdale (R)	46	6	8	9	30	39	2	6	15	17	42	-34	38

Appearances

	NPL1	C	T
1 Luke Ayling	44	4	48
2 Ed Upson	40 ⁽¹⁾	4	45
3 Paul Huntington	37	5	42
4 Andy Williams	31 ⁽⁴⁾	4	39
5 Bondz N'Gala	24 ⁽⁷⁾	4	35
6 Kieran Agard	13 ⁽¹⁶⁾	3 ⁽²⁾	34
7 Dominic Blizzard	24 ⁽⁶⁾	2	32
8 Gavin Williams	23 ⁽⁵⁾	1 ⁽¹⁾	30
9 Jonathan Obika	24 ⁽³⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	28
10 Max Ehmer	24	4	28
11 Paul Wotton	22	5	27
12 Steve MacLean	14 ⁽⁶⁾	1 ⁽³⁾	24
13 Nathan Jones	21 ⁽¹⁾	1	23
14 Sam Walker	20	0	20
15 Gavin Massey	8 ⁽⁸⁾	1	17
16 Richard Hinds	15 ⁽¹⁾	0	16
17 Alan O'Brien	8 ⁽⁵⁾	1 ⁽¹⁾	15
18 Jed Steer	12	2	14
19 Lawson D'Ath	12 ⁽²⁾	0	14
20 Jonathan Franks	13 ⁽¹⁾	0	14
21 Jonathan Grounds	13 ⁽¹⁾	0	14
22 Curtis Haynes-Brown	1 ⁽⁹⁾	2	12
23 Anthony Edgar	5 ⁽⁵⁾	1 ⁽¹⁾	12
24 Dean Parrett	9 ⁽¹⁾	0	10
25 Conor Clifford	6 ⁽¹⁾	2	9
26 Kerrea Gilbert	3 ⁽⁵⁾	1	9
27 Oli Johnson	5 ⁽¹⁾	2 ⁽¹⁾	9
28 Rene Gilmartin	8	0	8
29 Billy Gibson	1 ⁽⁴⁾	1 ⁽²⁾	8
30 Rory Fallon	0 ⁽⁵⁾	1	6
31 Darren Purse	5	0	5
32 Ryan Dickson	5	0	5
33 Marek Stech	5	0	5
34 Michael Woods	2 ⁽³⁾	0	5
35 Josh Morris	3 ⁽²⁾	0	5
36 Gareth Stewart	1	3	4
37 Joe Edwards	4	0	4
38 Kelly Youga	0 ⁽¹⁾	0	1
39 Flavien Belson	1	0	1

Goalscorers

	NPL1	C	T
1 Andy Williams	16	1	17
2 Kieran Agard	6	0	6
3 Ed Upson	3	2	5
4 Gavin Williams	4	0	4
5 Steve MacLean	3	1	4
6 Dominic Blizzard	3	1	4
7 Jonathan Obika	4	0	4
8 Gavin Massey	3	0	3
9 Jonathan Franks	3	0	3
10 Paul Wotton	2	0	2
11 Bondz N'Gala	2	0	2
12 Paul Huntington	2	0	2
13 Anthony Edgar	1	0	1
14 Conor Clifford	0	1	1
15 Joe Edwards	1	0	1
16 Ryan Dickson	1	0	1
17 Dean Parrett	1	0	1
18 Lawson D'Ath	1	0	1
19 Richard Hinds	1	0	1
20 Michael Woods	1	0	1
21 Max Ehmer	0	1	1
22 Own Goal	1	0	1

KEY: NPL1 = npower League One,
C = Cup Competitions (includes FA Cup,
Carling Cup & Johnstone's Paint Trophy), T = Total

Season 2011-12



2012-13

Power League One
Final position: 4th (77 points)

With your average football fan, pretty much every summer is filled with hope and optimism that the season ahead will be a good one. On occasions, that upbeat mood has gone by the end of September but in Yeovil's case, there was a genuine belief that this season would be one to see Glovers fans smiling.

Of course as per usual, Gary Johnson's side were strongly fancied to be hanging around the bottom four again but within the club and its supporters, things were brighter than that. Johnson would have a full three months to shape and mould his own team by getting rid of the dead wood and bringing in players that fulfilled his demands. Previously this had meant a group of young, hungry players eager to prove people at higher clubs wrong for releasing them. But also, there would be a need for a couple of older heads to keep a balance of experience within the ranks.

The close season wasn't without upset though as top scorer Andy Williams and skipper Paul Huntington rejected their deals and moved to Swindon Town and Preston North End respectively. The boss also let striker Kieran Agard leave along with Anthony Edgar, Bondz N'Gala and the three youth team scholars (Lewis Clarke, Rhys Baggridge and Rob Clowes).

In their place came a clutch of young players that Glovers fans wouldn't be particularly familiar with. Sam Foley, an exciting attacker from Newport County, was signed and he was joined by winger Keanu Marsh-Brown and striker Reuben Reid, both previously with Oldham Athletic; defender Byron Webster who Johnson had worked with at Northampton; utility players Lewis Young and Nathan Ralph, both also known to Johnson at other clubs and loan signings Gozie Ugwu (Reading) and Rohan Ince (Chelsea).

The club also brought in three players that oozed sheer quality. Goalkeeper Marek Stech had played for West Ham United's first team and excelled in a loan spell at Huish Park the season before. The giant Czech was joined by Jamie McAllister, a veteran left back of 512 appearances with a full Scotland cap, Cup winners medals and a promotion with Bristol City. Completing the set was James Hayter, a two-club prolific striker with 146 goals in 585 games mainly at Championship level.

The summer was topped off nicely with five players renewing their contracts to finalise the squad. Ed Upson, Luke Ayling, Gavin Williams, Dominic Blizzard and Richard Hinds all signed on and pledged themselves to the cause. The club also said "goodbye" to two well known faces. Nathan Jones left to join the Under-21 development management team at Charlton Athletic while there was the sad news of the passing of club doctor Tony Simmonds after illness.

Pre-season results were encouraging. Nine friendlies were planned including a mini tour of Wales, the usual mix of local league and Non-League clubs plus the visit to Huish Park of Stoke City, courtesy of Tony Pulis. The nine games produced five wins and four draws with 23 goals scored and only 9 conceded; highlights including a Reuben Reid treble against Plymouth at Dorchester.

Unusually, the 2012-13 season began with a Capital One Cup tie, at home to Colchester United. With all the attackers finding the net regularly in pre-season, it was a surprise to see defender Richard Hinds grab a double in the 3-0 beating of the U's and he scored again in the league opener at home to Coventry City, a game that ended one apiece.

Further victories over Brentford (3-1) and Scunthorpe United (4-0) followed but despite a fantastic performance against West Bromwich Albion in the Capital One Cup second round, the Baggies went through 4-2.

Facing two 'Rovers' from Doncaster and Bristol, Johnson's side returned to

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Main: Loan striker Gozie Ugwu rounds goalkeeper Sam Slocombe to score his second in Yeovil's 4-0 away win at Scunthorpe

The Seasons | 2012-13

form beating the Yorkshire men 2-1 in the league and then knocking the Gas out of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy with a brilliant double from Ed Upson, both free kicks from outside the box. Lying second in the league and still in two cups, the season was getting better and better!

Cue a bad run of form, a terrible run of form in fact. Six games, six defeats and there was little consolation to be taken from the fact that most of the six were against sides with bigger budgets than Yeovil. AFC Bournemouth, Sheffield United and Portsmouth won at Huish Park and the Glovers came away pointless from Milton Keynes Dons, Preston North End and Leyton Orient.

By now, Yeovil had plummeted to 16th place in League One and desperately needed a change in fortune or personnel to drag themselves out of the rut. Centre half Dan Burn, a rock of a northerner, had arrived on loan from Fulham in the bad spell and Irish forward Paddy Madden came on a month's loan from Carlisle United to boost the side at the other end of the field, an area beset with injuries.

Madden's impact was well timed and instant, netting a brace against Colchester United on his debut. He scored another in a disappointing 3-2 defeat at Tranmere Rovers, a game Yeovil led 2-0 in and struck twice more in a 3-1 win over Shrewsbury. But not content with just scoring them, he began to form a lethal partnership with James Hayter, a pairing that generated nine goals in an October resurgence of 12 points in five games.

The JPT has rarely been a good competition for Yeovil but even this was producing excitement as the Glovers triumphed on penalties at Torquay United after twice coming from a goal behind.

November won't be remembered by anyone with fondness, not least Ed Upson who received his second red card at Preston in five weeks. The FA Cup, for so many years synonymous with YTFC, was exited at Deepdale that day and this sparked a most inconsistent sequence of wins and losses that lasted for six games. The final one was a JPT tie against Wycombe, a happier night for Upson as he scored with a header for once.

Draws against Notts County and Brentford preceded a 4-1 win over Oldham Athletic on the weekend before Christmas. Gavin Williams, who'd



endured a frustrating first four months of the season through niggling knocks, hit one of the best goals ever seen at Huish Park against the Latics, a long run culminating in a 30-yard screamer into the top corner.

And so, as fans streamed home after the 3-0 away defeat at AFC Bournemouth on Boxing Day, the club lay five points off the top six. Gary Johnson had reiterated several times that if his squad were there or thereabouts halfway through the campaign, they'd be in a position to "go for it" in the second half of the season.

But even in the mind of one of football's most positive managers, he could not have imagined what happened next.

On the face of it, the fixture list was quite tricky. It comprised of the reverse fixtures from the bad autumn run that saw Yeovil slump from 2nd to 16th in just a month; some big clubs on the horizon threatening the recent upturn in form. First up was Portsmouth, beaten 2-1 at Fratton Park with the goals coming from an unusual source, Dominic Blizzard and Byron Webster.



of who travelled free courtesy of club sponsors) saw the side disappear out of the JPT at the area semi-final stage, David Mooney hitting a 90th minute winner for the Orient.

Madden had missed the game as a result of appearing for Carlisle United in the same competition in September but upon his return to the starting line-up, played like a man on a mission. The forward hit two against Sheffield United at Bramall Lane in a 2-0 victory then struck another two, his third brace in a row, as Town beat Milton Keynes Dons 2-1 at Huish Park.

Brentford were next up at home and you-know-who scored the first in a 3-0 win before then making it eight goals in five games with the winner at Coventry City's Ricoh Arena. Both he and the team were absolutely flying now and Graham Westley's Preston North End were next under the cosh. Although one down with 17 minutes left, Johnson rallied his men and goals from James Hayter, Nathan Ralph and Paddy Madden sealed the win. Westley's job had been on the line anyway and the defeat was enough for the board to sack him the next day.

Seven out of seven became eight out of eight when Webster, Hayter and Madden netted in a 3-0 win over Scunthorpe United. The 22-year-old's sensational personal scoring streak stretched to eight successive league games with another at Doncaster Rovers but both he and the club finally drew a blank when Yeovil lost 2-0 at Colchester United. But by now, Yeovil had both eyes firmly on a top six position and many started to believe this could be a special season.

The saying goes "Beware the Ides of March". But it was the sides of March that tripped the Glovers up as they produced a slightly ropey run during the month. Only one defeat in six was good news, only one win in those six was bad as draws thwarted the rise up the League One table. The most frustrating of all was the visit to Carlisle United where Yeovil led 3-1 at the 90 minute mark but could only come home with a point. March ended with Town sitting in seventh place.

Just as the wheels started wobbling a little, along came three consecutive April wins against Notts County, Shrewsbury Town and Stevenage. Madden and Hayter, by now the most feared strike partnership in the Football League,

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In through the entrance to Huish Park came Kevin Dawson, a former Shelbourne midfielder who was also the best pal to striker Paddy Madden. Madden himself was on the verge of completing his permanent transfer to Yeovil and he promptly celebrated by scoring twice against Leyton Orient in a 3-0 league win. However, five days later, more than 800 Yeovil supporters (many

Main: Paddy Madden celebrates in front of the Thatchers Gold Stand after scoring in the 3-0 home win over Brentford

Left: James Hayter is mobbed by Paddy Madden and Lewis Young after scoring in the 3-1 win over Preston North End at Huish Park



added two goals each to their respective tallies. But the mini-run was then halted by Johnson - Johnson junior that is. Lee, who'd not long taken over as manager at Oldham Athletic, won the family bragging rights by pinching a 1-0 win at Boundary Park.

Joe Edwards, so influential all season, helped himself to the winner on 48 seconds in the final home game with Crewe but results elsewhere meant it would be the play-offs and not automatic promotion for the Glovers. The final game at Bury saw Yeovil three down after half an hour but goals from Hayter and Dawson gave the scoreline a little respectability.

That final day was more exciting for what happened at other grounds. When the dust settled, and after twists and turns galore, Yeovil would face Sheffield United in the play-offs. The first leg was at Bramall Lane on a Friday night with the return taking place three days later with a lunchtime kick off. The first match was tight and cagey but only a Callum McFadzean goal after half time separated the two sides prior to the second leg.

If Gary Johnson could have handpicked the goal times for the second leg, chances are they would

Main: The Yeovil and Brentford players watch Dan Burn's header creep into the net to give the Glovers a 2-0 lead in the League One play-off final
Right: Manager Gary Johnson lifts the League One play-off trophy





hardly differ from what then happened. Needing an early goal to settle any nerves among the team and the crowd, Kevin Dawson's cool finish in the sixth minute was just the ticket on such a hot day. In a good game considering what was at stake, the goal that sent Yeovil Town to Wembley came with just five minutes remaining when Paddy Madden crossed for Ed Upson to plant a header perfectly into the corner of the net. It sent the crowd into delirium and when the final whistle went, thousands invaded the pitch to celebrate the club reaching the Wembley play-off final.

Brentford beat Swindon Town on penalties in the other semi-final setting up a showdown with the Glovers. Psychologically, would Gary Johnson's men hold any advantage having beaten Uwe Rosler's Bees twice in the season? Would the West Londoners gain anything from the extra numbers of support bound to be there for such a short journey? Would the Bees play-off curse (having never won one) come back to haunt them? Or would little old Yeovil suffer a repeat of their 2007 final against a side beginning with B.

The answers, of course, turned out to be no, no, yes and no. Paddy Madden scored his 23rd Yeovil goal of the season

on six minutes with a brilliant, innovative finish with the outside of his boot and Dan Burn made it two with a towering header before the interval. Harlee Dean headed home in the 51st minute to give the Bees a lifeline but despite a late onslaught, Yeovil held on valiantly to reach the second tier of English football for the first time in their history. It sparked wild scenes of celebration among the 19,000 Glovers fans as captain Jamie McAllister lifted the League One playoff trophy high above his head. ■

Fixtures and Results

August 2012

14-08-12	H	Colchester United	C1C1	3-0	1,907	Hinds 4, 44, Marsh-Brown 79
18-08-12	H	Coventry City	NPL1	1-1	6,006	Hinds 21
21-08-12	A	Brentford	NPL1	3-1	5,269	Hayter 23, 80, Own Goal 84
25-08-12	A	Scunthorpe United	NPL1	4-0	3,279	Marsh-Brown 37, Reid 50, Ugwu 88, 90
28-08-12	H	West Bromwich Albion	C1C2	2-4	6,228	Reid 15, 48

September

01-09-12	H	Doncaster Rovers	NPL1	2-1	3,535	Hayter 56, Ugwu 84
04-09-12	A	Bristol Rovers	JPT1	3-0	2,810	Upson 70, 84, Foley 90
08-09-12	H	AFC Bournemouth	NPL1	0-1	5,238	
15-09-12	A	Milton Keynes Dons	NPL1	0-1	7,235	
18-09-12	A	Leyton Orient	NPL1	1-4	2,876	Foley 55
22-09-12	H	Sheffield United	NPL1	0-1	4,117	
29-09-12	A	Preston North End	NPL1	2-3	8,520	G Williams 6, Burn 87

October

02-10-12	H	Portsmouth	NPL1	1-2	4,769	Reid 69
06-10-12	H	Colchester United	NPL1	3-1	3,002	Madden 20, 34, Hayter 78
13-10-12	A	Tranmere Rovers	NPL1	2-3	6,344	Madden 9, Foley 29
16-10-12	A	Torquay United	JPT2	2-2	1,280	Hayter 38, 90
20-10-12	H	Bury	NPL1	2-1	3,386	Webster 34, Foley 76
23-10-12	A	Shrewsbury Town	NPL1	3-1	4,711	Madden 9, 70, Hayter 60
27-10-12	A	Crewe Alexandra	NPL1	1-0	4,156	Webster 40

November

03-11-12	A	Preston North End	FAC1	0-3	4,757	
06-11-12	H	Stevenage Borough	NPL1	1-3	2,900	Madden 6
10-11-12	H	Hartlepool United	NPL1	1-0	3,095	Edwards 7
17-11-12	A	Swindon Town	NPL1	1-4	8,112	Hayter 41
20-11-12	A	Crawley Town	NPL1	1-0	2,912	Own Goal 90
24-11-12	H	Carlisle United	NPL1	1-3	3,394	Reid 65

December

04-12-12	H	Wycombe Wanderers	JPT3	2-0	1,771	Upson 32, Foley 45
08-12-12	H	Notts County	NPL1	0-0	3,355	
15-12-12	A	Walsall	NPL1	2-2	3,160	Reid 78, Foley 90
22-12-12	H	Oldham Athletic	NPL1	4-1	3,492	G Williams 39, 44, Hayter 77, Madden 88
26-12-12	A	AFC Bournemouth	NPL1	0-3	8,016	
29-12-12	A	Portsmouth	NPL1	2-1	12,370	Blizzard 15, Webster 38

January 2013

01-01-13	H	Leyton Orient	NPL1	3-0	3,516	Madden 41, 74, Hayter 59
08-01-13	A	Leyton Orient	JPT4	0-1	2,755	
12-01-13	A	Sheffield United	NPL1	2-0	20,454	Madden 49, 66
29-01-13	H	Milton Keynes Dons	NPL1	2-1	3,152	Madden 26, 78

February

02-02-13	H	Brentford	NPL1	3-0	4,106	Madden 34, Upson 41, Burn 84
09-02-13	A	Coventry City	NPL1	1-0	11,277	Madden 45
12-02-13	H	Preston North End	NPL1	3-1	3,661	Hayter 73, Ralph 80, Madden 90
16-02-13	H	Scunthorpe United	NPL1	3-0	4,163	Webster 28, Hayter 72, Madden 90
23-02-13	A	Doncaster Rovers	NPL1	1-1	6,356	Madden 6
26-02-13	A	Colchester United	NPL1	0-2	2,367	

March

02-03-13	H	Tranmere Rovers	NPL1	1-0	4,826	Upson 58
09-03-13	A	Hartlepool United	NPL1	0-0	3,633	
12-03-13	H	Crawley Town	NPL1	2-2	3,338	Webster 5, Madden 18
19-03-13	H	Swindon Town	NPL1	0-2	5,207	
23-03-13	A	Carlisle United	NPL1	3-3	3,809	Dawson 25, Madden 51, Hayter 78
29-03-13	H	Walsall	NPL1	0-0	5,594	

April

01-04-13	A	Notts County	NPL1	2-1	5,004	Madden 45, Dolan 52
06-04-13	H	Shrewsbury Town	NPL1	2-1	4,473	Hayter 11, Madden 32
13-04-13	A	Stevenage Borough	NPL1	2-0	3,516	Foley 53, Hayter 81
16-04-13	A	Oldham Athletic	NPL1	0-1	3,888	
20-04-13	H	Crewe Alexandra	NPL1	1-0	5,293	Edwards 1
27-04-13	A	Bury	NPL1	2-3	2,440	Hayter 58, Dawson 90

May

03-05-13	A	Sheffield United	LISF1	0-1	15,262	
06-05-13	H	Sheffield United	LISF2	2-0	8,152	Dawson 6, Upson 85
19-05-13	A	Brentford	L1PF	2-1	41,955	Madden 6, Burn 42

KEY: NPL1 = npower League One, FAC = FA Cup, JPT = Johnstone's Paint Trophy, C1C = Capital One Cup

npower League One Table

	P	Home				Away				GD	Pts		
		W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L			F	A
1 Doncaster Rovers (C)	46	10	5	8	26	23	15	4	4	36	21	18	84
2 AFC Bournemouth (P)	46	13	6	4	43	21	11	5	7	33	32	23	83
3 Brentford	46	14	6	3	37	22	7	10	6	25	25	15	79
4 Yeovil Town (P)	46	13	4	6	36	22	10	4	9	35	34	15	77
5 Sheffield United	46	8	11	4	31	21	11	7	5	25	21	14	75
6 Swindon Town	46	10	9	4	44	15	10	5	8	28	24	33	74
7 Leyton Orient	46	13	3	7	31	20	8	5	10	24	28	7	71
8 Milton Keynes Dons	46	12	5	6	35	21	7	8	8	27	24	17	70
9 Walsall	46	10	8	5	38	29	7	9	7	27	29	7	68
10 Crawley Town	46	9	9	5	34	27	9	5	9	25	31	1	68
11 Tranmere Rovers	46	10	6	7	31	21	9	4	10	27	27	10	67
12 Notts County	46	9	6	8	32	26	7	11	5	29	23	12	65
13 Crewe Alexandra	46	12	3	8	26	22	6	7	10	28	40	-8	64
14 Preston North End	46	8	9	6	31	22	6	8	9	23	27	5	59
15 Coventry City	46	7	7	9	29	27	11	4	8	37	32	7	55
16 Shrewsbury Town	46	9	7	7	29	27	4	9	10	25	33	-6	55
17 Carlisle United	46	7	7	9	32	43	7	6	10	24	34	-21	55
18 Stevenage Borough	46	7	5	11	26	34	8	4	11	21	30	-17	54
19 Oldham Athletic	46	8	4	11	25	26	6	5	12	21	33	-13	51
20 Colchester United	46	8	4	11	25	31	6	5	12	22	37	-21	51
21 Scunthorpe United (R)	46	7	6	10	31	38	6	3	14	18	35	-24	48
22 Bury (R)	46	6	6	11	24	33	3	8	12	21	40	-28	41
23 Hartlepool United (R)	46	5	8	10	19	27	4	6	13	20	40	-28	41
24 Portsmouth (R)	46	7	5	11	27	27	3	7	13	24	42	-18	32

Appearances

	NPL1	C	T
1 Marek Stech	49	7	56
2 James Hayter	45 ⁽²⁾	7	54
3 Byron Webster	46 ⁽¹⁾	5 ⁽¹⁾	53
4 Ed Upson	44	7	51
5 Sam Foley	42 ⁽²⁾	7	51
6 Luke Ayling	41 ⁽¹⁾	5	47
7 Jamie McAllister	37	7	44
8 Daniel Burn	37	4	41
9 Paddy Madden	38	1	39
10 Joe Edwards	35 ⁽³⁾	1	39
11 Dominic Blizzard	16 ⁽⁸⁾	6	30
12 Gavin Williams	9 ⁽¹⁵⁾	3 ⁽¹⁾	28
13 Keanu Marsh-Brown	14 ⁽⁷⁾	4 ⁽²⁾	27
14 Richard Hinds	15 ⁽⁵⁾	6	26
15 Reuben Reid	7 ⁽¹²⁾	4 ⁽²⁾	25
16 Kevin Dawson	23	0 ⁽¹⁾	24
17 Korey Smith	16 ⁽¹⁾	2	19
18 Gozie Ugwu	4 ⁽¹¹⁾	1 ⁽²⁾	18
19 Nathan Ralph	5 ⁽⁹⁾	0 ⁽³⁾	17
20 Lewis Young	2 ⁽¹³⁾	0 ⁽²⁾	17
21 Matthew Dolan	5 ⁽³⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	9
22 Angelo Balanta	4 ⁽³⁾	0	7
23 Daniel Johnson	3 ⁽²⁾	0	5
24 Kwesi Appiah	1 ⁽⁴⁾	0	5
25 Vitalijs Maksimenko	2 ⁽²⁾	0	4
26 Rohan Ince	1 ⁽¹⁾	0 ⁽²⁾	4
27 Ben Gordon	1	0	1
28 Jordan Cook	0 ⁽¹⁾	0	1
29 Dale Bennett	0 ⁽¹⁾	0	1
30 Archange Nkumu	0 ⁽¹⁾	0	1
31 Curtis Haynes-Brown	0	0 ⁽¹⁾	1
32 Wes Fletcher	0 ⁽¹⁾	0	1

Goalscorers

	NPL1	C	T
1 Paddy Madden	23	0	23
2 James Hayter	14	2	16
3 Sam Foley	5	2	7
4 Reuben Reid	4	2	6
5 Ed Upson	3	3	6
6 Byron Webster	5	0	5
7 Richard Hinds	1	2	3
8 Gozie Ugwu	3	0	3
9 Gavin Williams	3	0	3
10 Daniel Burn	3	0	3
11 Kevin Dawson	3	0	3
12 Keanu Marsh-Brown	1	1	2
13 Joe Edwards	2	0	2
14 Own Goal	2	0	2
15 Nathan Ralph	1	0	1
16 Dominic Blizzard	1	0	1
17 Matthew Dolan	1	0	1

KEY: NPL1 = npower League One,
C = Cup Competitions (includes FA Cup,
Capital One Cup & Johnstone's Paint Trophy), T = Total

Season 2012-13





Shirts of the Decade 2003-2013

Chapter Two

The Ma



Managers



Magic Johnson



This book, in terms of its title and its very nature, focuses on a journey taken by Yeovil Town over the past ten years. Imagine, if you will, that it's a trip on a boat. It looks back at the marvellous days we have enjoyed as we sailed all the way from Non-League football to the Championship; the sights we saw along the way, the ports we stopped at and the occasional period of choppy waters that we steadily cruised through.

It took the odd change of crew, much hard work and plenty of map studying to do it but we did it, we arrived in the Championship. For all of us though, there is a neat symmetry to the whole journey. Because at the end of the promotion-winning season of 2012-13, the captain of our boat arriving in the second tier of English football was also the man in charge when we set sail from the fifth tier back at the start.

The story of how Gary Johnson arrived at Huish Park is pretty well known but it is worth recalling one more time, particularly as it involves a boat. Or a ship, to be exact.

"I remember I was going on a cruise on the Saturday when I got a call from a friend of mine, Graham Nickless, who was a reporter at the time," said Gary. "He said he had a nice little club for me in Somerset and if I could get to the interview on the day (which was today), they'd like to speak to me.

"The first thing I said was 'Where the hell is Yeovil?' I commandeered my brother to drive; initially, I wasn't going to come because I thought I was too rushed, I was packing. But then my brother spoke to me and Graham spoke to me and said 'Look, they came second in the league'. Obviously I knew of Yeovil, of course I did. So we jumped in the car and every 15 minutes, I kept saying 'This is too far'. I was living in London at the time having just got back from Latvia.

"I think Graham had sent a video of me in Latvia to Frank Leworthy, who was chief scout at the club at the time and I believe Frank had put it in front of the chairman and said 'Have a look at this fella'. My brother sat in the car waiting for me while I went into the interview. Sitting there was the chairman, John Fry;

Jon Goddard-Watts who had just taken over on the board and George Smith, the financial director. For myself, if they had said that I didn't have the job, I wouldn't have lost anything.

"But the more we talked, the better it sounded. John and Jon both spoke very well of what they were looking for and I put forward my philosophies. Obviously we were all of the same idea. I think Mr Goddard-Watts hadn't been impressed, so he told me later, with the previous applicants. I think he felt that suddenly, late and fast, the personality

"I had a little letter on the back of the cabin door saying they'd like to offer me the job"

he was looking for had arrived. I said I'd look at a few videos - I was going on the cruise the following day - so they gave me seven or eight to watch on the ship. Graham was trying to keep me in touch with what was happening but pretty soon, I had a little letter on the back of the cabin door saying they'd like to offer me the job."

Gary's first contract was two years and success came instantly. "The big thing about that first season was winning the FA Trophy. That brought the club together and it brought all those lads together. They were all a similar age and I made them all move into the area so they became mates and ten years later, they're still all mates. They all still stay in touch; Lee (Johnson) always goes to stay at Jacko's (Kirk Jackson) when he's up north.

"Doncaster in the Trophy was the game that turned that season. We were 2-0 down at half time and the bit of luck we needed came from me having the hump at half time. I kept tripping up over this bag so I picked it up, swung it round and threw it, not knowing where it would go. It caught Thommo (Steve Thompson, Gary's assistant) right between the legs, I didn't mean it of course. I asked him if he was all right and he tried to say yes but I said that I was making the change anyway and I took him off."



The rest, as the saying goes, is history. After conceding a third early in the second period, the Glovers produced one of their best comebacks of all time and, perhaps fittingly, it was Terry Skiverton who scored the winner to make the score Doncaster Rovers 4 Yeovil Town 5. Johnson's side went on to win the Trophy that year and followed it up by winning the Conference title in style the following season. Again, Belle Vue in Doncaster was the venue as the title was won before the game even kicked off after results went Yeovil's way. The match



that followed ended in a 4-0 thumping for Donny live on Sky TV and Yeovil had reached the Football League.

Fast forward to August 9, 2003 and the historic first ever Yeovil Town Football League match at Rochdale. Was it a different preparation considering the club had taken more than a century to get here? "It was," admits Gary. "Our build up was completely focused on getting that one result. We'd had a great pre-season (six wins and two draws from their English warm up games) and it

was all geared to that one day. We knew it was going to be a roasting hot day so we worked hard in our preparation on keeping hydrated on the day. We had to get their body temperatures down at half time, using wet iced towels; we went to town that day and left nothing to chance."

"The picture I still have in my mind from that day is the sea of green and white as we came out of the dressing rooms, it was spine tingling. We had so many supporters, 2,000 odd, that they were given the stand opposite and I thought then that this club had cracked

it. To then win the game 3-1 just made it a great day."

Steadily through the season, Yeovil were accumulating a lot of 'Wins' in the results column. A dozen league victories by Christmas was impressive but after the defeat to Liverpool in the FA Cup, five games produced just one win. February was better with three wins in five but only a single win in March, albeit a particularly satisfying one over a poor Bristol Rovers side, ended up proving costly. A much improved April taking

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Main: A champagne soaked Gary celebrates with the League Two championship trophy in 2005

The Managers | Gary Johnson

11 points from six games still left Yeovil arriving at Sincil Bank, Lincoln, relying on other results if an unlikely play-off berth was to be achieved.

In the event, Yeovil won the game 3-2 but it wasn't enough and they sat agonisingly one place outside the play-offs, so near but yet so far. Yet now, Gary can look back and believes it helped his team succeed the following campaign. "We were gutted that day," he reminisces. "I sat them in that Lincoln dressing room after the game and told

"I saw the tears in their eyes at Lincoln that day and then 12 months later, at home to Lincoln, I saw the tears of joy"

them to remember just how bad they felt, how disappointed they were. Next season, I said that we didn't want to be leaving it too late like we had done that year, it wasn't in our hands. I told them that when they go into the summer, they

had to look after themselves a bit better because we've got to do a little bit more to get that next promotion, if that's what you want."

"To be fair, they adhered to that. I brought in a few players and of course, you've got to have the disappointments to really appreciate the successes. That's why I can have a tear in my eye at that group because I saw the tears in their eyes at Lincoln that day and then 12 months later, at home to Lincoln, I saw the tears of joy."

Doncaster and Yeovil had been connected previously with Yeovil's FA Trophy revival coming at Belle Vue

Main: Gary poses outside Huish Park on his return to the club as manager in 2012



in 2001-02 and the Conference title confirmed at the same ground 14 months on. But this time, it was the turn of Lincoln City; the 2003-04 play-off push ended with a win but by not enough before then, a year later, they clinched the League Two title at home with a 3-0 thumping of Keith Alexander's men. Efe Sodje, of all people, scored twice and Golden Boot winner Phil Jevons once as Gary's team signed

off from League Two at the second time of asking.

Preparing for League One life took in a dozen pre-season friendlies, including a mini-European tour. Fans saw their first glimpse of an exciting South American striker by the name of Pablo Bastianini, Argentinean by birth, who showed the odd spark but never really caught fire properly. Even now, many years later, people bring up his name as evidence that

even the best of managers get it wrong sometimes but that isn't entirely fair, as Gary explains.

"He came in and he hit Yeovil by storm early on when he arrived. He was fantastic in training. We played West Ham in a friendly and I think he hit the crossbar from the kick off or something. I remember the board of directors saying we had to sign him even though he was going to cost us a couple of hundred grand or so. I seem to be chastised for buying him but everyone was saying we had to sign him. I remember we had to get solicitors in because it was agents that own players in that neck of the woods. So we had to bring our solicitor in, they had to do the same and there was a lot going on."

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“As it turned out, he never fulfilled his potential. In fact, we brought over his mate Luciano Alvarez to look after him and he ended up turning into the better player. He cost us nothing; no solicitors, no fee. They were both nice kids but Pablo didn't quite have that mentality to show what he could do consistently. And he couldn't speak the language which is massive when you're trying to coach and talk to somebody. That's probably the only thing that didn't go so well, I think.”

Nine league games into the season, a bombshell hit Huish Park. Gary Johnson left the club and moved to Bristol City, lower than Yeovil Town in the League One table but admittedly an attractive job at a club with a big fan base and massive potential. So was it the right time to leave, looking back on it?

“I'm not sure, it may have been,” he says with the advantage of hindsight. “I could say to you that I thought I'd taken Yeovil as far as they could go but that's not right because in my second spell, we got to the Championship. I think at the time, Bristol City were lower in the table but they were a much bigger club. They had 18,000 crowds and I just felt, well I'd been here more than four years by then. I was a 'young' manager and when the offer came, I had a decision to make.”

“It was down to the clubs to agree the compensation and I was stuck in Gordano Services one Friday for about 12 hours. Anyway, they eventually agreed a deal. I don't think there was any animosity at all when I left from anyone and there was certainly not enough of it for me not to come back when they asked me back again.”

Rumours of Gary's exit had been whirling around before. After all, what successful manager wouldn't be courted by other clubs eager to replicate what he had achieved at a small market town club. Three trophies in just over four seasons put him in that bracket of the most desirable managers around. Major clubs came calling at his door but he stayed at Yeovil until the plum job at Ashton Gate came up.

“Yes I had interviews at three or four clubs at the time. The chairman, John Fry, was well aware of what was happening every time somebody named an interest. I won't go into details as it isn't fair on

everybody but every time I went, I went with the chairman's blessing and more often than not, I came back!”

The popular chief left Yeovil hovering above the relegation places and joined up with City after Brian Tinnion's resignation. Arriving with City 23rd in the table, his natural enthusiasm and coaching know-how made him an immediate favourite with the Bristol faithful and City ended his first part-season there in ninth place, averaging 1.5 points per game under the boss. However, the following season was to make him even more popular as he took City up automatically into the Championship.

“I'd been here more than four years by then. I was a 'young' manager and when the offer came, I had a decision to make”

His stock increased tenfold in season 2007-08 as City enjoyed a fantastic season under Gary's command. Reaching the play-off final at Wembley, the Robins were beaten by a spectacular goal from Hull's Dean Windass as the Tigers reached the Premier League. The following season (2008-09), City finished in the top ten but the manager left his position in March 2010. After a brief spell at Peterborough United where he left the Posh in the play-off positions after nine months in charge, he then had a similar length period as manager at Northampton Town before leaving there in November 2011.

Meanwhile the club he had left behind was holding its own in the third tier. Eight months under Steve Thompson was followed by two and a half seasons under Russell Slade and three years under Gary's former lieutenant Terry Skiverton. Gary had left Yeovil Town in September 2005 with them in 19th place in the League and when Glovers fans woke up on Monday, January 9, 2012, their side was lying in 21st place. Six years, three months and a few days had seen the tiny club punch above its weight, reach Wembley but most

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Main: Gary celebrates with the Yeovil fans after victory over Crewe in the 2012-13 season



importantly, hold its own. It was ready for the next push. Gary was coming back.

"I came back because I was asked to come back," explains Gary. "I had a decision to make; I had a couple of offers pending, so I'd heard. But I had a meeting with John Fry and the important thing for me was that I wasn't going to take anything away that was good from the club. Sometimes a new manager comes in and he sweeps everything clean, losing some good people as he does it. I knew Terry and Darren from before and it was really important for me that they stayed. Obviously Terry was the one I had to discuss it with the most because it was very difficult for him to go from manager to number two."

That discussion was of epic proportions with both men chewing over the possibility of working together once more for several hours. "I think given his time again, it wouldn't have taken me five hours to convince him, it would have taken me five minutes. If he'd had his crystal ball with him, he would have seen how he was going to be perceived and how he was going to be assistant manager and what was going to happen."

The remainder of the season, 21 games in total, was a triumph for the foursome. With Gary, Terry, Nathan Jones and Darren as a foursome, the side won nearly half its matches and accrued 33 points from 21 games, form that was the eighth best in the division post-Christmas. It offered hope, optimism and excitement for the following campaign and even though Nathan departed to run Charlton's Under-21 squad, Yeovil fans were eager to see the first full season under the uniquely put together trio.

With the season starting late after the London 2012 Olympics had given everyone, even the most cynical sceptics, a shot in the arm, Yeovil folk were ready. It was like Gary had never been away with nine unbeaten friendlies and plenty of goals. The season began with a 3-0 win over Colchester United in the Capital One Cup followed up by a 1-1 draw against Coventry City and two brilliant away wins at Brentford (3-1) and Scunthorpe United (4-0). Yeovil Town were flying and the manner of the fight and energy shown by the Glovers was more than encouraging.

Then came an awful spell. And when we say awful, we mean awful. Six successive defeats put the kybosh on the promising start to the campaign as well as dampening the enthusiasm from the supporters. At times like these, great managers prove their worth and earn their corn by turning things round, either from within the club or by an inspired signing. For Gary Johnson, it was the latter.

Paddy Madden was a young Irish striker down on his luck at Carlisle United. Gary moved in for Madden, bringing him the length of the country to Huish Park. "His strength was that he was always a threat to defenders. He reminds me a lot of a striker I had at Peterborough in Craig Mackail-Smith and also Adam Stansfield as well. His energy and work rate were similar to those two lads."

Five goals in his first four Glovers outings made him an instant hero and when Carlisle agreed, somewhat incredibly to the neutral observer, to a permanent deal, it was lift off.

"We deserved the win and no-one could take it away from us or say we didn't deserve to be there"

Whatever Paddy Madden wished for at Christmas, it could surely not have been the goal feast that came. Scoring in eight successive games broke a record lasting half a century and his goals fired Town further than most could have dreamed of. Even when the proverbial slump came in March with one win in five games, Yeovil picked up again with three consecutive wins. The last of these was Stevenage, a victory helped along from the sidelines.

"We knew that if we beat Stevenage, we thought we'd be in the play-offs. But we didn't start very well and Terry and Darren will tell you, I steamed into the boys a little bit at half time. We came out flying, won the game and at five o'clock, we were there. So it's easy to say that we didn't really believe we would get there until we got there! I think the Oldham game killed us for the automatic places. Of course that was no ordinary game

anyway," referring to the rare event of a father coming up against a son as opposing League managers with Oldham manager Lee Johnson in the opposition dugout.

So with a top six place assured, it just left the last four opponents to be determined. At one point, it seemed like it would be local rivals Swindon Town between the Glovers and Wembley but an exciting last few minutes saw Sheffield United come into view. Although the first match didn't go to plan, the second leg went near-perfectly and Wembley was reached with a 2-1 aggregate win, sparking a pitch invasion from the Yeovil home fans.

"All the planning and preparation that the management and team have put in had finally come off. We'd talked and talked about it for months before about getting them into a position where they could do this. We deserved the win and no-one could take it away from us or say we didn't deserve to be there."

And so to Monday, May 19, 2013 and North London. Wembley to be exact and a play-off final against Brentford. Yeovil had been there six years beforehand and failed miserably but compared to Brentford's shocking play-off record, there was hope. And that hope turned to delight after just six minutes when Gary's inspired signing, Paddy Madden, scored a quite superb goal six minutes in. Dan Burn added a second right on half time and although Uwe Rosler's men pulled a goal back early in the second half, victory and a place in the Championship was Yeovil's, Gary's, Terry's, Darren's, everybody's.

"It's a fantastic achievement," remembers Gary. "For a small club like ours to get ourselves out of the Conference just ten years ago and to be then playing in the Championship is fantastic. Everyone deserves credit, on and off the field."

So there you have it. The captain of the ship was there when Yeovil set sail from the Conference and he was still there when it sailed into the port of the Championship. Yes, he disembarked temporarily for another boat but he returned and at his place on the bridge, three promotions and a gleaming trophy sat on his desk. ■

Main: Gary celebrates with the League One play-off trophy at Wembley in 2013





The Loyal One



As club legends go, Terry Skiverton is up there with the best of them. A decade as a centre half saw him play nearly 400 games and score more than 40 goals. As an inspirational skipper, he led his side to the FA Trophy, the Conference title and the League Two championship and as a man, he has immersed himself into a community that adopted the Londoner as one of their own. And at the age of just 33, he became manager for almost three years.

After the departure of Russell Slade as boss, chairman John Fry plumped to promote within the ranks, choosing Terry and assistant Nathan Jones as the duo to take the club forward. Terry explains: "It was put to me in a roundabout way first of all; would I consider being a coach or an assistant manager to somebody. I said no because I wanted to do it at as a manager. I had a chat with Nathan and also my family because I had a lot of things going on in my life, not least Darren (Way) was still recovering from his accident."

"I gave it some thought and felt it was the next progression for me. I told my family it could be the end of my playing career, which it invariably was, but I also felt that if a new manager had come in, I would have definitely left the club. There was interest from one or two clubs, bigger clubs, at our level that season and it was a big decision to make."

So did he regret having to prematurely call it a day as player? "Not really, it was probably the right time. I never felt that declining feeling you get, I always felt like I went out at the top of my game. If I had have still been playing, it would have probably been somewhere else. I knew I was still marketable as a player but I would never have changed the decision to do what I did."

One of those issues mentioned which deserves deeper examination was Terry's relationship with Darren. The pair had grown to be close friends since they had arrived at the club a decade before and the serious accident, just nine weeks before Terry took over as boss, hit him as hard as anyone. "Darren was just in rehab at the time," he recalls. "He was a little bit in denial at the time though the doctor

had told me he wouldn't play again. He was eating the right stuff and working hard in the pool to try to get back playing again. It took a massive effort to get to where he is today. I don't think many people could have done that."

"He was doing the Under-14s at the time and I saw how he loved the analysis side of it, when he watched. I knew he could do it and although to start with, I don't think he wanted to get into coaching, I said to him 'You'll want to be a coach and get into it.' And look at him now, he's phenomenal with it all."

"There was a lot to think about; was I a tracksuit manager, a shirt and tie manager?"

Not that the move to appoint him as technical coach went down well in all quarters. "One or two supporters have said it was just me looking out for a mate, saying he didn't bring much to the table. Well if that was the case, how come a manager who was one game away from the Premier League was citing him as a genius at what he did? The supporters don't always see it but his personality, how he is, gets the players going."

After accepting the appointment, the new man had only three days to prepare for his first game, a home fixture with Oldham. "I was proud, really proud," he remembers with a smile. "There was a lot to think about; was I a tracksuit manager, a shirt and tie manager?" Then the serious face. "It was tough though, I inherited a lot of players who were there for Russell Slade. There was one or two players that had issues that came out at a later date - they weren't really pulling their weight or trying because of what was going on with Russell. It wasn't a great group to manage and coach."

Initially, the new regime struggled with results; after five games in charge, there had been two draws at home and three defeats away. "I remember we were playing well but committing silly errors, conceding a few late goals and we were limping towards the end of the season." Then there was a swift reunion with Slade

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Main: Terry poses for the camera after being unveiled as Yeovil's new manager in 2009



The Managers | Terry Skiverton

at the Withdean Stadium, home of his new club Brighton. The game ended in a sound beating, the Seagulls winning 5-0 with a dominant performance. And it's clear in the rookie manager's voice looking back, what went wrong that day.

"That was one of the lowest points of my career," he says candidly. "We were down to bare bones that day and I had to play injured, I could hardly kick a ball but we had no one else. I had to play players who were strongly in Russell's camp and they didn't put in a performance that was worthy of playing for Yeovil Town. A couple of players didn't play again after that, it was terrible."

The defeat, or more so the manner of it, hurt the new gaffer. "I went home and had a chat with my family after the game. I'll be honest, I was thinking that maybe the job wasn't for me at this time and I nearly did it. But then I sat back and thought that, no, this is that point, early in your career, when you get your big test."

With thoughts of resignation buried, Terry continued to work tirelessly for the club as he had done for a decade. Travelling to watch Tottenham in a game, he came back with striker Jonathan Obika and winger Andros Townsend on loan from the Premier League outfit. The move was a blinder and sparked a run of results that went a huge way to saving the Glovers' bacon. Three wins and two draws in five games gave the whole club a boost, Obika scoring winners in three of the matches.

The manager's astute move into the loan market also involved Bristol City boss Gary Johnson as he also brought in former Town gloveman Chris Weale. He proved himself a top keeper again with five successive clean sheets as well as netting an incredible equaliser in the penultimate home match against Hereford. "The gaffer rang me up the next day. He told me he'd be charging me double next time because he gave us a goalkeeper AND a striker!"

Safety was assured by yet another Obika goal, at Tranmere Rovers, and the manager could at last start to build HIS team using HIS players playing HIS tactics. The season ended with Yeovil in 17th place with 51 points, two points above the bottom four. The summer

would be busy with player movement yet any thoughts that the following season would be any easier for the Glovers were soon banished. The Championship's three relegated clubs were Norwich City, Southampton and Charlton Athletic to join the likes of Leeds United, Huddersfield Town, Millwall and Milton Keynes Dons in the race for promotion.

Terry's first full season proved pretty uneventful to be honest. Cup runs were never a distraction as the Glovers exited the FA Cup, the Carling Cup and the

League Trophy, all at the first hurdle.

It was a season of bedding in for both manager and players although there were some bright spots. Inconsistency was an issue with the side only winning two successive games twice in the whole season but in the end, 15th place on 53 points was reached, three points above the drop zone. It was progress, but slow progress.

Main: Terry talks to Millwall manager Kenny Jackett during the 2008-09 season



Yet even though mid-table safety doesn't get the pulses racing among most supporters, it was a miraculous achievement for such a small club in the land of the giants, a fact that Terry is keen to emphasise. "Other people might not think it but I was proud of the achievement I had done when you see the amount of big teams relegated and promoted out of League One at that time." A good point well made and you didn't need to look too far to see clubs

"My proudest moment managing the club came in the last full season when we finished 14th, level on points with Charlton and a point ahead of Sheffield Wednesday"

like Swindon Town, Plymouth Argyle and Bristol Rovers all drop into League Two with the Glovers riding high in comparison.

"My proudest moment managing the club came in the last full season when we finished 14th, level on points with Charlton and a point ahead of Sheffield Wednesday," he says. "The following year, they both had a massive overhaul of players – something we couldn't really afford - and really went for promotion and got it. That showed me the level we were at."

During the season, one game sticks out for a lot of Yeovil fans, a game that Terry remembers fondly. It was the March trip to Leyton Orient, by now managed by former boss Russell Slade. But there was another figure there who sparked extra determination from the manager after his pre-match comments.

"Clem (Mark Clemmit) from the Football League Show came up to me as I got off the coach. He said to me 'What's it like coming up against your old manager then Terry?'. Now Russell and I had always got on okay, I've had players off him in the past. But Clem was trying to make it out to be something it wasn't, a battle between the two of us. I told him it was going to be a tough game so he asked me if it meant we'd be playing a defensive game then. Just as I walked into the ground, I said 'No, we'll be going for it, don't you worry about that!'"

The history books show that Yeovil won the game 5-1 with Welsh loan midfielder Shaun MacDonald scoring three goals in arguably the best team performance of the season. "That game was one of the best moments as manager. Shaun Mac that day was unplayable, he was excellent."

MacDonald was one of a handful of loan players that the manager brought in that were obviously destined for bigger and better things. Ryan Mason, Andros Townsend, Jon Obika, MacDonald, Alex McCarthy; have all gone on to make appearances at a much higher level. But Terry's biggest praise goes to the youngster who may well go on to top the lot, Steven Caulker.

"It was another of my proudest moments having someone down here who then went on to play for

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England, rather than the other way round. Him and Ryan Mason came down the season before as we had a really good relationship with Spurs. John McDermott and Alex Inglethorpe were great with us but the final word was down to John and Harry Redknapp. Harry's dad used to come and watch me and Muzzy Izzet play at Chelsea; that's how I knew Harry and we got five or six players through it."

The third full season under Terry, Nathan and technical coach Darren Way (2010-11) saw steady progress maintained. 14th position and 59 points was another improvement on the previous season and once again, done on a shoestring budget that forced a reliance on loans. "It was always the case that the first half of the season we were around the bottom then when the players bedded in, we'd have a strong second half. I hated the fact that I'd lose my best players every season."

"There was Lee Peltier, Danny Schofield who went that year and then Craig Alcock, Dean Bowditch; it seemed that it was harder for me to deal with. I was gutted a couple of times, losing all the best players all at once. It might have been naivety on my part a little, not pushing people within the club to nail these players down earlier. I was always comfortable that we would get out of trouble; even when the gaffer came in during the last season, there was progression there to see."

Post-Christmas in his final full campaign, the Glovers finally played the kind of football they had threatened. A point at Plymouth on New Years Day ignited a run of four wins in six games which eventually led to 12 wins in the second half of the season. The manager still enthuses about it now. "We went on an almighty run with a real good exciting team. We had Andrew Tutte on loan from Manchester City, Shaun MacDonald, Dean Bowditch, Jon Obika, Andy Welsh. I went to three at the back with Craig and Andy as wing backs. I didn't have much to do in that run, the momentum kept us going. Trouble was, I lost half of my team again that summer."

In January 2012, with the club struggling, the chairman came up with a novel solution that seemed to tick all the boxes. Former manager Gary Johnson



Main: An emotional Terry salutes the Yeovil fans after victory in the League One play-off final
Top: Terry on the touchline as an assistant manager with boss Gary Johnson

returned to take over as first team boss again with Terry assuming the role of assistant manager and both Nathan and Darren continuing in coaching roles. It was a brave move for everyone concerned, but fortune favours the brave as they say, and most of the fans got behind the new appointment.

"I'd definitely have left if anyone other than Gary had come in," he confirms. "If someone new comes in, you have to start from scratch with them, they've got to know you, you've got to know them, how

"I've learned a hell of a lot from Gary since he's come back. He's very 'giving' with how he does things; he said to me that I'll be a manager again one day"

they work. With the gaffer, once I had that meeting with him, I knew it was right. The next day, we spent two hours deciding on what I'd call him. Because I'd been manager, he kept saying 'What should I call you?'. I just said 'I'll call you gaffer, you're the manager, I work for you now.' And that's how we moved on."

"I had been learning on the job, experimenting with different styles and different formations. People might not thank me for it but I had to experiment playing 3-5-2, 4-4-2, 4-2-3-1 because if you stuck to the same system, people would work you out." That on-the-job tuition still continues to the day as Terry is willing to admit. "I've learned a hell of a lot from Gary since he's come

back. He's very 'giving' with how he does things; he said to me that I'll be a manager again one day."

"I'm not looking to jump ship and Darren isn't looking to go. No one is trying to outdo each other, we just get on with the job. It's almost a unique set-up we have here. I've got a lot more to offer the gaffer now, I've been in his shoes. The three of us have the same sense of humour and we have a close working relationship now which is different than when I had Nathan and Darren."

Although the management team was three strong then, and still is now, the dynamic has changed. In the Skiverton reign, his assistant manager was still a player meaning that all three had to perform multiple roles within the relationship. Nowadays, as a non-playing number two to Johnson, the three have clearer lines with firm boundaries, a visible benefit to everyone. He's quick to offer credit elsewhere too.

"I've got to mention the chairman too. Throughout that time, he could have sacked me. There were a few supporters who weren't too happy about things and there could have been a revolt. But if the gaffer (Gary) hadn't been there to come in, would a different appointment have appeased the fans? I don't think so. It was the only appointment to make, it offered continuity and made a strong footing to build the club on."

"You could write a book about my time here. To turn up at Bradford Abbas for a pre-season friendly, playing in a red & blue kit and being the least known signing behind Jason Eaton, Dave Norton and Adrian Foster; as a young ginger boy from Welling that no one had heard of to go on this journey is amazing. I've enjoyed playing, captaining and managing this club and now as assistant manager. I think the chairman had a plan for me; he's always been involved in developing people and I'll always be grateful to him for that."

Developing is a word that Terry Skiverton uses often. Developing himself as a player, a captain and in management; developing players by giving them their debuts in League football and developing relationships within the trio that has done so much for this football club. ■





Slade

After the club's board had decided to look for a new man following Steve Thompson's season in charge, it wasn't long before they were in a position to name his successor. With Thompson signing a contract to stay on at Huish Park as assistant manager and first team coach, the man to lead them into the 2006-07 season was Russell Slade.

Slade was a 45-year-old former PE teacher who had only just left Grimsby Town after their defeat to Cheltenham Town in the League Two play-off final. Previously with Notts County, Sheffield

United and Scarborough, he came with a reputation of turning round teams on a strict, or indeed no, budget. He explained his thinking behind the move.

"Director Stephen Allinson was instrumental in bringing me to the football club," said Russell. "I spoke to him a few days after the play-off final and came down to meet him, the chairman and the board at the *Holiday Inn* in Taunton where I agreed a three year deal. I knew Yeovil from their Conference days as a very strong side. They had healthy gates for that level, were full time and had a decent budget too."

It was a busy summer for the new man aside from having to move his family down to the Yeovil area. He had to build a squad prepared for better than the previous season which had seen a relegation battle that lasted deep into April. He brought in a general manager in John Milton who dealt with transfer negotiations. His first new acquisition was Steve Mildenhall, a face familiar from a few weeks back at Blundell Park.

Some of the early signings defied the myth that Russell favoured the more direct approach as ball-playing defender Terrell Forbes joined the Glovers along with stylish midfielder Chris Cohen,



Days

so influential on loan under Thompson the previous season. Chris came in on a permanent deal from West Ham United. Like all managers, Slade also brought in players he'd worked with before; alongside Mildenhall and Forbes, there was also Jean-Paul Kalala (at Grimsby) and Lee Morris (Sheffield United) too.

Slade's first season at Huish Park started quite well, maybe not so much in cup competitions where there were first round exits in the FA Cup, the Carling Cup and the Johnstone's Paint Trophy. The canny loan signing of Marcus

Stewart from Bristol City was a smart move and his three months at Huish Park produced five goals but also invaluable experience for the team. But Stewart's influence was trumped when a young Irish striker, Leon Best, arrived on loan from Southampton in late November.

"I knew Yeovil from their Conference days as a very strong side. They had healthy gates for that level, were full time and had a decent budget too"

Best's goals included one against Huddersfield in a 3-1 win live on Sky, a game Russell remembered well. "That night was one of my highlights at Huish Park. It was a strong performance from my team and their manager, Peter Jackson, was shell shocked at the end. Lee Morris, Marcus Stewart and Leon Best were very strong that night." The result meant Yeovil were fifth, having gone six games unbeaten.

Although form flattened a little after the TV spectacle, the wins were coming regularly enough for Yeovil fans to seriously consider a promotion

>>

The Managers | Russell Slade

Main: Russell Slade on the touchline during Yeovil's home match with Leeds United in the 2008-09 season



challenge. A dozen victories between the Huddersfield game in January and the last match of the 'normal season' led Yeovil to fifth place in the table and a two-legged play-off semi final against Nottingham Forest.

Russell's memories of the two ties are still as clear as ever. "The first leg I felt we were a little bit unlucky. One of the penalties wasn't a penalty, the other one was but we'd played well enough to get a result." On the morning of the second leg, the manager tried something new to relax the players. "We went

ten pin bowling in the morning to settle them a little. There was a lot of waiting, a lot of thinking time before the 7.45pm kick off. I knew it wasn't far from the hotel so we had a laugh and ate there too. It was all nice and relaxed; it's something I'd never done before and haven't done since!"

The second leg will live long in the memory for everyone who saw it, including Russell.

"What fired me up was seeing the 'Forest at Wembley' flags as we travelled to the ground for the match. I'd heard that they'd ordered coaches for Wembley too; their mindset was almost that they were already there. I always believed that we had a chance before the game. If you don't believe you can win then you

"It was an electrified atmosphere that night in the full City Ground but it was important that our players had to believe we could win too"

won't. Forest were the team I supported as a kid. I knew that if we were still in the game with ten minutes to go, I believed a change could happen. It was an electrified atmosphere that night in the full City Ground but it was important that our players had to believe we could win too."

"We scored the first goal on the night and that really fuelled the fire. In the end, we out passed them on the night and athletically, we ran them off the pitch. As soon as we got to extra time, I knew we would win it. At the end, one of the greatest feelings for me was seeing the Forest fans applaud us off the pitch. As disappointed as they were for their team not finishing the job off, they gave us massive respect after the game."

Russell's smile widens as he remembers the drive back to Yeovil. "It was the best coach journey home that night. We got a few drinks for the trip back and we celebrated; the coach was rocking on the way home. You have to enjoy those occasions when they come around."

As good as the Forest night was, Wembley was awful as Yeovil sank to a 2-0 defeat at the hands of Blackpool. On the day, it hurt the manager and his words showed that hurt. "On the day, Blackpool deserved their win, they'd come into the match on a phenomenal run of form. We lost Chris Cohen early

on and to not have Chris at his best was a key factor. I'm not saying we would have definitely won of course but he was important to us. Also, Terry Skiverton hadn't played much and he was on the bench too though our two centre halves did play well."

After what can best be described as a miraculous debut campaign for Russell at Huish Park, the second was more of a come down. The Glovers finished 18th in the League One table, a whopping 27 points short of the previous season's tally and 13 places lower. The team struggled for goals, netting just 38 times in 46 matches with no player reaching double figures in league games (Lloyd Owusu scored nine, 11 including cups).

The third summer started with some big guns leaving the club. Marcus Stewart and Steve Mildenhall led the exodus from Huish Park and a budget restriction was also in place meaning that Slade was scouring a different market than had previously been the case. As befits a newly built team, results were of the inconsistent sort. A fantastic League Cup win at Charlton was followed by leaking 26 goals in the next 10 games and only two wins to show for it. One of the 'lowlights' was a shambolic 5-0 defeat at Stockport in an FA Cup First Round replay in November, although playing 75 minutes with ten men certainly didn't help.

Christmas and the New Year brought more inconsistency with just one win in eight games, that sole victory coming at Swindon in an emotional game the weekend after Darren Way had been seriously injured in a car accident. Then followed a run of four successive victories, three of them away, raising Russell's team further up the League One table. The last of these was a 3-1 win at Peterborough United which would be the manager's last game in charge; the club and Russell parting company with immediate effect.

On his time at Yeovil, Russell said: "I'm proud of what I achieved; we were only 90 minutes from Championship football. I was also very proud to be named League One Manager of the Year even though we didn't get promoted which is a tremendous accolade from the other managers." ■



Two **O** becomes **One**

When manager Gary Johnson upped sticks and left for Bristol City in September 2005, it was widely expected that his assistant Steve Thompson would join him at Ashton Gate. Instead, the man who had arrived at Huish Park in 1998 remained there and guided the club to a creditable 15th place in his solitary campaign in the hot seat.

Plymouth-born Thompson was a much-decorated player winning the Conference title, two FA Trophy finals and a Division Three play-off final before coming to Yeovil and winning the FA Trophy and the Conference again as well as the Division Three title. Playing and coaching success ran freely through his veins.

"When Gary left for City, I was really disappointed. I wanted us to continue our surge but I understood why he went, they had unbelievable potential," explained Thompson. "It soon became obvious to me that I wouldn't be following Gary there. Keith Millen was the assistant manager in situ and he was a popular figure with the fans as a player too. So after two weeks as caretaker at Yeovil, I was given the job."

The fortnight in temporary charge saw two wins against Port Vale and Scunthorpe as well as a loss at Southend. "The Scunthorpe game was mad, it ended 4-3 but it could have finished 7-7. But although the league position looked bad, our performances were quite good. My plan was to keep that going but try to get a result early on and the Scunthorpe game gave us that."

After being confirmed as boss, Steve kicked off his time in 'proper' charge

with a 1-0 win over a resurgent Swansea City side containing stellar talent like Roberto Martinez, Leon Britton and Lee Trundle. Then after a draw at Gillingham, it was the big one against Nottingham Forest. "We played very well and beat them 3-0. It was a good little run and started lifting us up the table."

It was around this time that Yeovil could have had a future England international lining up for them. "I'd seen Rickie Lambert play for Rochdale the season before and thought 'Bloody hell, he's a good player!' but after talking to a couple of people, Rochdale were asking more than we could afford. When he left to join Bristol Rovers the next summer, he went for four times what we thought the fee would be."

The run of results to Christmas was mixed but the subsequent January transfer window brought nothing but turmoil to the club as the 50-year-old Devonian explains.

"I had the spine ripped out of my team in that window. We lost two strong centre backs in Liam Fontaine who was recalled by Fulham and Efe Sodje who joined Southend. Darren Way went to Swansea and Lee Johnson joined Hearts; that's four top players gone all at the same time. You're losing a lot of 'Yeovil experience' and some influential players. Those were the dark days of the season as we were two or three places clear of

"I don't have any regrets about my season in charge, I find it hard to think how I could have taken the club any higher after what had happened in January"

the bottom four. My biggest fear was that we wouldn't recover and go down."

One brilliant bit of business was extending the loan of 18-year-old midfielder Chris Cohen from West Ham. "I knew his father and brother still lived in Yeovil so there was a connection. I met Alan Pardew, watched Chris in a reserve match and initially signed him for a month but later extended it till the end of the season."

Thommo's wheeling and dealing saw the side end the season in 15th place. "There were lots of highlights during the season but one game that always goes unnoticed is the 2-0 win at Walsall. Our fans sung their hearts out that night and the win gave us some breathing space over them in the table."

Safety was assured in the final away game at Huddersfield, a 2-1 win. "We certainly enjoyed the long trip home that night. It was very satisfying to know we'd play in League One the next season and a massive relief too."

For Steve though, his summer was full of uncertainty again. "I knew pretty early that the club were looking to bring in a new manager, I just waited for the call. I'd met Russell (Slade) a couple of times at Scarborough but didn't really know him. We had a good meeting and I stayed on as his assistant. I don't have any regrets about my season in charge, I find it hard to think how I could have taken the club any higher after what had happened in January.

"Until you manage at Football League level, you're never sure whether you're cut out for it or better as a number two. The club thought I was more suited to an assistant role. There's a lot that annoys and frustrates me about managing, like dealing with agents and that. I'm much happier on the training field coaching." ■

Chapter Three

The City

Welcome to
YEOVIL TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB
THE HOME OF THE GULLS

ub

TO
BALL CLUB
LOVERS

The team behind the team

There are many, many people who are associated with this famous club who were here at the start of the decade, or here at the end. Some have spent several years at the club while others have only just arrived and it really would be almost impossible to name them all. But what makes this little Somerset club special is that everyone that does their bit, does so because they love the club and see it as their club.

Let's start with the Football Secretary. Jean Cotton was her name, football administration was her game, and the softly spoken Welsh lady was right at the forefront of so much in that area over these past ten years. There was so much within Jean's role that we can't list it all but one vital part of her job was to ensure that players are eligible and that all paperwork matters are complete following transfers.

Who can remember current Commercial Manager Dave Linney turning out in the green and white? Dave is a Brummie who played for his home club and Oxford United before arriving in Yeovil 30 years ago in 1983. A cultured defender, Dave made more than 170 appearances over five seasons before departing and returning in later years to take over from Alan Skirton.

His role managing the commercial side of the club saw his responsibilities include perimeter advertising, the club shop, the lottery department assisted by John Jewers, selling hospitality sponsorship packages and the main kit sponsor deals. You would also know Dave as the PA announcer at home matches too.

When a hospitality package was sold by Dave, it fell to others to actually deliver it and that's where Hospitality Manager Clive Robinson came in. Former publican Clive, along with Michelle Greenslade, ensured that service levels to the matchday sponsors were maintained and he also had additional accountability for the unique home supporters ale house, 'The Marquee Arms' as well as the tea bars around the stadium.

Overall responsibility for the Huish Park Stadium lay with James Hillier. James joined the club straight from university and developed over the past ten years with the club. He acted as Stadium Safety Officer, a role that saw him in charge of crowd issues, safety and stadium maintenance. James was assisted at various times by Bruce James, Jordan Mullis and Andrew Bown.

The media and communications team was headed up by manager Adrian Hopper. Adrian's duties included overseeing the production of the matchday programme and the smooth maintenance of the official club website. In addition, he also took the photographs for both mediums and produced post-match DVD's. Adrian's son Jonathan was the programme's designer and editor and worked in the team for six seasons. Adrian was also backed up by James Healey who returned to the club in 2012 after a sojourn to Bristol City, producing video interviews and running the social media side.

So far, everyone covered remained at the club beaver away as the club celebrated its Championship debut campaign. One lady who wasn't though is Sue Parsons, the popular figure who previously worked as Ticket Office



Manager. Sue took retirement after many years in the role; a position that oversaw a huge rise in both season ticket and walk-up ticket numbers as well as the introduction of several ticketing initiatives.

They say that money makes the world go round and the club Accounts Manager was Peter O'Riordan. Pete made sure that all the wages were paid on time



amidst an absolute raft of other duties associated with money. Pete was another of the staff who had been at Huish Park for the whole ten years and he was assisted in the department by Sue Linney.

Dot Smith was another quiet, unsung hero within the realms of the club. Dot's husband, the late Paul Smith, played more than 380 times for the Glovers from the mid-sixties to the mid-seventies, and

Main: The Yeovil Town FC backroom staff, players and board members pose for a group photograph in 2012

Dot maintained her close relationship with the club in more than one role. She looked after the administration of the Yeovil Town Community Sports Trust as well as dealing with a lot of the club's HR work and assisting James Hillier with stadium administration matters.

The joint managers of the Trust were Sara Bradley and Roy O'Brien. Sara had been heavily involved with the club for most of her life in one guise or another from the official supporters club, the Green & Whites, to the ticket office, catering, supporter liaison and, latterly, the Trust. Roy was a player at the start of the decade and following his retirement from playing, helped to jointly run the Trust with Sara. ■

The Club | Main Sponsors

By the time Yeovil Town entered the Football League in 2003, their main kit sponsor had been in place for two seasons. In each of those silverware was lifted with the FA Trophy in the first campaign followed by the Conference title in the second. And there, literally at the front of the success, was Bradfords Building Supplies.

Managing director Dennis Smith, a Norwich City fan from birth but now an adopted Glover, recalls the first conversations. "The then commercial manager Alan Skirton approached our sales and marketing director Mike Tidmarsh. Mike then came to see me and we soon realised that with Bradfords being a Somerset company and with the head office in Yeovil, the close affinity would be a good fit. I had moved to Somerset in 1999 and soon found myself working alongside lots of Yeovil Town fans."

Bradfords branches cover all of the south west and having been established for more than 230 years, were well known. But the boost of their name being splashed all over the nation's media instilled a real sense of pride as Dennis continued. "It was one



of the high points of the eight years we were main sponsors; to see tens of thousands of fans wearing shirts with my company's name on it; at Wembley in 2006-07, the Nottingham Forest semi-final and the Liverpool FA Cup tie in particular with all the live TV coverage."

"We were delighted to be there on the front of the shirts when the club entered the Football League at Rochdale on that lovely sunny day. Being a football fan myself, it was sometimes difficult to separate the business and the personal in the relationship. I remember one great occasion in the summer of 2005. We had only just missed out on promotion in our first season in the Football League so when we were promoted to League One the following year, we put on a little reception for Gary (Johnson), John (Fry) and the team with some food and refreshments."

But all good things must come to an end, as they say. After eight years in situ, Bradfords Building Supplies called it a day and the deal ceased in May 2009. There were two promotions, an FA Trophy triumph and a Wembley play-off final to look back on as part of the most successful period in the Glovers' history. The move was a mixture of business acumen and a strong moral compass as Dennis explains.

"The company has a strong family ethos and when the recession hit, we had to make some resolute decisions. We were about to lay people off and it didn't feel right to continue the deal. Every sponsorship agreement has a life cycle and it coincided with having to make these tough business judgements."

"The deal was a huge success for my company and even now, we still sponsor two or three matches every season to show our support for the club. It was an extremely proud time for both the company and myself to be associated with Yeovil Town Football Club." ■

Main: Bradfords managing director Dennis Smith, *left*, along with Yeovil Town chairman John Fry pose with Yeovil shirts during Bradfords' sponsorship renewal at the start of the 2008-09 season

Left: Paul Terry celebrates with the League Two champions trophy - one of the many successes during Bradfords' time as sponsors





Success breeds success



Main: Yeovil Town chairman John Fry, left, shakes hand with Jones Building Contractors owner Dave Jones on the clubs sponsorship deal in 2009
Inset: Yeovil defender Nathan Smith sporting one of the home kits with the Jones Building Contractors logo on

Building together

When the main kit sponsorship deal came up for grabs at the start of the 2009-10 season, the successor came from very close to home. Jones Building Contractors, a large regional building and construction company, had previously sponsored the youth team so the natural progression to the first team was an easy one to make for company owner David Jones.

The company's head office is only a goal kick away from Huish Park too and with many of the staff Yeovil Town fans, it made sound business

sense and strengthened the link between club and company. Operations director Mark Porter takes up the story. "We had backed the youth team for eight years and also got involved with sponsoring the cars of Lee Johnson, Darren Way and Craig Alcock. Our business was doing quite well at the time and we had a large number of contracts running that allowed us to look forward so we decided to step up and become the shirt sponsor."

In the three years of enjoying their position as main kit sponsors, Jones Building Contractors saw the club consolidate and grow steadily under the managerial trio of Terry Skiverton, Nathan Jones and Darren Way. Although a good cup run was sadly absent, there was a string of matches against the game's former giants such as Leeds United, Leicester City, the two Sheffield clubs and Southampton. And of course, there were those occasions when more than four million people saw the name of Jones Building Contractors every Saturday night!

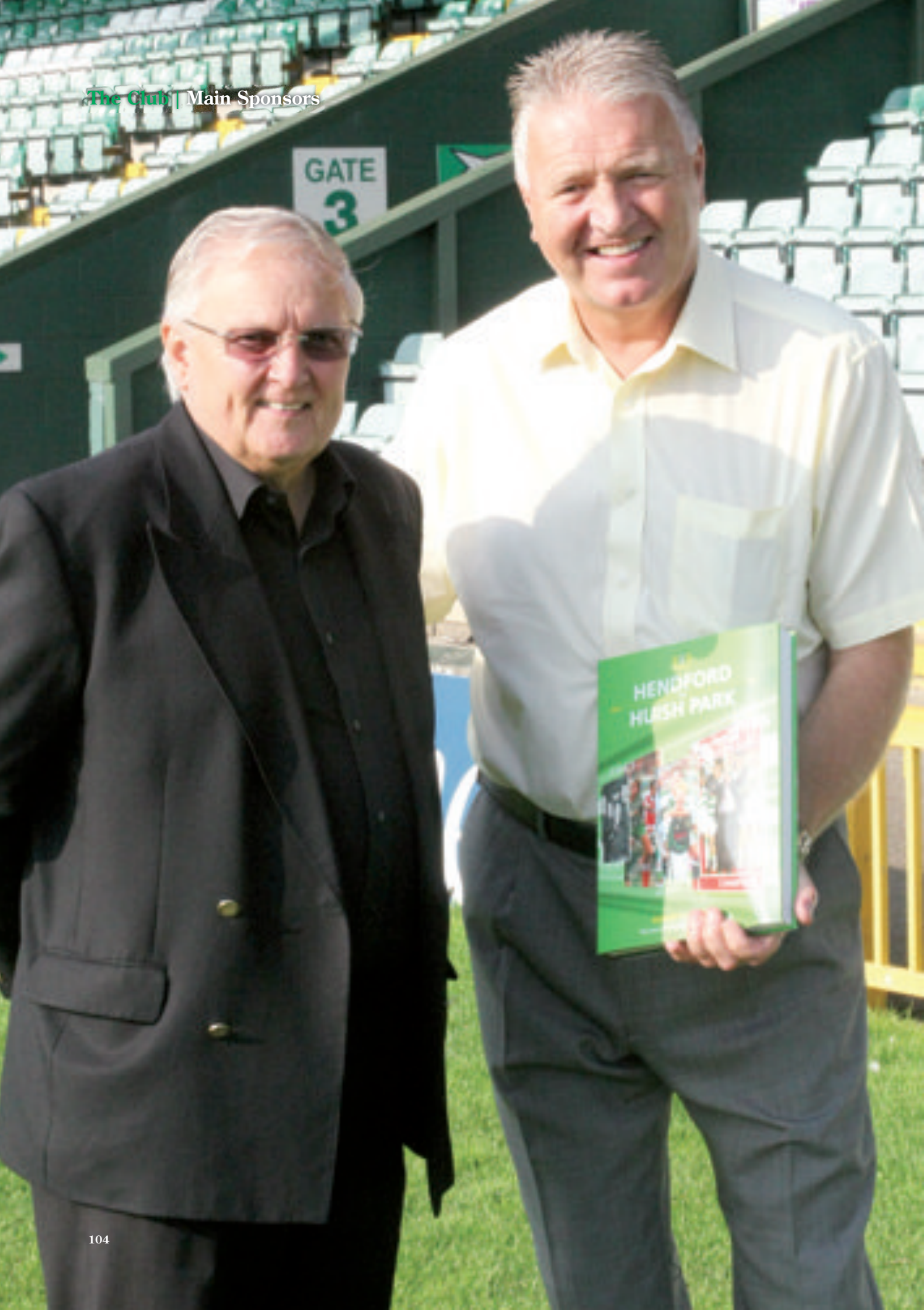
"One of the highlights was Jolly (Yeovil's giant mascot) being featured on the TV show *John Bishop's Britain*. I don't think

anyone rang us and said they wanted us to construct a £5 million building out of being on the show but it was great to see anyway. And although we were no longer sponsors last season, it was fantastic to go to Wembley in May for the League One play-off final and see so many supporters still wearing the Jones' shirts. The deal didn't make us stronger or richer but it did raise our profile a little."

The three year deal came to an end in the summer of 2012 after Jones Building Contractors had given the club good notice of their intentions. Mark continued: "It was a decision based on events somewhat out of the company's hands. The building recession had hit in 2011; this had moved the market and tough choices had to be made when people's jobs were at risk. In a PLC, the Chief Executive isn't likely to meet the people his decisions affect but here in Yeovil, we would so we made the decision to cut our costs."

But this is one relationship where both sides are pleased it wasn't a clean break. Jones Building Contractors still have their corporate box, perimeter advertising boards and are as committed as ever with a strong presence at golf days and dinners too. And they wouldn't rule out a return as Mark confirms.

"We might do it again one day. We have no regrets at sponsoring the kit and maybe one day if the club approaches us again, and the time was right for us as a company, then we could be there once more." ■



In the summer of 2013, while there wasn't exactly panic at the lack of a shirt sponsor, there was a degree of concern. Following Jones Building Contractors' decision not to renew their three year deal any further, no company had taken the chance to raise their profile by sponsoring one of the region's top sporting clubs.

Even as late as the pre-season media photo call, the Glovers were without a name on the front of their shirts and so grabbed some national coverage by doing a topless photo shoot. The stunt did the trick though and Poole-based company W+S Recycling came forward, as proprietor Geoff Thompson explains.

"I received a phone call from Norman Hayward inviting me for a cup of coffee with him. We had a chat and the meeting ended with me agreeing the sponsorship deal. It was the most expensive cup of coffee I've ever had!" he joked.

W+S Recycling began life with two recycling centres in Weymouth and Sherborne, hence the initials of their name. Gradually they expanded over several areas offering specialised collection services from companies large and small. Geoff continues: "I had sponsored sporting related causes locally in the Poole area but nothing like this level. The fact that Yeovil Town Football Club were known as the giant-killers, a small club achieving unexpected results, appealed to me. Although as a Geordie, I naturally follow Newcastle United."

As sponsorship deals go, it couldn't have gone much better in the end. Although there was no FA Cup run to speak of, Yeovil Town achieved promotion to the Championship for the first time in their history and were featured on live television several times including, of course, the Wembley final. "Last year was a dream year for Yeovil and the W+S profile was lifted due to the day at Wembley. It was really fantastic with the emblems of both YTFC and W+S displayed over all areas of the stadium."

Geoff's local side AFC Bournemouth were promoted automatically at the

Winning + Success



Main: Chairman John Fry, *left*, welcomes Tony Knowles of W+S Recycling, *right*, to the club after agreeing their main sponsorship deal

Top: Yeovil's topless photo shoot that led to W+S Recycling becoming main sponsors

end of the season, prompting plenty of banter from the Cherries fans local to the W+S base in Poole. "I'm hopeful of

the continued success at Yeovil Town Football Club," stresses Geoff. "The goal this year is stability and to stay up and hopefully, we'll move forward next season. As a highly successful company, W+S Recycling strive to be associated with successful partners such as Yeovil Town." ■



Gone but **never** forgotten

When Yeovil Town appeared in the Football League for the first time at Rochdale on August 9, 2003, it was a memorable day for thousands of people who had connections with the club over the previous 108 years. And when they hosted Carlisle United a week later in the first home League game, it was an extra special day for 25-year-old striker Adam Stansfield who came on for the last ten minutes.

Adam had signed in November 2001 from little Western League side Elmore and had certainly seen the highs and lows of football. His debut campaign saw him score 16 goals including the crucial second in the FA Trophy Final success against Stevenage Borough at Villa Park. But his second season ended after 17 minutes when he broke his leg against Gravesend & Northfleet and missed the whole season as a result.

When he returned and appeared against Carlisle, his rise from Non-League to Football League had mirrored the club's progress and was complete. After scoring six League goals in his debut season, Adam left for Hereford United in the summer of 2004 but remained one of those players always assured of a great reception when returning to Huish Park. His stock rose even higher with Glovers supporters when he refused to celebrate after scoring against Yeovil at Huish Park for Exeter City on his last visit there.

After having won promotion to the Football League with Yeovil, he repeated the feat with Hereford United in 2005-06 before leaving to join Exeter City. Here, somewhat incredibly, he completed a hat-trick of promotions to League Two when the Creccians went up in 2008-09. Exeter's first season ended in a relegation scrape, but off the field, Adam started to suffer severe abdominal pain. In April, it was announced he was suffering from bowel cancer. Although he was



weakened through the gruelling summer chemotherapy sessions, he still turned up for City's pre-season training in July.

On Tuesday, August 10, 2010, all three of Adam's former sides lost at home in the Carling Cup but supporters on their way home were to be rocked as the desperately sad news broke that Adam had lost his battle with cancer. Aged just 31, he left a wife, Marie and three young boys; Jay, Taylor and Cody. His near-inimitable style, his insatiable work ethic and humble attitude endeared him to followers of all clubs, not just those he played for, and his premature death shocked and upset football.

For Yeovil Town fans, the past decade has seen several other players, managers, officials and supporters sadly fail to complete the journey. Space forbids us from listing all of them but none of them will ever be forgotten. Among those players were defenders Len Harris and Alan Herrity, the top two post-war Yeovil Town appearance makers. Centre back Harris spent 14 seasons at the club, clocking up 691 appearances while right back Herrity played 523 times from 1962 to 1973.

Another defender that played alongside them was Paul Smith, 8th in

the appearance list with 385 games, who lost his battle with cancer in 2007, aged just 58. Further down the list was George Muir (17th, 317 appearances) while the all-time goals list was affected too. Frank Fidler, (13th in the goal charts, 70 goals, including 49 goals in one season) died in 2009 before Dave Platt (21st, 61 goals) succumbed to leukaemia and lymphoma in 2012.

The past few years have also seen us say goodbye to the final two surviving members of the victorious FA Cup giant-killing team that brought down the mighty Sunderland in 1949. Ralph Davis, the speedy left back of the era and goalkeeping hero Dickie Dyke passed away in 2006 and 2008 respectively, both in their eighties.

As well as Adam Stansfield, 2010 also saw former managers Colin Lippiatt (1997-99) and Malcolm Allison (1981) leave us within 24 hours of each other. Colin's death came at the age of 68 following an illness associated with pancreatic cancer. Earlier that year, former central midfielder Malcolm Gold also died, tragically at the age of 51 while centre half Barry Dominey was just 49 when he died in 2005.

In 2013, Yeovil fans bade farewell to Dave Topping, a full back with 245 appearances in the fifties and sixties; former Southern League title-winning boss Glyn Davies who died after an illness in his home city of Swansea and striker Johnny Brown who had ended as top scorer in 1972-73.

Finally, two of the most popular off-the-field faces around Huish Park also passed away. Former kit man Tony Trott, a familiar face around the club for many years, died in 2008 after a battle with cancer and club doctor Tony Simmonds lost his battle with the same disease in May 2012. Originally joining the club in 1976, he enjoyed two spells as club medic and, as with everyone on this page, he will be missed by family, friends and fans alike. ■

Main: Adam Stansfield celebrates scoring against York City in a Division Three match in 2003

Top: Goalkeeping hero from Yeovil's FA Cup giant-killing team, Dickie Dyke

Chapter Four

The Ma



atches





The Football League adventure begins...

Nationwide League Division Three
Saturday, August 9, 2003
Spotland

Rochdale 1

Connor 45

Yeovil Town 3

Gall 26, 62, Johnson 55

Yeovil Town got off to the perfect start in their debut Football League season with a sparkling 3-1 win over Rochdale at a sultry Spotland.

A Kevin Gall double and a Lee Johnson free kick was too much for a Dale side denied their role of party poopers as the Glovers took part in their first Football League match after 108 years in Non-League. Gary Johnson's side produced a display of attacking, passing

football in temperatures soaring above 95 degrees.

Nick Crittenden went close early on with a curling shot but Town then took the lead on 24 minutes. Gavin Williams threaded a through ball for Gall to race on to and the Welshman thumped home high into the net. The 2,000 travelling Glovers went wild but they were silenced on half-time when Paul Connor equalised from close range.

Town retook the lead eight minutes



The Matches | Rochdale '03



Main: Kirk Jackson goes on the attack for Yeovil
Top: The thousands of Glovers fans who made the trip to Rochdale
Bottom: The Yeovil players celebrate after Kevin Gall's opening goal
Left: Kevin Gall shows his delight after scoring his second and Yeovil's third



into the second half when Johnson took a lightning quick free kick and caught the Dale defence out with a shot from 20 yards. They then added a third when sub Kirk Jackson squared unselfishly for Gall to grab his second and Yeovil's third halfway through the half.

Town's play at times was as hot as the weather and boded well for a promising initial season in the Football League. ■

Rochdale: 13. Gilks, 2. Evans, 6. Burgess, 26. Grand, 3. Simpkins, 7. Bertos, 8. Beech, 4. McClare, 17. McCourt, 9. Shuker, 27. Connor.

Subs: 1. Edwards, 15. Betts (Bertos, 71), 19. Townson, 18. McEvilly (Beech, 71), 10. Doughty (Williams, 46).

Yeovil Town: 1. Weale, 2. Lockwood, 14. O'Brien, 5. Pluck, 23. Gosling, 8. Johnson, 20. Williams, 6. Way, 10. Crittenden, 9. Gall, 18. Jackson. **Subs:** 3. El Kholti (Gosling, 79), 7. Stansfield, 13. Collis, 16. Lindegaard (Williams, 65), 12. Rodrigues (Pluck, 41).

Referee: Mark Warren

Attendance: 4,611 (approx 2,000 Yeovil fans)

A victory for sportsmanship...

Carling Cup First Round
Tuesday, August 24, 2004
Huish Park

Yeovil Town 3

Johnson 28, 69, 109

Plymouth 2

Crawford 30, Wotton 42 (pen)

A sensational hat-trick from midfielder Lee Johnson ensured Yeovil Town progressed to the second round of the Carling Cup as they beat Plymouth Argyle 3-2 after extra-time at Huish Park.

In a game that had almost everything, the Glovers took the lead when Johnson scored whilst trying to return the ball to Argyle keeper Luke McCormick. Yeovil's manager Gary Johnson, father of Lee, allowed the visitors to equalise unchallenged and after both sides scored again to take the match into extra time, Johnson hit a stunning third from 30 yards to win the derby thriller outright.

With two divisions separating the sides but remembering Yeovil's great cup tradition, more than 6,000 fans turned up in expectancy of a terrific match and they weren't disappointed. The Championship visitors started the brighter and had long spells of possession without creating any clear cut chances.

Just before the half hour, there was an amazing twist to the game. Argyle defender Graham Coughlin needed treatment for an injury so a team mate kicked the ball out; the aim then being that Yeovil would return the ball from the throw-in to Argyle's keeper. Yet when Lee Johnson fired the ball 50 yards back to the goalmouth, McCormick had ventured wide from his area leaving the goal gaping and the ball rolled into the net.

After a quick discussion between Johnson senior and his counterpart, Bobby Williamson, it was agreed that Yeovil would allow Argyle to run through without challenge to equalise. It fell to Stevie Crawford to score the easiest goal of his career, running through from halfway to score past Chris Weale.



Main: Lee Johnson looks concerned as his friendly back pass to Plymouth's Luke McCormick heads towards goal

Top: Plymouth's Stevie Crawford peels off in celebration after being allowed to walk the ball into the net to level the score at 1-1

Left: The Plymouth players complain to Lee Johnson after his freak opening goal

The kerfuffle died down and the match quickly reverted to type with the visitors enjoying more of the ball and the pressure told on 42 minutes when they were awarded a penalty for a Liam Fontaine foul in the box. Paul Wotton confidently converted the spot kick to give his side the half time lead.

Kevin Gall spurned an early chance to restore parity when he shot into the side netting and as the game wore on, it looked more like the visitors were destined for the second round draw as they settled back into the usual dominant rhythm. But after Johnson the manager reshuffled his pack twice, they finally got back into the game with 20 minutes remaining. It was Johnson, the player, who grabbed the equaliser with a fantastic strike from 30 yards that almost took McCormick into the net with it.

Extra time by now was almost a formality and as it began, the two sides had swapped roles in the match with the hosts looking upbeat and confident, making their opponents chase shadows. The winner was there for the taking and it duly arrived when who else but Johnson hit yet another stunner, this time into the top corner from 30 yards for a goal worthy of its winner status. ■

Yeovil Town: 1. Weale, 2. Lockwood, 4. Skiverton, 25. Fontaine, 3. Rose, 9. Gall, 8. Johnson, 6. Way, 10. Caceres, 11. Jevons, 18. Tarachulski.

Subs: 7. Terry (Lockwood, 57), 12. Weatherstone (Tarachulski, 89), 13. Collis, 14. O'Brien, (Caceres, 65), 22. Ibe.

Plymouth: 23. McCormick, 2. Worrell, 5. Coughlan, 15. Wotton, 24. Gilbert, 6. Lasley, 3. Hodges, 20. Adams, 14. Capaldi, 8. Crawford, 19. Keith. **Subs:** 13. Doumbe (Coughlan, 85), 17. Makel, 11. Milne (Crawford, 81), 4. Friio (Hodges, 76), 18. Lowndes.

Referee: Clive Penton

Attendance: 6,217 (approx 1,500 Plymouth fans)



We are the Champions...





MATCH DURATION 90

YEOVIL 3

VISITORS 0

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The Matches | Lincoln '05

Coca-Cola League Two
Saturday, May 7, 2005
Huish Park

Yeovil Town 3 Lincoln City 0

Yeovil Town sealed the League Two title with a convincing 3-0 win over play-off chasing Lincoln City at a packed Huish Park. Two goals from Efe Sodje and one from top scorer Phil Jevons crowned the Glovers as champions in only their second season in the league.

An expectant crowd of 8,855 (the fourth biggest ever at Huish Park) crammed into the stadium hoping to crack open the champagne. An entertaining first period looked to have ended goalless despite the best effort of Colin Miles who curled a free kick against the crossbar. However, in the 44th minute, Jevons played the ball back into the danger area and Sodje struck for 1-0.

The second half continued where the first had ended, with Yeovil pressure, and on 55 minutes Yeovil grabbed a second. Darren Way was fouled by Gareth McAuley in the box and Jevons converted the spot kick for his 29th goal of the season and the Golden Boot trophy.

Number three came with ten minutes to go and again came from Sodje, this time with a bullet header as Town completed their historic season with a comprehensive victory. ■

Yeovil Town: 13. Collis, 12. Amankwaah, 4. Skiverton, 14. Sodje, 5. Miles, 9. Gall, 6. Way, 8. Johnson, 7. Terry, 11. Jevons, 25. Davies.
Subs: 1. Weale (Collis, 84), 2. Lockwood, 3. Rose (Miles, 81), 16. Lindegaard (Gall, 81), 27. Stolcers.

Lincoln City: 1. Marriott, 17. McAuley, 23. McCombe, 5. Morgan, 4. Futcher, 2. Beevers, 8. Butcher, 15. Hanlon, 11. Gain, 27. Taylor-Fletcher 18. Asamoah.

Subs: 29. Frecklington (Hanlon, 72), 14. Bloomer, 3. Sandwith (Gain, 64), 10. Carruthers 31. Ryan (60, for Asamoah)

Referee: Iain Williamson

Attendance: 8,855 (1,100 Lincoln City fans)

Main: Terry Skiverton and Gary Johnson lift the League Two trophy
Inset: Efe Sodje celebrates after giving Yeovil the lead

CHAMPIONS

Super Jevons slams the trapdoor shut!

Coca-Cola League One
Saturday, April 29, 2006
Galpharm Stadium

Huddersfield 1
Graham 8

Yeovil Town 2
Jevons 66 (pen), 72

League One football was guaranteed again after a superb Yeovil fightback to beat Huddersfield Town by two goals to one at the Galpharm Stadium. Home striker David Graham gave his side an early lead but a double from prolific Phil Jevons, the second a sublime free kick, meant that the Glovers first season in the third tier was not their only one.

Manager Steve Thompson named an unchanged team for the final away game of the season knowing that victory would keep the Glovers in League One. But they got off to a dreadful start when Graham, who'd already shot just wide in an earlier chance, fired past Yeovil keeper Steve Collis on eight minutes.

The Terriers were desperate for the points too. Chasing promotion themselves, chief rivals Colchester United went ahead meaning that victory for the home side became more imperative.

Collis saw plenty of action early in the second half as Huddersfield looked to double their advantage. He produced a fantastic save to block midfielder Mark Hudson's shot then had to thank teammate Miles for clearing off the line after half saving an effort from Terriers legend Andy Booth. At this point, no one in the crowd would have been surprised if the hosts had gone two up.

When the next goal came though, 20 minutes in, it was at the other end and from the penalty spot. Arron Davies had looked threatening all afternoon and when he sped past Danny Adams, the

defender pulled him back in the area. The linesman flagged, referee Grant Hegley awarded the penalty and Phil Jevons, one of the deadliest marksmen from 12 yards out, safely sent keeper Paul Rachubka the wrong way for 1-1.

Six minutes later, a remarkable turnaround was complete when Jevons, and Yeovil, scored the winner. Davies was again involved, this time being climbed upon by Terriers defender Martin McIntosh just outside the box. Jevons stepped up and curled a sweet free kick into the net off the crossbar and Rachubka's back for his 16th goal of the season.

Yeovil continued to attack as if they were still behind in the match with Davies and David Poole influential down either flank and Paul Terry looking dangerous with powerful runs down the middle. Davies had a shot blocked for a corner and Booth headed wide for the hosts near the end but there were precious few chances for the 14,000+ Terrier supporters to get off their seats for in the final part of the match.

As the final whistle sounded, the players came over to celebrate with the 504 Glovers fans who had made the long trip to Yorkshire. A battling performance by Thompson's men topped by two cool finishes from Jevons had seen their side home and confirmed third tier football again for the following season. ■

Huddersfield: 1. Rachubka, 5. Mirfin, 16. McIntosh, 6. Clarke, 3. Adams, 4. Hudson, 7. Brandon, 10. Taylor-Fletcher, 11. Schofield, 21. Graham, 23. Booth. **Subs:** 22. Senior, 15. McAliskey, 9. Abbott (Taylor-Fletcher, 74), 14. Clarke, 12. Ahmed (Brandon, 73).

Yeovil Town: 13. Collis, 14. Lindegaard, 2. Lockwood, 4. Skiverton, 5. Miles, 18. Poole, 7. Terry, 22. Rocastle, 29. Cohen, 10. Jevons, 25. Davies. **Subs:** 9. Gall, 11. Jones, 17. Guyett, 20. Harrold (Davies, 90), 31. Jordan.

Referee: Grant Hegley

Attendance: 14,473 (504 Yeovil fans)





Main: Phil Jevons curls in a free-kick to give Yeovil a 2-1 lead and victory
Far Left: Jevons celebrates his first goal
Left: The Yeovil players celebrate after victory secured their League One status
Bottom: The Yeovil faithful join in the celebrations at the end of the game



The Matches | Forest '07

The mother of all comebacks...

Coca-Cola League One
Play-Off Semi-Final Second Leg
Friday, May 18, 2007
City Ground

Nottingham Forest 2

Dobie 47, Holt 93

Yeovil Town 5

Davies 22, 109, Wright (og) 82, Stewart 87, Morris 92



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Main: Marcus Stewart celebrates in front of the jubilant Yeovil fans after his late equaliser



UKKA-PIES

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The Matches | Forest '07

Yeovil Town reached the League One play-off final at Wembley after beating Nottingham Forest by five goals to two on a dramatic night at the City Ground.

The victory, which saw the Somerset side progress through 5-4 on aggregate, was after a topsy-turvy encounter that had just about everything. The Glovers, 2-0 down from the first leg, pulled a goal back in the first half through Arron Davies but Scott Dobie's header restored Forest's two goal advantage and looked to be enough to see them to the final.

But an Alan Wright own goal and a Marcus Stewart header levelled the tie and took it to extra time where Lee Morris then put Yeovil ahead in the tie before Gary Holt equalised again. However, Davies grabbed his second to make it 5-2 and 5-4 on aggregate with 12 minutes left and book his side a Wembley berth for the first time in their history and leave more than 27,000 fans from both sides stunned at the outcome.

After a first leg in which Yeovil could feel somewhat hard done by playing well but losing to two penalties, Glovers boss Russell Slade had little to lose. He, and the 1,095 Glovers fans that travelled up the M5 and M42 to Nottingham knew that to many, they had two hopes. Little hope and no hope. Forest had one foot in the final and it would take something quite extraordinary to turn the tie around and a near full house at the City Ground confirmed the confidence from the East Midlands public.

The first 20 minutes had passed with a lack of incident but then, the game changed when the ball was lashed clear to Stewart on the edge of the centre circle. The striker controlled before passing sideways to Davies and the attacker ran 40 yards before cutting inside on to his right foot and unleashing a shot that sped into the bottom corner, leaving keeper Paul Smith helpless. It was a fantastic goal from the mercurial Welsh talent and meant that it was game on, reflected by his muted celebration. There was a job to be done.

The rest of the first half was goalless with the Glovers ahead on points but failing in their attempt to square the tie, a lot of which was down to home keeper Smith. The finest of his saves was a double effort to thwart Morris and Stewart in a matter of seconds. For Forest, Dobie, without a goal in nearly two years, went close with a curling effort.



Main: Marcus Stewart heads in Yeovil's third goal to take it to extra-time

Centre: Yeovil fans sing their hearts out

Right: Arron Davies wheels away to celebrate his first goal of the night

In the second minute of the second half, the next goal came but at the wrong end for hopeful Glovers fans. Lewis McGugan's pinpoint corner was met by Dobie with a downward header that beat Steve Mildenhall's despairing dive. The roof came off the City Ground in that moment as belief surged back into the veins of the Forest contingent, a massive majority of the stadium, that

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completely surrounded the small but noisy Yeovil backing.

The second half was frenetic at times but at no stage did Yeovil's play look as desperate as the situation developing. Then, an amazing stroke of luck for Yeovil with eight minutes to go. Davies was involved again, laying the ball back to sub Jean-Paul Kalala to smash a shot from 30 yards against the post. The ball rebounded back and struck the face of Forest defender Wright, distracted by the attentions of Wayne Gray near him, and into the net. 2-1 on the night to Yeovil, but 3-2 to Forest overall; still one goal short of taking the tie into extra time.

With three minutes remaining, Yeovil incredibly levelled the match. A long looping cross to the back post from Andy Lindegaard was met by Stewart with the perfect downward header that beat his marker and left Smith floundering as the ball entered the net. It sparked goal celebration scenes rarely seen before among Yeovil fans and

Main: Nathan Jones and Anthony Barry celebrate at the end of the game

Top: Arron Davies celebrates scoring Yeovil's fifth and final goal

Bottom: Anthony Barry and Paul Terry show their delight after Yeovil's dramatic victory

seemed to knock the stuffing out of some Forest players.

Just as the clock edged past 90 minutes, David Prutton received a second yellow card for losing his cool and lunging in on Nathan Jones, meaning that for the extra half hour, it would be 11 v 10. That advantage was soon hammered home when, just 64 seconds into extra time, a woefully short back pass from Wes Morgan let in Morris. The striker ran on, beat a defender, rounded





Smith and slotted into the corner for number four on the night. Morris had spent five years at Forest's rivals Derby County so the goal added salt to the gaping wounds.

If Forest was suffering at being behind for the first time in the semi-final, they didn't show it and immediately fought back. A long ball from Morgan through the middle was nodded down by Grant Holt to namesake Gary Holt who smashed home a low right foot shot past Mildenhall to tie the match up at 4-4 on aggregate. The reply had been instant with Forest in arrears for only 108 seconds. The roof once more came off the City Ground as supporters of both clubs roared their side on to try to grab a winner and seal the match.

That winner, for Yeovil, came three minutes into the second period of extra time and rather fittingly, it came from the man who had scored the first on the night for them, Arron Davies. Andy Lindegaard sped 40 yards down the right flank and crossed into the centre. Davies' header forwards took a deflection off Kris Commons and into the path of Morris. He played a sublime short pass into the advancing Davies who sidestepped the defender, got it on to his right foot and fired home.

This time Davies could really rejoice yet his celebrations seemed almost tempered with disbelief. The Welshman rejoiced with the away supporters housed in a poky corner of the ground surrounded by reds on all four sides and above but having seen how the previous 108 minutes had panned out, there could be nothing taken for granted.

The last 12 minutes felt like a lifetime for one team while for the other, the clock seemed to be racing away. At the final whistle, the Yeovil Town players, management and off-field staff came over to the away support as at long last, Yeovil Town had made it to Wembley. It had only taken 112 years to achieve but that mattered not, they were there and they were proud. ■

Nottingham Forest: 1. Smith, 21. Curtis, 3. Chambers, 6. Breckin, 12. Wright, 37. McGugan, 17. Perch, 4. Gary Holt, 8. Commons, 10. Dobie, 14. Lester. **Subs:** 20. Pedersen, 5. Morgan (Lester, 85), 7. Prutton (McGugan, 62), 11. Grant Holt (Dobie, 76), 29. Bennett.

Yeovil Town: 1. Mildenhall, 16. Lindegaard, 5. Guyett, 6. Forbes, 3. Jones, 10. Gray, 8. Barry, 11. Cohen, 9. Davies, 25. Morris, 29. Stewart. **Subs:** 12. Brittain, 14. Kalala (Cohen, 74), 24. Lynch, 30. Knights, 32. Rose.

Referee: Graham Poll

Attendance: 27,819 (1,095 Yeovil fans)

'We believed we could win the game, the lads were adamant we would win'

After the first leg, we felt let down by the result after playing so well but still losing 2-0. Russell Slade was from Nottingham, he knew the area and had friends there who'd heard what the Forest fans were saying. We knew if we got an early goal that the crowd would be silenced and there would be huge pressure on them.

We believed we could win the game, the lads were adamant we would win. I remember listening to my music on the bus on the way to the ground and the team were buzzing, there was so much belief and focus among the lads and we just grew into the game.

After I scored my second goal, our fifth, I think everyone knew it was us. We all felt so fit and strong that we didn't think Forest would get back into the game even though it had been so up and down. Scoring that winning goal was the

best feeling ever; in front of our own fans and seeing the ecstasy, the hysteria and all the emotions rolled into one.

In terms of club achievement, it was definitely the best moment of my career. I was obviously very proud to get my first Wales cap but that night was a massive achievement. It was great because of who I did it with; a lot of people in that team are my friends and will be my friends for life and we still talk about that night now. In the changing rooms afterwards, it was unbelievable.

On the way home, we got off the bus to raid a Tesco. It ended up being my local shop when I moved up there and it was quite funny going back there after I signed for them. We went in and saw a load of Forest fans in there and we thought it might be a bit awkward but they were as good as gold. A lot of them came up and congratulated us and said that was the best performance

they'd ever seen at the City Ground. I felt untouchable after the game. I remember going to the gym in Yeovil the following day with the lads and we were treated like celebrities in there, fans coming up giving us high fives. It was the highest point of my career.

When Chris Cohen and I signed for Forest a few weeks later, it was a bit tricky to start with. We flew out to Austria for training and it felt really weird having knocked them out and then signing for them. When we met the other lads, we didn't know where to look to start with but after the banter started, they made us feel really welcome. I couldn't turn down the opportunity of a lifetime to play for such a massive club with a long history and a big fan base. It was a great move for both of us and the club. ■

Arron Davies



Main: Arron Davies celebrates scoring his second goal of the night, putting Yeovil 5-2 up in the process

‘An eerie silence fell over Nottingham, a realisation that Yeovil had not finished’





The morning of the game was odd. 1,095 fans were on the way to Nottingham neither in hope nor expectation – we were off to enjoy our finest hour and say thanks to the lads for an incredible season. No-one could have written what would happen on the side of the River Trent that evening.

One Forest fan approached a friend of mine and asked: "What are you lot doing here?" Whoever he is, wherever he may be now – I hope he remembers asking that question.

The early exchanges were scrappy and yet Yeovil were probably the side likely to cause more danger. Nothing more than half chances came and went for both sides until Arron Davies picked up the ball just inside the Forest half.

He ran, he kept running, he was still running. Then bang. 2-1. Hang on a minute, that wasn't in the script. An eerie silence fell over Nottingham, a realisation that Yeovil had not finished yet.

The half time message had to be a case of "same again lads." We in the away end would have happily taken extra time and penalties.

No sooner had we uttered the words "maybe, just maybe" Forest hit back. Scott Dobie's nodded goal put us back to square one.

The clock continued to tick, an hour passed, then 70 minutes, then 80. It was probably now too late, belief had turned to hope which in turn became acceptance.

Yeovil playmaker Chris Cohen had gone off with a groin injury and replaced by Jean-Paul Kalala who was good, but he wasn't exactly attack-minded.

But in a night of crazy goings on, seeing JP ping an effort from 25 yards was a shock. Not quite as much of a shock as seeing the shot rebound off the post, onto the face of Alan Wright and trickle over the line.

The ball travelled maybe six yards from Wright's noggin to the goal yet those six yards took a good month to elapse in real time.

We continued to attack, hunting for that one last hurrah, when Andy Lindgaard picked up a loose ball on the wide right and delivered an inch perfect cross. Every Yeovil fan will have an image of Marcus Stewart rising highest to plant a header home etched on their memory forever.



To paraphrase the Sky Sports commentator that night, we had only gone and done it.

Euphoria erupted in the away end. I've never shouted so loudly, I've never hugged so many random people, from that moment there was only one winner.

Extra time beckoned, things went from bad to worse for Forest, Wes Morgan laid a pass back 20 yards short and Lee Morris rounded Paul Smith in the Forest goal. We were ahead in the tie.

The emotions I had experienced during a couple hours had ensured I wasn't sure what was going on anymore. I practically missed the Nottingham Forest equaliser – which could have changed things drastically.

Forest's players were hanging on by the skin of their teeth. Strikers with defenders, Alan Wright was moving on one leg and now David Prutton had accumulated two yellow cards. It was the home side hanging on for penalties. Yeovil were on the crest of a wave.

Then it happened, Arron Davies finished everything off, just as he had started it. A run, a jink and shot put the final nail into the coffin.

I was singing yet it was silent, I was happy yet there were tears, I was dancing yet couldn't move a muscle.

This wasn't supposed to happen. The next few hours were a party. We stayed in the away end until the stewards had to go home, we sang in the car park and in the services on the way home.

Colin Calderwood, Stuart Pearce, Brian Clough, your boys took one hell of a beating. ■

Ben Barrett

'I was determined to enjoy it'

The second leg of the League One play-off semi final was one of the most exciting matches Yeovil Town has ever been involved in. Players have said it, supporters have agreed and the television commentator puts it in his top four of all time. So what was it like to referee then? Let's ask Graham Poll, the man himself.

"Coming into the tie, there was a chance this could have been my last ever game as an official," he says matter-of-factly. "I'd made the decision a few months beforehand to retire at the end of the season but kept it quiet and didn't announce it at all. So when I turned up at the City Ground on May 18, 2007 I treated it the same way as any other game as it was important to stick to my refereeing principles but I was determined to enjoy it as it might have been my final match."

The then 43-year-old official had more than 1,500 fixtures on his CV including FA Cup, League Cup and UEFA Cup Finals, European Championship and World Cup matches as well as play-off finals. He'd only officiated once before at a Yeovil match; way back in March 1988, he was the man in the middle for a home defeat against Tooting & Mitcham. So he was a good fit for a fixture such as this - with a trip to Wembley at stake for the winners, Graham's experience and man-management skills would be vital as both sides strived to reach the Wembley final. He recalls the night with commendable clarity.

"I met up with my assistant referees and the fourth official at a hotel in Nottingham. We then travelled in a people carrier and got to the ground around 90 minutes before kick-off. The atmosphere before the game was cracking and Forest fans were expecting a nice comfortable win to take them through. I always preferred evening games as I think they create a better atmosphere. I'd be surprised if players don't prefer evening games under

the lights, they're so much better than boiling hot afternoons with a hard pitch."

From a refereeing point of view, the game went well. There was little in the way of real controversy despite the fact that the Tring official issued eight yellow cards, two of them to David Prutton who then saw red. "It wasn't a dirty game at all, and the fact I showed that many yellow cards doesn't make it so. Prutton's second challenge was bad and maybe on another day might have been a straight red but he was leaving the pitch anyway so issuing a second yellow and subsequent red made sense."

The stats show there were no bookings until the hour mark then eight in the final half hour plus extra time. Leaving aside Prutton's pair, Kris Commons was booked for a foul on Chris Cohen who then retaliated and was also shown yellow. Lee Morris went into the book for trying to wrestle the ball from Paul Smith's grasp after Yeovil's second goal while Nathan Jones and Andy Lindgaard (Yeovil) and Grant Holt were carded for fouls and Arron Davies for dissent.

"There was a chance this could have been my last ever game as an official"

"The week before, I did Chelsea against Manchester United, there was seven bookings and that did feel like a dirty game! In the event, it was a match where the stakes were high, it was played over 120 minutes and I think all the cautions were appropriate considering it wasn't dirty and there weren't any legs broken or anything."

Asking a referee with a total of 1,554 matches behind him where the game ranked is nigh on impossible, but worth asking. "It comes down to how you rank them; whether it's based on importance, how memorable they were, that sort of



Main:
Referee
Graham Poll in
charge during
the match
at the City
Ground

thing. But in terms of sheer excitement, it is right up there in the top ten of all my matches."

Graham's final match was at Wembley, almost his 'local' during his esteemed career, for the Championship play-off final between Derby and West Bromwich Albion. It was the day after the Blackpool versus Yeovil League One play-off final and came after a season that had started badly and finished on a relative high. "I had enjoyed refereeing for 26 years but after the previous summer's World Cup, I had been castigated by the press and had not been supported by the FA. I thought about going but received a phone call from Sir Alex Ferguson where he told me never to go out on a negative."

"From that moment I made up my mind to enjoy my refereeing and after an FA Cup tie between Manchester United and Reading in February, I decided to call it a day at the end of that season. For the last dozen or so games, I refereed as well as I ever had and I could retire when I was on a high. ■

'They've... only gone and done it!'

No Yeovil fan will ever forget the night that the giant that was Nottingham Forest was slain by the minnows of Yeovil Town. But it wasn't just memorable for those with strong allegiances to either side, it will live long in the memory of the neutrals too.

Rob Hawthorne was the Sky Sports commentator on that historic night at the City Ground. A veteran of nearly 2,000 matches, the Birmingham-born broadcaster has no hesitation in ranking the Glovers unlikely triumph right up there among his best ever matches. "I always enjoy doing play-offs," he says. "They are often win-or-bust games where the entire 46-game season rides on just one game. You can never write any team off in the play-offs and this was an incredible game."

"That said, I went to the match with no real expectation of a shock. I think there was certainly over-confidence on the Forest terraces, they felt it was routine that they'd reach Wembley. But when I met Forest boss Colin Calderwood before the game, he struck me as very professional and focussed on doing a job".

Rob Hawthorne's initial connection with Yeovil came way back in December 2000 when he covered the Glovers, managed by Colin Addison, in a live Sky FA Cup clash with Blackpool at Bloomfield Road. "I went to watch Yeovil train and the then captain, Terry Skiverton, lined up all the players and got them to introduce themselves. For me not knowing the Non-League squad quite so well, it was an invaluable help. I had also met Russell Slade before when he was manager of Scarborough. They played Chelsea in the 2003-04 FA Cup and were unlucky to lose 1-0. I met Russell again in between the first and second legs of the play-offs and he seemed reasonably upbeat. I think he knew it would only take a goal to bring his side right back into the tie."



Main: Sky Sports commentator Rob Hawthorne

As the game went on, Hawthorne admits with the benefit of hindsight that there seemed to be a little element of fate about the result. "The nip-and-tuck nature of the game was the biggest thing and I did feel, as events unfolded that you got a sense of destiny about it. Jean-Paul Kalala hitting the post and the ball rebounding into Alan Wright's face; the back pass from Wes Morgan for the fourth goal and even the winner came from a ricochet off a Forest defender – it all made me think that Yeovil's name was on the tie. I think I actually called it after the fifth goal went in."

He certainly did call it, accurately and quite prematurely, considering the way the previous 108 minutes had gone! With nearly 12 minutes of extra

time left, the words that no Yeovil fan will tire of hearing were uttered. As the Glovers went 5-2 ahead on the night, 5-4 on aggregate, Hawthorne described it. "It's Arron Davies, he could win it... he probably has won it for Yeovil. That could be the last blow that Forest, punch drunk Forest, can possibly take and the men from Somerset are celebrating. Wembley beckons."

Sweet words from the commentator but not the ones he's most remembered for. Two of his finest phrases from the night's broadcast are recalled by all. After Davies had scored the

"The nip-and-tuck nature of the game was the biggest thing and I did feel, as events unfolded that you got a sense of destiny about it"

breakthrough first goal of the night, it was "And Yeovil have hope." Then, as Marcus Stewart's header took the extraordinary tie into extra time, the excitable, disbelieving tone of his voice was clear to hear: "They've... only gone and done it!"

For Town fans around the country, those words mean as much as Kenneth Wolstenholme's "They think it's all over... it is now!" from England's 1966 World Cup Final triumph over West Germany. Yeovil supporters still had to wait another half an hour or more to celebrate victory but by this time, as Hawthorne noticed, even Slade had calmed down. "I noticed Russell's celebrations became more muted as the goals went in; for the last goal, there was barely a reaction from him."

For Rob Hawthorne, a commentator that can cover up to a hundred matches a season, the elevation of this tie into the very top bracket of his memories takes it to a different level and cements its place in the annals of history. ■

Rob Hawthorne's Top Five live commentary games

1. **Champions League Final 2005** – AC Milan 3 Liverpool 3
(Liverpool won 3-2 on pens)
2. **Division 1 Play-Off Final 1998** – Charlton 4 Sunderland 4
(Charlton won 7-6 on pens)
3. **Division 2 Play-Off Final 1999** – Manchester City 2 Gillingham 2
(Manchester City won 3-1 on pens)
4. **League 1 Play-Off Semi-Final Second Leg 2007** – Nottingham Forest 2 Yeovil Town 5
5. **Capital One Cup Fourth Round 2012** – Reading 5 Arsenal 7

One step too far, as Blackpool ruin big day out...

npower League One Play-Off Final
Sunday, May 27, 2007
Wembley Stadium

Blackpool 2

Williams 43, Parker 52

Yeovil Town 0

At a rain-sodden Wembley, in-form Blackpool proved too strong as they won promotion to the Championship with a 2-0 victory over Yeovil Town.

Goals from Robbie Williams and Keigan Parker secured second tier football for the Tangerines who overpowered the Glovers having

come into the match on a run of nine successive wins. It wasn't to be for Russell Slade's men who had fought so hard in the play-off semi finals against Nottingham Forest but couldn't raise themselves on the day.

After having overcome the Midland side in a titanic struggle over two legs, Slade's only pre-match query on team selection was whether to risk influential midfielder Chris Cohen. The ex-West Ham star had come off on 75 minutes at the City Ground with a groin strain but was declared fit for the biggest league game in the club's history.

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Main: Manager Russell Slade and his players line up ahead of the big game



Their opponents feared no one, having scored 27 goals in those nine victories, and their early play reflected that confidence, fashioning opportunities for Adrian Forbes who hit the side netting and Williams who sent a 25-yard effort just wide. Wes Hoolahan also went close in the first half but for all their goal attempt stats, the important one was that the score was still goalless.

With five minutes left of the first half, the game swung significantly in the Lancashire side's favour. First up was the withdrawal of Cohen; the 20-year-old succumbing to the groin injury that had left him unusually subdued in the game. Then, as the Glovers tried to reach half time for a chance to reorganise, official Andy D'Urso awarded a dubious free kick for a foul by Terrell Forbes on Parker just outside the box. Williams stepped up and curled the ball into the

corner of the goal past Steve Mildenhall.

The combination knocked Yeovil hard and seven minutes into the second half, they conceded a second goal. A simple clearance out of defence released Parker down the line and with acres of space, he cut inside and bent a beauty into the far corner of Mildenhall's net.

By now, Slade's men were rocking on the ropes and few of the near 60,000

crowd would have been shocked had there been a third Blackpool goal.

But Yeovil held on and to their credit even had a clear chance to pull a goal back with 12 minutes to go. Wayne Gray produced the best cross of the match from his right wing position but Marcus Stewart headed downwards and the ball skidded off the turf and over the crossbar to safety.

It was a sign that maybe the form book would not go out of the window after all. The Glovers came into the match having created history with the stunning fightback in Nottingham but the final just looked like one game too many and facing a side in the form of their lives, they needed a boost from somewhere, but it never really looked like coming.

The final whistle from Mr D'Urso brought scenes of jubilation from the



Main: Steve Mildenhall's fist beats Terrell Forbes to the ball to clear the danger

Top: Arron Davies runs with the ball

Right: Yeovil fans enjoy their big day out



31,500 Tangerine fans who celebrated promotion, triumphantly led all afternoon by their club drummer. It was somewhat appropriate given that the Somerset side had been dancing to Blackpool's tune all afternoon. The murky weather that had closed in matched the mood of the Glovers hordes as they returned to Somerset with little to be cheerful about despite the club's highest ever Football League finish. ■

Blackpool: 1. Rachubka, 25. Barker, 5. Jackson, 29. Evatt, 6. Williams, 8. Forbes, 26. Jorgensen, 4. Southern, 27. Hoolahan, 7. Parker, 18. Morrell.
Subs: 2. Coid, 10. Vernon (Hoolahan, 86), 20. Fox (Forbes, 78), 28. Burgess, 30. Gillett (Parker, 90).

Yeovil Town: 1. Mildenhall, 16. Lindegaard, 6. Forbes, 5. Guyett, 3. Jones, 10. Gray, 8. Barry, 11. Cohen, 9. Davies, 29. Stewart, 25. Morris. **Subs:** 4. Skiverton, 14. Kalala (Cohen, 40), 24. Lynch, (Lindegaard, 77), 30. Knights (Morris, 72), 32. Rose.

Referee: Andy D'Urso

Attendance: 59,313 (approx 28,000 Yeovil fans)



The Matches | Hereford '09



Main: Chris Weale on the ball as he prepares to take a goal kick

Left: A video sequence of Chris Weale's dramatic last minute header





Wealey saves the day at the other end...

Coca-Cola League One
Tuesday, April 21, 2009
Huish Park

Yeovil Town 2

Rodgers 78, Weale 90

Hereford United 2

Myrie-Williams 27, Guinan 61

On-loan goalkeeper Chris Weale wrote himself into the history books with an astonishing last minute equaliser as Yeovil Town came from two goals down to draw 2-2 with Hereford United at Huish Park.

Weale, borrowed from Bristol City and facing a side he'd spent time on loan at, leapt highest to head home a Keiran Murtagh corner deep into stoppage time. It capped a remarkable comeback and saved a vital point in Town's battle to stay in League One. He was mobbed by team mates and management staff alike amid amazing scenes; all this after already-relegated United had been two goals ahead and the hosts had missed a penalty in a pulsating match.

Yeovil's first half showing was full of optimism and verve and boss Terry Skiverton was unlucky to be on the wrong side of a 1-0 half-time scoreline. Paul Warne hit the woodwork early on and Spurs loan duo Jonathan Obika and Andros Townsend went close with chances. Just before the half hour mark, Steve Guinan set up Weale's Bristol City colleague Jennison Myrie-Williams and the attacker shot low across him to give Hereford the lead.

Gavin Tomlin and Murtagh also tested visiting keeper Peter Gulacsi before the break but Yeovil wasted a golden chance to level matters early in the second half. United defender Sam Gwynne hauled down Tomlin in the box, only earning a yellow from referee Andy Penn when red seemed certain. However, Townsend skied the spot kick high into the night air.

The mood among the home fans worsened on the hour when the visitors doubled their lead. Guinan, provider for the first goal, found himself in acres of space in the box and fired past Weale to put his side two ahead.

Skiverton rightly gambled and threw on winger Andy Welsh and striker Luke Rodgers, withdrawing Warne and Obika. Rodgers reduced the deficit with 12 minutes left, his deflected shot giving Yeovil hope. Still the home side pushed for a leveller and with time running out, it seemed like a massive chance to take a step towards survival had gone.

Then, in the last of four minutes stoppage time, the unthinkable happened at a corner. Keeper Weale was sent up to add an aerial threat and although the first flag kick was deflected behind for another, he then met Murtagh's second effort perfectly with an unstoppable header into the net before setting off on a celebratory run, pursued by all his team mates. The final whistle sounded seconds later and an entertaining match had produced the most memorable of finishes. ■

Yeovil Town: 1. Weale, 24. Hutchins, 27. Peltier, 23. Brown, 28. Smith, 14. Warne, 11. Schofield, 18. Murtagh, 25. Townsend, 10. Tomlin, 26. Obika.
Subs: 13. Wagenaar, 9. Welsh (Warne, 62), 12. Alcock, 15. Rodgers (Obika, 73), 29. Maguire.

Hereford: 33. Gulacsi, 28. Beckwith, 2. Rose, 6. Taylor, 15. Gwynne, 31. Myrie-Williams, 19. Jones, 8. Smith, 22. Done, 20. Williams, 9. Guinan. **Subs:** 17. O'Leary (Jones, 76), 25. Veiga, 16. Macleod, (Myrie-Williams, 90), 12. Pugh (Done, 76), 24. D Agostino.

Referee: Andy Penn

Attendance: 3,780 (approx 80 Hereford fans)

A night of pure drama...



npower League One
Tuesday, January 25, 2011
Hillsborough

Sheffield Wed 2

Madine 36, R Johnson 86

Yeovil Town 2

Bowditch 15, Huntington 57

Nine man Yeovil Town came within a whisker of an astonishing victory when they drew 2-2 with Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough.

Having twice taken the lead through Dean Bowditch and Paul Huntington, the Clovers were reduced to nine men after red cards were issued by official Trevor Kettle to defenders Luke Ayling and Adam Virgo. Owls star Giles Coke then missed a retaken penalty before Reda Johnson's last gasp leveller ended the scoring on an amazing night.

Yeovil had first taken the lead on the quarter hour. Bowditch had already stung Nicky Weaver's hands in the home goal before he then, with help from a looping deflection from Tommy Spurr, put Yeovil ahead. Stephen Henderson then dived to push Gary Teale's effort on to the post before striker Gary Madine equalised nine minutes before half time. The Clovers refused to let the goal affect them though and they retook the lead on 57 minutes when Andy Welsh's corner was headed home by Paul Huntington.



Main picture: Paul Huntington, centre, heads past Owls Keeper Nicky Weaver to make it 2-1 to Yeovil

The next 15 minutes could best be described as bedlam. Luke Ayling, booked for a foul before Yeovil's second goal, fouled Teale to earn himself a second yellow and ensuing red card. Manager Terry Skiverton made a tactical change, taking off Bowditch to throw on Adam Virgo at the back but within four minutes, the big defender was back on the bench again. Virgo had fouled Madine as he aimed to finish off a goalscoring chance which led to referee Kettle showing his second red card of the

night and awarding a spot kick.

The drama didn't end there though as Giles Coke converted the penalty but was ordered to retake it after encroachment. The second spot kick was then blazed over the crossbar. The final 20 minutes saw Wednesday pummel their under-fire visitors but it took until the 86th minute before the Owls broke through; Reda Johnson scoring from close in. Despite six minutes of stoppage time, Skiverton's men held out against all odds and brought a point away with them in the unlikeliest of circumstances. ■

Sheffield Wednesday: 1. Weaver, 7. Reynolds, 6. M Morrison, 22. R Johnson, 2. Spurr, 21. Teale, 10. Coke, 14. Potter, 23. J Johnson, 32. Madine, 33. Mellor. **Subs:** 25. Jameson, 9. Heffernan, (Teale, 66), 11. Jones, 15. Beevers, 17. O'Connor, 24. Sedgwick (M Morrison, 88), 30. C Morrison (Reynolds, 76).

Yeovil Town: 13. Henderson, 8. Ayling, 5. Huntington, 14. Ehmer, 6. Smith, 11. Welsh, 16. Upson, 20. Wotton, 10. Bowditch, 7. A Williams, 12. Johnson. **Subs:** 1. Martin, 9. S Williams (Johnson, 76), 15. Russell (Upson, 90), 17. Calver, 19. Virgo (Bowditch, 66), 23. Gibson, 31. Baggridge.

Referee: Trevor Kettle

Attendance: 16,618 (228 Yeovil fans)

Que Sera Sera, Whatever Will Be, Will Be We're Going To Wembley..

npower League One
Play-Off Semi-Final Second Leg
Monday, May 6, 2013
Huish Park

Yeovil Town 2

Dawson 6, Upson 85

Sheffield United 0





Main: Jamie McAllister and Marek Stech celebrate on top of the dugout in front of the Yeovil fans who invaded the pitch at full time



Yeovil Town reached the League One play-off final for the second time in seven seasons with a fantastic 2-1 victory over Sheffield United at an atmospheric Huish Park.

After a 1-0 defeat in Yorkshire, Kevin Dawson's fifth minute goal from a sublime Ed Upson pass levelled the tie on aggregate before Upson turned goalscorer, heading home a Paddy Madden cross with just five minutes remaining.

The clinical Glovers proved how crucial goals at the right time could be, ending United's hopes of holding on to their lead early on before delivering a knockout punch with a late winner that left little time for Chris Morgan's men to get back off the canvas.

Gary Johnson would have emphasised to his side how important a quick start would be to their chances of progressing to the final. Get a goal early, square the match and it really would be all to play for. So it was no surprise that Yeovil came racing out of the blocks with centre half Dan Burn heading wide from a second minute corner. United had barely had time to draw breath and even get out of their own half.

The hoped-for breakthrough came just four minutes and 20 seconds into the match. Upson found himself in space in the centre of the park and as a Blade came closing in, produced the pass of the season inside retreating left back Matt Hill, to release Dawson on the edge of the box. The Irishman delayed half a second, dropped his shoulder and calmly slotted the ball past teenager George Long in the United goal.

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Main: Kevin Dawson shows his delight after giving Yeovil an early lead

Top: Luke Ayling rises highest to beat United's Dave Kitson to the ball

Bottom: Kevin Dawson breaks through and slots home Yeovil's first goal after just six minutes



The Matches | Sheffield United '13

It was the start the crowd dreamed of, the manager had planned and the players had executed. But the Glovers had only restored parity, nothing more, so had to beware of a wounded opponent. The Blades fought back well though their first two chances didn't trouble Marek Stech in the home goal. Kevin McDonald's aim was particularly awry, sending two shots harmlessly over the bar. The third opportunity came from the guile of Callum McFadzean, the



scorer from the first leg, whose shot was blocked, offering a firmly struck follow up shot from Michael Doyle that was tipped over by a careful Stech.

Joe Edwards then had a clear sight of goal on 20 minutes when played in by Sam Foley but Long blocked the shot with his legs at his near post; five minutes later, Stech was also called into action when he saved from Jamie Murphy. Though the game had so much riding on it, it remained an enthralling clash to the neutral and a nail-biter to the supporters of both clubs.

Those Yeovil nails were bitten down even further after the half hour mark when McFadzean burst down the middle of Yeovil's defence and played in Murphy. He then stepped inside and curled a beauty on to the face of Yeovil's crossbar, the nearest they had come to retaking the advantage. From Darryl Westlake's 43rd minute corner, Harry Maguire headed over from close range as United edged the final moments before half time.



The second half carried on in the same mode as the first had ended as the two sides continued slugging at each other like two heavyweight boxers. It was great to watch yet nervy too with both sides knowing a mistake could potentially be fatal. Striker Chris Porter's first shot was blocked but his second only found the side netting as the Blades made a bright start after the interval.

Paddy Madden, in the worst scoring drought of his Yeovil career after going goal-free for five matches, then shot at Long from 12 yards out before then heading over at full stretch from close range after a superb, dangerous Luke Ayling cross bounced awkwardly in front of him. Murphy then replied for United with a volley that sailed high and wide.

As the half wore on, visiting boss Morgan opted for experience to try to break the deadlock. Danny Higginbotham and Dave Kitson, both wily old Premier League campaigners came on for Westlake and Joe Ironside respectively; Johnson chose to leave his

side the same, believing that what he had was enough to achieve what he wanted.

Maguire headed wide again from a cross and Murphy's ball into the middle whistled across goal missing everyone in a worrying moment for the Glovers' backline. But Yeovil were by no means pinned back and Upson's shot went wide before James Hayter met Foley's first time left wing cross with a header that missed.

By this time, the match could really have gone either way with the biggest Huish Park crowd in five seasons, swelled by 1,119 United fans, preparing for the spectacle of extra time to decide the tie. Almost three hours of football had produced two goals and plenty of chances but ultimately, no one side was in front. That was until the clock passed the 84 minute mark.

Madden, short of goals but still buzzing and high on confidence, found himself in space in the right channel just outside the box. He took a touch, then another and chipped a perfectly weighted, superbly directed ball into the penalty area. There, having gambled and made a burst into the box, was Upson who met the ball with his head, guiding it back the way Long had come and into the corner of the net, leaving the keeper helpless.

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Main: Sam Foley celebrates with goalscorer Ed Upson
Left: Ed Upson brilliantly steers a header home to give Yeovil a 2-0 lead and victory



The Matches | Sheffield United '13



The Matches | Sheffield United '13



Main: The Yeovil fans invade the pitch at the full time whistle

Far Left: Paddy Madden gets a kiss from an ecstatic Glovers fan

Left: Gary Johnson is mobbed by jubilant fans

Top: The Yeovil players salute the fans after making their way into the main stand



The roof came off Huish Park. Upson wheeled away celebrating behind the goal and then to the Main Stand while all around the three home sides, Town fans were euphoric. Strangers were hugging each other, joined in a unique celebration of a goal that might just have taken their side to only their second Wembley appearance in 117 seasons. But on the field, there was still a job to be done.

United threw on their final sub, Ryan Flynn for McFadzean, in a last ditch attempt to take the tie into extra time but in those final minutes, it was Yeovil that came closest to scoring when Madden pulled the ball back for Foley to shoot just wide of goal. Yeovil boss Johnson then made his only change of the game, withdrawing striker Hayter and bringing on the experience of defender Richard Hinds to sit in front of the back four as extra security.

Finally, with nearly 95 minutes played, referee Phil Gibbs blew his whistle for the last time, signalling emotional scenes among the supporters and players alike. There was a good-natured pitch invasion of course; the stewards initially trying to keep order but unable to prevent thousands of delirious Yeovil fans from swarming on to the pitch to hug their heroes and hail the manager. Blades fans, though stunned at the result, showed their quality by clapping both their side and Yeovil's before exiting the stage quietly unnoticed.

The season had gone better than almost everyone had dreamed of except maybe for one man. A man, who once he had fulfilled his media commitments, came down towards the crowd, hidden by a big flag held up by two players. Once revealed, he received the biggest cheer of all.

"We want Gary, we want Gary," they had chanted. They got Gary and at that point, the day really, really could not have got any better. ■

Yeovil Town: 1. Stech, 2. Ayling, 5. Webster, 18. Burn, 3. McAllister, 22. Dawson, 20. Edwards, 8. Upson, 14. Foley, 9. Hayter, 17. Madden.

Subs: 12. Stewart, 4. Hinds (Hayter, 90), 6. Blizzard, 10. Williams, 13. Maksimenko, 15. Young, 29. Balanta.

Sheffield United: 25. Long, 2. Westlake, 5. Maguire, 15. Collins, 6. Hill, 23. Murphy, 11. McDonald, 8. Doyle, 26. McFadzean, 9. Porter, 24. Ironside. **Subs:** 35. Coyne, 4. Higginbotham (Westlake, 55), 7. Flynn (McFadzean, 87), 14. Kitson (Ironside, 64), 21. Chapell, 27. Whitehouse, 33. Barry.

Referee: Philip Gibbs

Attendance: 8,152 (1,119 Sheffield United fans)

Living the dream...

npower League One Play-Off Final
Sunday, May 19, 2013
Wembley Stadium

Brentford 1
Dean 51

Yeovil Town 2
Madden 6, Burn 42



Main: Jamie McAllister lifts the League One play-off trophy after Yeovil's famous 2-1 win over Brentford at Wembley





Main: The Yeovil and Brentford players line-up before the start of the game

Right: Paddy Madden brilliantly curls home Yeovil's first goal

Top: Referee Andy D'Urso makes the coin toss

Bottom: The Yeovil Town faithful





History was created at Wembley Stadium as Yeovil Town secured a place in the npower Championship for the first time with a 2-1 win over Brentford.

First half goals from Paddy Madden and Dan Burn meant that the Glovers were two up at the interval and although Harlee Dean scored early in the second period for the Bees, Gary Johnson's side held on against a late barrage and deservedly took their place in the second tier of English football.

The result went a long way to erasing the bad memories from six years previously for Yeovil fans who had seen their side not show up against Blackpool. This time around though, everything seemed different and made the victory all the more sweeter for the 19,000 strong Yeovil contingent who celebrated wildly at the final whistle. It capped a marvellous decade for the club with their third promotion, and fourth trophy in total under manager Gary Johnson and brought with it unrivalled excitement for the coming season.

Before the game, all the talk was of omens and hoodoos. Brentford had a wretched record in the end-of-season

knockout lottery, having never won through them in six attempts and even blowing a chance of going up automatically. Marcello Trotta blasted a penalty against the bar in the final league match against Doncaster and saw their opponents take the title by going up the other end and scoring, leaving the Bees in third place.

Yeovil's only appearance in the play-offs had also ended in misery in 2007 with that Blackpool defeat but this new side was fitter, younger, stronger and in Paddy Madden and James Hayter, had the most prolific front pair in the division. Hayter, a wily fox in the box, had seen both his previous clubs promoted from League One and was aiming to make it an impressive personal treble. In the second leg of the semi final against Sheffield United, one major factor in the Glovers' eventual progression was the timing of their goals; one early equaliser to settle the nerves was then added to by a late winner giving little chance to reply. The final would be a good place to repeat the feat.

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The Matches | Brentford '13



Initially, it looked like the match had got off to a bad start when skipper Jamie McAllister took a stray elbow in the face from big Bees striker Clayton Donaldson in the second minute. Needing extensive treatment, the Scot's absence earlier in the season through suspension had coincided with a rotten run of form and the Yeovil fans behind the goal they were defending had their hearts in their mouths as McAllister returned to the pitch.

As "Macca" settled back into the battle, Yeovil took the lead with a goal fit for the occasion, any occasion in fact. Sam Foley made a trademark burst forward and let fly from 30 yards but his shot rebounded at an angle off Shaleum Logan's back to Paddy Madden. The Irishman, in the arc outside the penalty box, took one touch before hitting a swerving shot with the outside of his boot past Simon Moore and into the top corner for his 24th goal of the season. It was the perfect goal at the perfect time.

The Bees' replies to the goal lacked any real threat with Donaldson's half hit shot and Harry Forrester's cross-cum-shot not worrying Marek Stech in the Yeovil goal. At the other end, Madden and Hayter weren't being given much to feed on with the Brentford defence well aware of their potency.

Timing can be everything in football though and Yeovil doubled their advantage at a great moment, four minutes before the break. Ed Upson sent over a looping corner to the back of the six yard box and giant defender Dan Burn got up to head downwards, the ball creeping through a myriad of bodies and into the net despite a desperate last ditch clearance from Logan. Thankfully, the assistant referee was right in line and well placed to give the goal to Burn though initially it looked like Hayter had got a faint touch.

Stech then saved from Trotta's glancing header and McAllister's low scuttler of a free kick was easily gathered by Moore as the half ended. But the Bees were given an early second half lifeline when they pulled a goal back five minutes in. Toumani Diagouraga

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Main: Shaleum Logan's attempt to clear off the line is in vain as Dan Burn's header makes it 2-0

Far Left: Dan Burn rises highest to head in Yeovil's second goal

Left: Gary Johnson and the Yeovil coaching staff celebrate at the final whistle





and Dean had already gone close when Adam Forshaw's outswinging corner was met by Dean who thumped his header past Stech.

The goal breathed new belief into Uwe Rosler's side and they came so close to making it 2-2 just after the hour in near-identical circumstances. Forshaw again swung a cross over from the right flank and Donaldson's flicked header was superbly saved by Stech. The Czech stopper then saved with his legs after

Forshaw had played a one two on the edge of the box before firing a left foot shot.

The keeper was playing a more prominent role in proceedings as the game went on and he dived full length to parry an acrobatic volley on the turn from sub Bradley Wright-Phillips. Logan then shot from outside the box, his attempt whistling just past Stech's left hand post and Sam Saunders, on

for Forrester, sent over a corner that Dean headed just wide as it was now becoming all Brentford.

As time went by, fingernails were being bitten to the quick as the Bees, roared on by the majority of the 41,955 crowd, looked to force extra time having been behind for almost all of the match; Saunders blasting way over from outside the box with his side's latest chance.

Main: The Yeovil players celebrate with the League One play-off trophy



The last action for referee D'Urso's notebook was to book non-playing sub Gavin Williams who, while warming up on the touchline, hoofed the ball into the crowd as it came towards him. The official then blew his whistle for the final time after six minutes of nervy stoppage time and the 19,000 Yeovil fans could finally celebrate another step on their meteoric rise up the pyramid of English football.

The statistics showed that Brentford had finished above Yeovil in the npower League One table, brought more fans and created three times the number of goal attempts. But the most important stat was that Gary Johnson's side scored two and Uwe Rosler's side only one. It meant a seventh play-off heartbreak for the West Londoners while the Somerset side had a historic season in a brand new division to look forward to when August came around. ■

Brentford: 21. Moore, 14. Logan, 5. Craig, 6. Dean, 24. Bidwell, 4. Forshaw, 12. Adeyemi, 20. Diagouraga, 9. Donaldson, 19. Forrester, 11. Trotta. **Subs:** 16. Gounet, 2. O'Connor, 7. Saunders, (Forrester, 67), 17. Wright-Phillips (Trotta, 62), 18. Hodson, 8. Douglas, 23. Hayes (Diagouraga, 82).

Yeovil Town: 1. Stech, 2. Ayling, 5. Webster, 18. Burn, 3. McAllister, 22. Dawson, 20. Edwards, 8. Upson, 14. Foley, 9. Hayter, 17. Madden. **Subs:** 12. Stewart, 4. Hinds, 10. Williams, 13. Maksimenko (McAllister, 77), 15. Young, 26. Dolan (Hayter, 88), 29. Balanta.

Referee: Andy D'Urso

Attendance: 41,955 (approx 19,000 Yeovil fans)

'I decided to take a touch

When I was lining up before the game, I was very excited. Playing at Wembley is great; a lot of my family were back home watching the game and I couldn't wait for the match to kick off.

Before I scored the goal, I had a chance but it was blocked. But for the goal itself, I didn't think it was a good chance but I turned it into a good one. A lot of people wouldn't have shot from there but as the ball came in, I took a look over my shoulder to see where the defender was. I could see he was a good few yards away so I decided to take a touch and get my shot away. Luckily it went in.

It was the best goal I've ever scored and it was a very good technical goal. When it went in, I was a bit shocked, not only to score at Wembley and with the outside of my foot, but from that far out as well. My emotions took over and I ran over to celebrate in front of my family.

After the goal, it isn't difficult to stay focused. Okay, you've just scored a goal but you just keep trying your best to keep playing well and hopefully take another opportunity if it comes your way. I had to put it out of my mind because

you just can't stand out there on the pitch saying 'Oh, I've scored a goal at Wembley.' There was still a lot of time left, I think it was the fifth minute when I scored, so I couldn't stand around, it wouldn't have helped the team. The time



and get my shot away'

to celebrate was at the end of the game.

After Dan (Burn) scored the second goal just before half time, I felt we would go on to win it. In a league game, if you go 2-0 up, you should fancy yourself to go on and win from there. We had beaten Brentford home and away that season and although there was always room for a mistake, I didn't really fancy them to come back. To be fair to them, they



bashed us in the second half which was always going to happen; they came back at us and nearly got back in the game at the end.

Afterwards on the pitch, the celebrations were pretty good. It was a great day for me and Kev (Dawson); we're obviously very proud to be Irish and to go round Wembley after winning the play-off final with the Irish flag and my best friend, in front of all my family was brilliant. ■

Paddy Madden



Main: Paddy Madden wheels away in delight after giving Yeovil the lead with his brilliant long range strike

Top: Paddy Madden and fellow scorer Dan Burn celebrate with the play-off trophy after the game

'Glancing at a map of the London Underground, three words made it all click'

Looking at a map of the London Underground is not usually an emotional experience for me.

But, for me, standing at the side of a crowded concourse at Euston station as I waited for my train home just hours after our play-off final victory at Wembley, it became one.

The day had been a roller-coaster of emotions, going from the almost serenity of the build-up, the elation as Paddy and Dan Burn's goals hit the net, the nail-biting tension waiting for the final whistle to blow, and then the numbness and disbelief which hit me as the final whistle blew.

I have weaned myself off thinking 'look how far we've come', to the extent that I almost resent other people saying it – which, if my non-Yeovil-supporting mates are anything to go by, only encourages them to say it even more!

It was for this reason that hearing Gary Johnson's talk about how survival in League One could no longer be considered success was the best thing I had ever heard from a Yeovil Town manager.

"We don't want to be seventh and everyone say we were unlucky - if we don't get promoted we've failed," he said as the season neared its finale.

He was saying he believed we could be better and we – supporters, staff and, most importantly, players – had to believe it as well. Did we? I don't think we all believed, but I think we all wanted to believe.

My favourite time as a supporter dates back to probably one of our lowest ebbs, two seasons in the ICIS League



Premier Division between August 1995 and May 1997.

Probably because of my age (15-17 years old, at the time), I was able to attend every match home and away – even the Somerset Premier Cup matches – and loved every minute of it.

Trips to Harrow Borough, Hendon, Boreham Wood, Enfield, et al, scruffy little grounds in the suburbs of London, but it felt like we all enjoyed it, a stark contrast to the almost constant misery of the GM Vauxhall Conference days which preceded it.

For some reason, it was a trip to Harrow Borough which sticks in my mind above all others of that time. There was nothing really special about the place, the performance or the result, to explain why, but it did and still does.



It was not until the first coming of Gary Johnson in 2001 (as a 21-year-old) that I truly felt that sense of enjoyment again.

Cut back to the final whistle at Wembley on Sunday, May 19, and you would have found me feeling what I can



only described as, almost like an out-of-body experience.

It was all happening in front of me, yet it still didn't seem real, it still didn't seem like we'd made it and I just stood one hand on my head trying to take it in.

The cheers, the victory lap around

the Wembley pitch, even deconstructing the performance and the significance of our victory in the pub afterwards did not quite make it sink in.

But, stood on that concourse at Euston station and glancing at a map of the

London Underground, three words made it all click. Five stops from Wembley Central at the end of the Bakerloo line: Harrow and Wealdstone.

That time, for one last time, I realised how far we had come. ■

David Coates

‘I couldn’t quite believe we were here, I said to myself ‘just love every minute’



After a long season with plenty of ups and downs, our trip to Wembley had finally arrived. Having been disappointed here before in 2007 there was a very different feeling when I woke up that morning. It was an overwhelming realisation that maybe; just maybe, we could achieve the seemingly impossible. With lots of friends and family in attendance at our house before we set off everyone could tell that my sister, dad and I were feeling incredibly nervous despite all the excitement.



We got the train and began walking down Wembley Way becoming a part of a sea of green and white; the optimism just seemed to be with us. As a football club we thrive on being the underdog, and although the Brentford support was fantastic, it was clear which set of fans were enjoying the day out more!

As I took my seat, I couldn't quite believe we were here. I said to myself "just love every minute," and I certainly did when the 6th minute came along, Sam Foley made a fantastic run but his final ball hit Brentford defender Shaleum Long, only to fall to the outside of Paddy



Madden's boot. As soon as he made contact I knew it was going in and never have I been so ecstatic, celebrating a goal at Wembley Stadium is something I will never forget.

As the half wore on, we played some fantastic football and deservedly got a second goal, albeit in a somewhat more bizarre fashion. We weren't sure for a while if it had crossed the line. I am pleased to say that it was not a dubious decision and Dan Burn will always hold a place in our hearts for that header.

Half-time came, and everyone I was with went to get some food, but I had to stay put. I was way too nervous and spent

time worrying about the second half and the fact that we were in the driving seat. We were the underdogs remember?

The second half began pretty much as expected; Brentford took control and got the goal their dominance warranted. The rest of the half was all Brentford and our defence really were outstanding, they did not miss a clearance. Six minutes of added time came up on the board and seemed to last a lifetime. As the ball was cleared and fell towards where I was sitting, the whistle went... we had done it. I was stood still, only for a friend to shake

me and say "Sheridan, you're promoted."

I put my head in my hands and had an overwhelming feeling of pride. Little Old Yeovil were in the Championship and deservedly so. The celebrations went on for what felt like forever and the smile on my face remembering that day has still not disappeared. ■

Sheridan Robins

Programmes of the Decade 2003-2013





Chapter Five

The Pla



ayers



If you were going to design a central midfielder from scratch, chances are it would turn out as a strange hybrid creature. It would have the tackling ability of a police dog, the leap of a salmon, the heart of a lion and the vision of an owl. That is some blend, but at Yeovil Town, such a player actually existed. His name was Darren Way.

Nowadays, kids as young as six play organised football but for the young Plymouth lad, he was ten before he started playing. "I went along with my mates and played with the Boys Brigade; they saw me play a game then afterwards, had a word with my old man saying he should get me into a team. Before then, I was just knocking the ball around the car parks of the Barbican, Plymouth."

After somewhat of a late start, the next stage of Darren's development was a meteoric one to say the least. Once playing regular football, Plymouth Argyle's Centre of Excellence spotted him and he soon became a fixture in their youth system, leading on to playing for the South West region and finally England international honours at the age of 15. That side saw Darren mix with the likes of Michael Owen, Steven Gerrard and Wesley Brown, esteemed company indeed, a long way from the Barbican days of just five years before.

One benefit to playing with such top quality players was that the youngster himself was in the shop window. Norwich City spotted him playing for the England youths and invited him up to Carrow Road for a closer look, then offered a formal apprenticeship. "The chief scout there was Duncan Forbes, a quality player in his own time, and he knew someone down in Plymouth who hinted he might want to take a look at me. I went up to Norwich for a trial, impressed them and that was it."

"It was so hard, so tough at the age of 14 or 15," confesses Darren. "I used to get on the train at Plymouth at one o'clock on Saturday lunchtime and not get to Norwich till seven at night, then have to play on a Sunday. I would meet Craig Bellamy at Bristol and we travelled up to Paddington, catch the tube to Liverpool Street then up to Norwich on

another train. I can't see many parents letting their kids do it nowadays but it was the best thing that could have happened, it made me grow up quick."

It was the beginning of a friendship between the two young lads that lasts to this day. "We got to know each other really well and there were arguments at the time. But Craig's a winner and when you come across single-minded focussed people like him, they can appear hostile whereas they just want to win at all costs." This particular friendship was built to last as events later in Darren's life would prove.

"I used to get on the train at Plymouth at one o'clock on Saturday lunchtime and not get to Norwich till seven at night, then have to play on a Sunday"

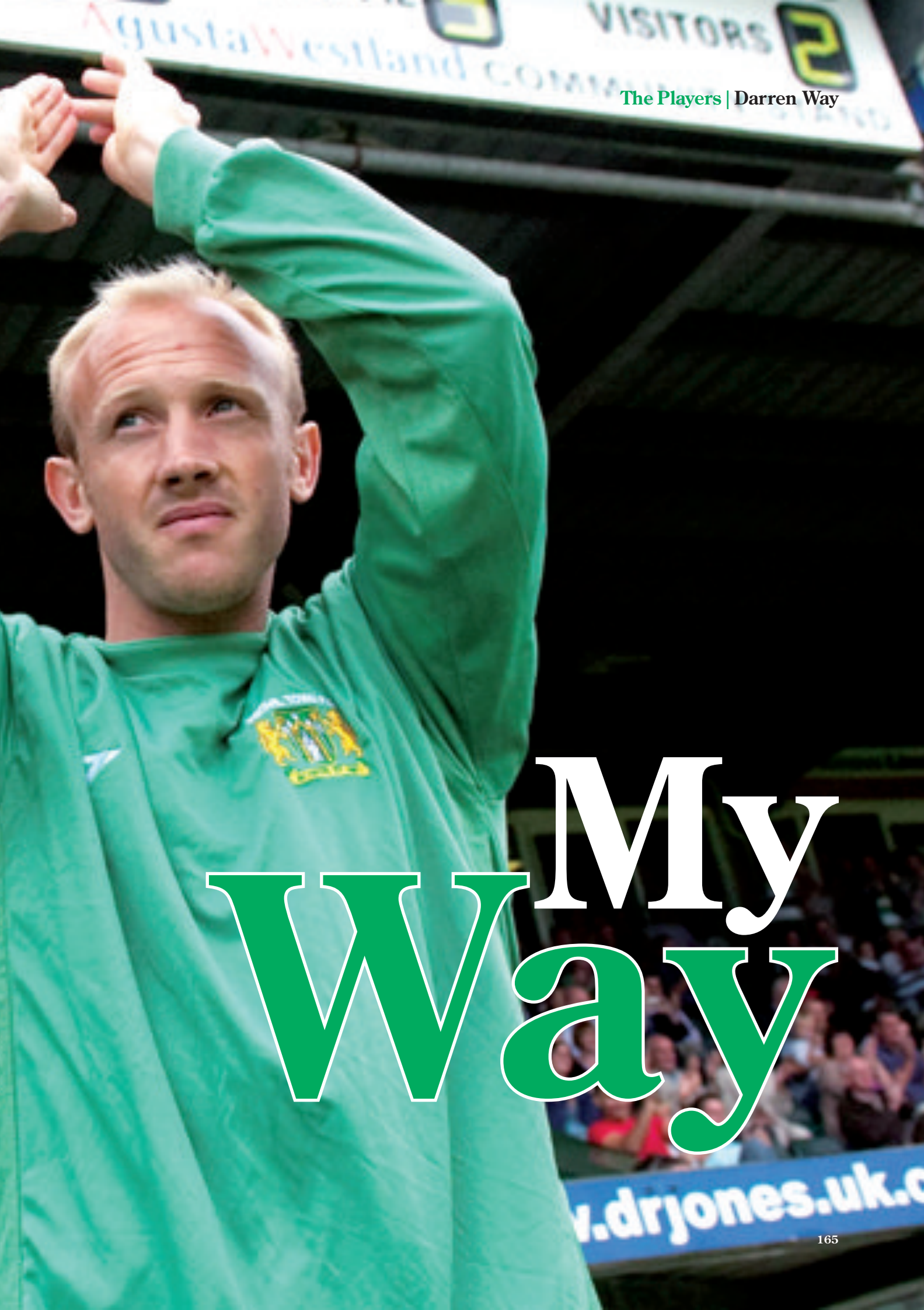
During his time with the Canaries, he made the bench at Swindon and Sheffield Wednesday but that moment where manager Mike Walker made the call for Darren to come on never materialised.

After the conversation, when the Canaries informed Darren he was to be released, came the return to the South West, but not yet to Yeovil Town. "I spent the whole of pre-season with Bristol Rovers who at that time were under Ian Holloway. I went away on tour with them to Portmarnock in Ireland but when I got back, they told me that they wanted me to stay another week or two but me being me, I wanted an offer there and then."

The impasse couldn't be bridged but as luck would have it, Darren's dad and Yeovil assistant manager Steve Thompson's dad were workmates in Plymouth so the invitation soon arrived to try out at Yeovil. "I played in a friendly and Maurice O'Donnell asked me to come back for a second game which Webby (then manager David Webb) watched. He then signed me on a two-and-a-half year deal the next day."

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The Players | Darren Way

My way

www.drjones.uk.c



"I came on as a sub in the first home game of the season against Kettering and I said to myself that once I was in, I wasn't going to give up my place in the team. I made sure I was the mainstay of the football team when I came on and I never looked back, I wasn't going to give that up."

He wasn't joking either, as the stats prove. In the next three fantastically successful seasons, from 2000-01 to 2002-03, Yeovil's history changed forever. Finishing runners-up in Darren's first season, they then finished third and won the FA Trophy at Villa Park before finally winning the Conference at a canter in the final season. The diminutive midfield dynamo made 133 appearances during that success, scoring 16 times including one in the Championship-clinching match at Doncaster Rovers.

Then came one of the most gratifying parts of his Huish Park career, being named as captain of the club in their first Football League season, 2003-04. "To be given the title of captain of a football club that had been going for 108 years was a proud moment, certainly from where I'd come from. Although I had been at two league clubs before, this was my full league debut; I'd had to take a step backwards to go a step forwards in my career."

Main: Darren Way shows Leeds United striker Luciano Becchio who's boss

Top: Darren in his hospital bed at Yeovil Hospital after his serious road accident in 2008

Every good centre midfielder needs a partner and for Darren, it was Lee Johnson. Arriving after his father was appointed manager in the summer of 2001, Lee and Darren formed the ideal midfield pairing, complementing each other superbly. In the four full seasons that they played together, Lee played 197 games and Darren made 178 appearances as between them, they sewed up the engine room positions perfectly. But although fans may have memories of Lee playing the fancy passes and Darren doing the clearing up job, the player himself would rightly dispute that.

"Lee and I worked as a combination because we were both winners and we were a great combination. We had an almost telepathic relationship where if he was on the ball, I'd make a run and he'd know where to find me and vice versa. There were many occasions when we came up against players who were bigger than us and who thought they were more aggressive but as a pair, we used every trick in the book to make sure we kept the advantage."



"And we also demanded that of everyone around us in the team. It was wrong to pigeon-hole us as one player who passed the ball around and the other who tackled all the time. We were both good at both jobs; in my first season at the club, I scored 12 goals and it was later on that I had to become more unselfish for the team and do more defensive work further back.

"I felt like I was policing the central area so that Gav (Williams) and Macca (Michael McIndoe) could do their bit. The dressing room was a great place to be in those days. It could be hostile at times because some of us, me included, weren't afraid to voice our opinions. The gaffer knew we were doing it because we were all winners."



And winners they certainly were. The debut Football League season ended in narrowly missing out on the play-offs on goal difference. But the following campaign ended in glorious triumph as Yeovil Town won the League Two title in style. At the start of the following season, Johnson senior upped sticks and moved to local rivals Bristol City and shortly after Christmas came the moment Town fans had been dreading. Darren was off to pastures new, Swansea City in fact, after Kenny Jackett made his move.

"I feel I was playing my best football for Yeovil just before I got my move to Swansea," he admits. "But I felt I needed a new challenge as I'd been at the club for five years. I've always looked at the

bigger picture regarding my career and I felt I was ready to make the step up. The club made me one of the best offers they'd made anyone to keep me but I knew I had to go."

"I don't regret moving to Swansea to this day; in fact I'd say it was the best move I've made in football. I was playing with Roberto Martinez, Leon Britton, and Lee Trundle. When I was there, I couldn't control the injuries happening but what I could do is give everything in every

"To be given the title of captain of a football club that had been going for 108 years was a proud moment"

game that I played for them. Looking at that bigger picture again, from an educational point of view, I was studying for my UEFA B Licence while at Swansea and I was learning off some great managers; Kenny and Roberto (Martinez) at Swansea and obviously Gary at Yeovil, they've all enjoyed success."

A shin injury restricted him to just 17 appearances in his first 20 months at the Liberty Stadium. After recovering, but struggling to break back into the Swansea side, Darren felt he should go out on loan, But to whom? "Kevin Bond and Rob Newman said they wanted me down at Bournemouth. Then I got a phone call from Russell Slade saying he wanted me. I'd been talking to Terry

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regularly anyway as friends so the deal was done to come back on loan.”

His return, in November 2007, proved he was still as influential as ever. His eight game loan spell yielded 13 points and enhanced his reputation as a club legend before his return to South Wales and eventual promotion to the Championship with the Swans.

Just as things were looking settled, they weren't. “I came back for pre-season and suddenly an influx of new players came in to take them to the next level,” says Darren. “At the time, I still thought I had the rest of my career ahead of me and I wanted to play games and get back into the Championship. Yeovil came in for me and it felt right. One or two other clubs were interested but this move felt like I'd been on a journey and that it was time to come home.”

The season began and although the Glovers struggled a little, they were fighting their corner and Darren was playing regularly and contributing. All was well in the world of Way as he rebuilt his career back at his adopted home club. That was until Wednesday December 17, 2008, a day that would change Darren's life for ever.

Darren recalls the whole story with remarkable clarity. “We had gone to a Christmas party the night before in Bournemouth. I was meant to be staying overnight with Terry (Skiverton) and Nathan (Jones) but because I wanted to be organised for the next day, I left that night. Josh Wagenaar brought me and two other lads home that night. I woke up the following morning, met the stadium technician Bruce James and picked up a van to collect some removals stuff.”

“We were driving along the road and noticed a 4x4 car coming from the opposite direction overtaking. Before we knew it, he was on top of us and we didn't have chance to swerve out of the way. I remember the impact so well; I did have a moment to try to prepare for the impact and I believe that if I hadn't been a professional footballer, I wouldn't have survived. I primed myself like I would go into a tackle, adopting that clenched position and putting my arm on to the dashboard. I managed to stay alive just by being me, going into a tackle.”

The impact was huge, making the

4x4 “bunny-hop” over the van. Darren's injuries were extremely severe and make grim reading. Fracture-dislocation of the right hip, fracture-dislocation of the left patella, fractured left femur, fracture-dislocation of the right elbow, fracture-dislocation of the right wrist, fractured left tibia and fractured right tibia. But his split-second reaction to the inevitable impact had almost certainly saved him from probable internal bleeding and worse.

After initially being treated at Dorchester Hospital, Darren's recovery also entailed treatment at Frenchay Hospital, Bristol and at Yeovil. The extent of his injuries shocked all that knew him and it looked to be a huge test of his famed character to battle back from such adversity. One of the visitors at the Bristol hospital was a certain Craig Bellamy. Fresh from scoring twice in a 4-1 win for West Ham against Portsmouth, the Welshman called in on his old mate with a Gianfranco Zola shirt signed with a personal message from the genial Italian, a favourite of Darren as he was growing up.

“I wanted to give something back to the football club. Terry had stuck by me and it was time for me to repay him by giving what assistance I could”

Darren's rehab continued with a knee operation in London because, in his own words, “there was only one thought in my mind, I was going to come back a footballer.” The recovery continued both physically and mentally with many little obstructions along the way. “Terry took me to Tamburino's coffee shop one day and I felt really self conscious in the wheelchair. He also asked me if I wanted to go out running one day and then, I began to feel like I could make it back.”

However, the moment he knew that maybe it was all over came at a local park, playing with son Mason. “I went to side foot the ball back to him and quickly realised that it would be the end. My hip was probably the worst injury I'd

suffered and after all the rehab, to barely be able to side foot a ball when at some point, I'd need to get into tackling like I did before – I knew it was time to call it quits.”

“I had already been coaching the Under-14's anyway so on my first day back at the club, I took myself out of the first team dressing room. I didn't want to be seen as a token gesture or employed out of sympathy. Terry wouldn't employ me as a coach unless I could do the job properly. I didn't want to stand around doing nothing; I wanted to give something back to the football club. Terry had stuck by me and it was time for me to repay him by giving what assistance I could and working really hard for him.”

After the acceptance that his career was over, came the deserved testimonial. “Mike Milligan, Yeovil's chief scout at the time, and I went to meet Sir Alex Ferguson in Manchester. I knew from other players that there was a long waiting list to be granted a testimonial but Sir Alex sanctioned it all in six weeks. He could see there was genuineness in the situation and he knew I'd dealt with the PFA chief Gordon Taylor previously so he granted me a game against United in July.”

The game ended in a 3-2 win for Yeovil with nearly 7,000 fans turning out for Darren's finale. The man himself came on for a cameo at the end, prompting emotions in many who were there watching. “I wanted the day to be special and for it to be exciting for my family, my friends and the fans. To finish that way, against Ole Gunnar Solksjaer and United at Huish Park was a special occasion. I have so many people to thank for that day being so great; the club were so supportive and loyal to me all the way through a very difficult situation.”

Loyalty, though, is a two way street, it simply doesn't work when one party ignores the premise. For Darren Way, he gave Yeovil Town six seasons as a player and now plays a big role on the coaching side. His influence on the team is more discreet now that he's not out there in central midfield yet Darren Way has been involved with every Glovers' promotion of the decade.

And that's no coincidence! ■

Main: Darren shows his affection for the Yeovil fans during the League One play-off final against Brentford





Keeping up with Mr Jones

As quality signings go, picking up a Championship-experienced left back for free isn't a bad bit of business. But when that player then stays with the club for seven years making over 200 appearances and captains the side to a play-off final leading by example, that's even better. Throw in three years as assistant manager and first team coach and you've got yourselves one of the best signings in the club's history.

Nathan Jones signed on June 28, 2005 after being released from Brighton & Hove Albion. But those supporters that like their summer friendlies might remember Nathan's first match at Huish Park two years previously as the Welshman reveals.

"I was with Brighton and we came down in pre-season for a friendly. It wasn't ideal preparation as we were stuck in terrible traffic and it took us

about seven hours to get there. We went straight to the ground and honestly, we were outplayed. We were a good squad that was literally the same side that earned two promotions before getting relegated. Yeovil hadn't long been promoted to the Football League and I could see how they wanted to play. I was marking Gavin Williams that night and had a really hard time of it."

Yeovil won that game, played eight days before the League debut at Rochdale. The match though stuck in Nathan's memory and when two years later in 2005, his release from the Seagulls brought five or six offers, he knew he should consider one in particular. "If I'm honest, it was an accumulation of the friendly game and

"I vowed that from that day on, nobody would ever question my physical attributes again"

a chat with Gary Johnson that convinced me. He told me some interesting stuff on how he wanted to play; I was 32 years old but unbelievably fit and it was a fresh challenge."

The pair were only to work together for nine games before Johnson left for Bristol City but the defender became an integral part of the team under new boss Steve Thompson. No player made more appearances that season than Jones, clocking up 48 in total. And he was building a reputation within Huish Park as a superb athlete, a desire that had burned since his mid-teens after what could have been a real career setback.

"I'd been at Cardiff City, the team I supported, but was released as a first year pro because they said I wasn't big enough. I thought I was good enough to play for their first team but they said otherwise. I vowed that from that day on, nobody would ever question my physical attributes again. I trained like an animal from then on and still do nowadays."

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The Players | Nathan Jones

The new season, 2006-07, brought a new manager as well, former Grimsby and Scarborough boss Russell Slade. On the field once more, Nathan was a vital cog in the wheel and although not top of the appearance chart, he did add another 47 games to his tally. He also contributed his first Yeovil Town goal, one that means a lot to him. "I'd always prided myself on my fitness and just 11 days before the match against Chesterfield, I'd had a hernia operation. To get back so quickly after the surgery and play a full 90 minutes was fantastic but to then score the winner was like a fairytale."

As goals go, it was a beauty too. With the game poised at 0-0 and the Huish Park clock showing 89 minutes, a Lee Morris cross was headed down by Adam Rooney to Nathan outside the box. He took aim and fired with his right foot; his volley bounced down off the crossbar and into the net for a goal alien to the rest of the game. After more than 80 appearances, it was a goal worthy of the wait and just about worthy of the extended celebration (with this book's author) that earned him a harsh yellow card!

The celebrations also exposed what Nathan believes was the secret to the side's success that season. The three points accrued helped the Glovers to fifth place in the League One table and eventually, a place in the end of season play-offs, Nathan saying that team spirit fostered by manager Slade was a lot of the reason. "The best thing that Russell did was to bring together a group of players who wanted to do well and work hard. If I'm honest, it was a bit like last year's team really; one or two good players and some unfancied ones but ones where they work hard for each other. We were good friends, we socialised together and trusted the older pro's in the squad."

"Russell was clever in the loan market too. He brought in Marcus Stewart (who ended up a permanent signing) and Leon Best and Martin Cranie were great additions too. One of the most under rated players that season was Lee Morris but they were all a fantastic bunch. The older players ran the changing room for Russell and we loved it."



The season was extended and Yeovil were to face Nottingham Forest. The first leg was at Huish Park on a Friday night and with almost 9,000 crammed into the little ground, an impressive Yeovil display on the evening wasn't enough to prevent Forest taking a two goal lead into the second leg. The first goal, one of two penalties awarded, came after Nathan

challenged James Perch for the ball. So was it a penalty?

"I'd like to say 'No' but it was an indecisive challenge by me," he confesses. "Before the game, I was so pumped up; a few things had gone on in the tunnel before the game that made me pumped up. But for this, I controlled my challenge; if I'd gone in decisively I'd have won the ball comfortably. I didn't actually touch Perch but I can see why

Main: Nathan celebrates after Yeovil's famous victory over Nottingham Forest in 2007



the referee gave it.” Kris Commons took the spot kick and scored it, sending keeper Steve Mildenhall the wrong way.

A second penalty, awarded for a Terrell Forbes foul on Jack Lester late on, saw Perch convert to double Forest’s advantage. It looked like season over for the Glovers, but luckily for all those of a green persuasion, the players and management didn’t feel the same way.

Russell Slade had a week to prepare for the second leg. “It was the weirdest sensation I’ve ever had as a player,” says Nathan. “All we spoke about was that we were by far the better team in the first leg and that we should have won comfortably. We didn’t fear Forest, we just felt that we needed to get the first goal and then we’d win. It seems strange saying it now but we genuinely believed it. We trained all week up to the game

but we didn’t do much actual preparation work; I remember we worked a lot on attacking play because we needed goals. We were quite relaxed about it and we played mainly matches in training. On the day of the match, we even went ten pin bowling and I can remember all the Forest Wembley flags on the bus to the ground. From then on, it was surreal.”

On the night of the game, the Yeovil fans penned in the corner of the Lower Bridgford Stand had just one word on their minds. That word was “believe”. And for a player to whom his faith means everything but is in a position to make a difference on the park, it’s what he had to do as well, as Nathan explains emotionally.

“The euphoria of that night stuck out as the best I’ve experienced as a player”

“After the first leg, I couldn’t understand, as a Christian, why we had lost after playing so well. I prayed a lot and got a passage from The Bible that said ‘Be still and know that I am God’. In the first leg at Huish Park, the Forest players were chanting ‘Win! Win! Win!’ in the tunnel before the game. As captain, I felt I needed to say something and I went a little bit mad and was pumped up. Yet at Forest in the second leg, they started it again and I just didn’t feel the need to say anything. After that, it was the best game I’ve ever been involved in.

“I’ve won the play-off final twice, been promoted three times and then with Charlton’s youngsters last season, I won three trophies with them as well and was immensely proud. But the euphoria of that night stuck out as the best I’ve experienced as a player. I wouldn’t have changed it for anything in the world. It was phenomenal!”

The events of that night are well chronicled but the 5-2 second leg win, a 5-4 victory over Forest on aggregate, led to a final against Blackpool at Wembley Stadium on May 27, 2007. It was an awful day and Nathan wonders if he might know why.

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“It was a really low key build up and I think that was our error. We didn’t do anything different and just treated it like it was just another game. We stayed at the Swallow Hotel, like we did when we played Leyton Orient; we arrived at Wembley late, took photographs on the pitch. That was Russell, he’d lost the play-off final the year before (with Grimsby) after preparing for days beforehand and he wanted to do it differently. It was logical in his mind, not for us. It was really low key and we put in a low key performance on the day. People said to us that our Wembley was the game before but it wasn’t. We were good enough, we just didn’t really show it. It didn’t feel like a play-off final till we lost and you realised the magnitude of what had happened.”

After the post mortem and the summer turnaround of playing staff, the season after was a disappointment with the Glovers finishing in 18th place on 52 points. In the February of the season after, Yeovil Town and Russell Slade parted company and the club’s owners chose the duo of Terry Skiverton and Nathan to lead the club forward as manager and assistant manager respectively.

“I was very proud when John Fry asked us,” he says. “I knew that we were both ready and that we would do a good job. I had felt from an early age that I was always going to be a better coach than a player so, for me, it was an opportunity. It didn’t start too well as we had a few problems to deal with from what was left before. But we managed to stay up that season and we had three good years in the job, progressing each season. The first season was the best grounding for management I could have had. I was analyst, dietician, a fitness coach, a player and an assistant manager all in one!”

“I think I’m an excellent coach but that’s me being arrogant. I think I led by example because when I played, other players could see how fit I was and wanted to replicate it. Even when I was assistant manager, I was still the fittest at the club so whatever I asked the players to do for me, I could justify it as I could do it myself.”



That fitness ensured he could continue his playing days until he was 39 years old. His career would finally end the same way Yeovil ended the 2013-14 season, with a 2-1 victory over Brentford, albeit at Huish Park and not Wembley. But the Rhondda-born star doesn’t regret a single minute. “Ideally when Terry and I took over, it would have been better if I had coached all day every day but we had such a small squad, it was a necessity for me to play. I loved playing. If someone had told me that I had 90 minutes left to do anything at all, I’d have said ‘Give me a game of football!’”

“Words can’t express how much I love Yeovil Town”

“It’s the greatest thing in the world behind my God and my family. I could still play now, into my forties, I’d have no problem whatsoever fitness wise. But at some point, you have to ask yourself whether you will be more successful as a coach or as a player. This is the career path I have chosen and I feel it is right.”

Towards the end came another of his personal highlights during his seven years at the club. It was a league game against Colchester United at Huish Park, a match few will remember without a peep at the record books. But for Nathan, that day meant a lot. “I remember that game ever so well,” he says. “I was getting pelters from my own crowd that day for being too old etc. I had an

unbelievable game and made a goal line clearance when we’d let a 3-0 lead slip to 3-2. I sat down in the dressing room afterwards filled with immense pride at the character I’d shown. No one will remember that game or anything about it but little things like that build your career.”

Two more games and that was it for Nathan. An ankle injury against Brentford saw an early exit on the hour mark and he never played for the club again.

Going back a few weeks, January 2012 had seen a switch in job title. Gary Johnson came in as manager with Terry Skiverton appointed his assistant and Nathan given a coaching role. Darren Way became technical coach and it didn’t take long before he realised there needed to be a change. “When Gary came in, I got on with him really well and we finished the season off well. But I always knew that he’d want a coach – Terry was assistant so he would have to do more coaching and there was Darren as well; I wanted to do all the coaching because that’s what I was so I thought I was going to stagnate. I spoke to Gary first, then I spoke to Martyn (Starnes, chief executive) and also John and Norman, the owners, and decided it was right to move on.

“It was the most amicable parting it could have been and it did us both a favour. I still had a year left on my contract so they could take my money and reinvest it in the playing budget. In return, the club could let me realise my coaching ambitions and looking back, it was an amazing move for everyone.”

And despite moving away from Somerset, Jones still has a plenty of affection for the Glovers. “I’m a Cardiff City supporter but I have three clubs in my heart. That’s Yeovil, Brighton and Charlton and, God willing, I hope they all do amazingly well. At Yeovil, I struggled at first to settle in as it was so different to Brighton but once I’d properly integrated, I had a brilliant, amazing life. Words can’t express how much I love Yeovil Town; I miss the place and I’m so proud of them for how they are doing. Yeovil is a fantastic club where dreams come true and the impossible is achieved.”

I think we’d all say “Amen” to that! ■

Main: Nathan shouts some orders during his time as the club’s assistant manager

Top: Posing as the club’s number 2 in 2009





The only way is Up

When he signed for Yeovil from Ipswich in the summer of 2010, few Yeovil fans would have been familiar with his name. A 20-year-old Suffolk lad and a midfielder who had shown precocious talent, he had been sent out on loan to Stevenage and Barnet to gain first team experience. Ipswich manager Roy Keane then advised him to look for another club, his agent suggested Yeovil Town and the rest, as they say, is history. And for Edward James Upson, it was a spooky reminder of a decade earlier.

As a youngster Ed, as he's known to almost all nowadays, played for a local side, Stowmarket. The team was run by Andy Gould, from the Yeovil area and a Glovers nut, who was the subject of ribbing from the players' parents, most of which supported the big sides. Little did he know that one of his little gems

would end up playing such a pivotal role in Yeovil's rise into the Championship ten years later, the same division as nearby Ipswich Town.

Speaking of the Tractor Boys, one day they came calling at Ed's house in Bury St Edmunds. "I was 12 years old when I signed for Ipswich at the time of George Burley, then Joe Royle and Jim Magilton. Growing up as a Manchester United fan, my heroes were Eric Cantona and Paul Scholes; I used to love watching them play and to see their characters, they were big names."

The teenager then started to make a big name for himself in April 2005 when he made a stunning entrance by scoring the winner in the FA Youth Cup Final

"I respected him for telling me I needed to take a step backwards; it's the best thing that's ever happened to me"

against Southampton. "I hadn't played in any of the earlier rounds but two of the lads were injured or ill and I came on for the last 15 minutes of the second leg of the final. The Saints had Gareth Bale, Theo Walcott and Leon Best in their team but in extra time, the ball was laid back to me 25 yards out and I just hit it straight in, no deflection or anything!"

It was an early peak in a blossoming career carefully nurtured by Ed's wonderfully supportive family who still follow him around the country now. Month after month of ferrying the young Mr Upson from school to training sessions twice a week then giving up weekends for the matches. At 16, Ed moved into digs as he began his scholarship with Ipswich before at 18, moving into a flat share.

He then spent time on loan at Stevenage before making his Ipswich bow the following season. "I came on as a sub at half time and scored a penalty in a League Cup shoot-out at Shrewsbury

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The Players | Ed Upson

and also played against Peterborough United in the next round." He finished the season out on loan again though, this time to Barnet who needed a spark of inspiration to save them from losing their Football League status.

At the end of the season, the Bees' safety was assured, but Ed's personal future was far from certain. Manager Roy Keane had already told him that his contract wouldn't be renewed - "I respected him for telling me I needed to take a step backwards; it's the best thing that's ever happened to me" - so his agent started making the phone calls to find a club. With that agent responsible for loaning many of the Tottenham lads to Huish Park at the time (Ryan Mason, Steven Caulker, Jon Obika etc), Yeovil Town was suggested as a possibility.

"I knew Dean Bowditch from his time at Portman Road so I rang him and he gave me a good report on the place and the people who worked there. I was really excited about coming down for a week's trial then on the second day, Terry (Skiverton) offered me a deal. First off, it was a year then he walked past me while I was on the phone to my agent and said 'You can have two (years)'. I was supposed to go to Oldham the following week for another trial but the Yeovil offer was too good to turn down."

Having signed on the dotted line, it marked a turning point in Ed's life, one he looks back on now as vital. "When I joined Yeovil, Terry and Darren said that I'd be a development player in the first season, to get me ready for the following year. I didn't really want to be that player, like all footballers I wanted to play, but I accepted it and it was the best thing for me at the time because of the way things have turned out. I played a lot from the bench and it helped ease me into things."

Ed's second season at the club saw a transformation, both physically and mentally. Arriving in Somerset 'a little overweight', the summer of 2011 saw him subject to a specially designed programme from assistant manager Nathan Jones that saw him come back leaner, meaner and sharper; ready for a campaign that saw him play almost twice as many games as the previous year. He also added goals to his repertoire,



notching five in total with a growing reputation for hitting stunning strikes from outside the box.

"I've always liked to score goals and see myself as more of an attacking midfielder. My trademark at Ipswich was that sort of goal and I've carried it on here." But when questioned as to which goal was the best he's scored for Yeovil, his FA Cup screamer at Fleetwood pips the Brentford strike from the 2012-13 season with an honourable mention for the Oldham beauty in there too.

Someone else who could see the immense potential in the midfield maestro was Gary Johnson who returned to the club in January 2012, halfway through Ed's second season.

The boss wasted no time in offering a new two year deal to the 22-year-old and agreement was reached in the hotel before the final away game at Huddersfield. "I liked his style of play, I liked his ambition and he seemed quite confident in me," says Ed. "I didn't really have any doubts, it was a straightforward decision to make. I've never looked back, especially what's happened since."

Fast forward to April 2013 after what was a truly fantastic season for the club and for Ed personally. For the third year running, there were more appearances and more goals from the influential star as he topped 50 games in the green and white. Yeovil cemented their place in the end-of-season play-offs where they would meet Sheffield United home and away with the first leg at Bramall Lane.

Main: Ed in action for the Glovers against Bournemouth during the 2012-13 season



However, initially in the tie, things didn't really go to plan for Ed. The Blades took a one goal lead from the first leg with a somewhat fortuitous goal from Callum MacFadzean that took a deflection and rolled in off the post. But the origin of the winner came earlier on in the move and the manager was keen to make that point. "The gaffer felt that I had pulled out of a tackle in the build up to the goal, and he had a right go at me in the dressing room afterwards. Looking back, he was probably right to have a go, given what then happened in the second leg."

Inspired by the comments or stung by the criticism is up for debate. But what isn't, is the Upson influence on the game itself, swung by two pieces of individual

brilliance. First of all, in the man's own words, is the description of the assist for Kevin Dawson's goal that levelled the tie. "Probably my best ever pass," he purrs proudly. "I was going to ping it out wide to Kev but I saw there was a massive gap between the centre half and the left back. It was literally a last minute decision to push it through the gap and it worked out perfectly. It was a great finish by Kev; he could have tried to smash it or anything but he threw his shoulder and the keeper was committed."

"I've always liked to score goals and see myself as more of an attacking midfielder"

"All week we'd talked of the importance of the early goal and that if we got it, we'd be back to 0-0 in effect. The longer the game went on with them ahead, the more tetchy we would have become, they would have just defended their 1-0 lead. So the goal set us up for what was a great game. We were good after that, weren't we!?"

When the clock ticked around to the 85 minute mark, enter the hero again with the goal that earned Yeovil a trip to Wembley for the final. "I remember Hayts knocking the ball out to Paddy and I was thinking that if I could get into the box, they only had one in there at the time. Sam (Foley) was on my shoulder, doubling up, so I wasn't sure whether any cross would come to me or him. In the end, the defender dropped and I got in there. I had to put the header back where the keeper came from, which was the easiest thing to do. It was more of a 'pass header' than anything else and I knew from the minute it left my head that it was in."

The timing of both goals was impeccable. An early strike to settle the nerves and level the tie was important but a late winner proved to be the perfect finale and the celebration reflected it. "I ran past the home end and then found my family in the main stand celebrating; they looked like they were in shock, probably because I'd scored a header!"

After the ensuing ten minutes of normal and stoppage time, it was all over and Ed, along with the other ten players, were engulfed in scenes rarely seen in a player's career. But for the hero, it temporarily took him back to his Barnet loan spell and the last game of football he played before joining the Glovers.

"I played the final game of the season and we needed to win to stay up. I'd hit the bar, had another cleared off the line but we scored in the last minute and had a pitch invasion. I'd been subbed so was on the bench at the final whistle and I remember feeling on the periphery as I was a loan player and hadn't really contributed. I thought how great it would be to see this and feel a real part of it and then it happened. It was a very special

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moment for me, I was willing the fans to run on at the end.”

The prize was, of course, the chance to play at the home of English football, the iconic Wembley Stadium. The opponents would be Brentford and at stake, a place in the Championship. Despite having played for his country at youth level, including playing for England Under-19s on the night Andy Carroll made his debut, Wembley would be a new ground to Ed and most of his team mates. Finals and new stadiums breed excitement, nervousness and a little tension so the Glovers played a blinder this time round by going up to Wembley before match day to enjoy the surroundings and click their cameras.

“We wanted to get the ‘tourist’ bit out of the way before the game,” explained Ed. “The boss did his visualisation bit on the stadium visit getting us to visualise taking corners, free kicks etc and talking to us all individually and collectively too. It helped take a lot of the nervous energy out of the situation.”

When the day itself came, Ed was in for a pleasant surprise. “I remember getting there and feeling like it was a home game. There was so many green and white supporters compared to red and white, it looked like we were outnumbering them. We as players felt the fans were a big help on the day with them having been to Wembley before.”

Andy D’Urso blew his whistle to start the match but within a minute or so, had stopped it again after skipper Jamie McAllister took a nasty blow to the nose from Brentford striker Clayton Donaldson. The interruption didn’t hinder Johnson’s men though who were in Wembley final mode. “We all felt so confident that although we obviously wanted Macca to get up and carry on, there was no panic within us, just a calm, steeliness. We felt like we were going to win the game even then.”

“I’d said to James Hayter, my roommate, after we watched Bradford versus Northampton the day before how great it would be if we could do a Bradford and go three up before half time. We scored a second just before the break and from then on, it was a game of two halves. We dominated the first half

and after they got their goal just after half time, they went quite long and threw everything at us; they had nothing to lose.”

Yeovil had to hold out for a lung-bursting six minutes of time added on by the official, Mr D’Urso, but they were prepared for it thanks to some training trickery from assistant manager Terry Skiverton. “We’d often be told that this would be our last lap but then Terry would turn round and make us do another lap or two afterwards, to prepare us for this sort of thing; extra time in a game situation where you run further even though you think you’ve given everything.”

Not surprisingly, it was bedlam at the final whistle. Ed was bundled by Gavin Williams, Lewis Young and Angelo Balanta but shortly after the trophy presentation, was collared to do the random drugs test with Luke Ayling. He explained: “We weren’t allowed in the dressing room until we’d provided a sample but the pair of us struggled to go; it was more than half an hour in the

“I ran past the home end and then found my family in the main stand celebrating; they looked like they were in shock, probably because I’d scored a header!”

end so we missed all the champagne spraying in the dressing room. Luke took even longer to go than I did!”

One great moment that the Bury St Edmunds boy didn’t miss out on was a brief chance to share his joy with his family. Retreating down the steps with his winners medal, Ed found his girlfriend Adele along with his parents, his brother and his sister-in-law and shared a hug with them. A special moment on a special day, a day that has left him eager to taste the feeling again. “I hope I get this chance again,” he admits. “You could say I’d rather go up automatically and have an extra three weeks holiday but you wouldn’t, would you? It’s the most exciting way to go up.” ■

Main: Ed celebrates his winning goal in the League One play-off semi-final second leg against Sheffield United with Sam Foley



Yeovil Town Football Club

Team of the Decade

(Voted for by Yeovil Town FC supporters via an online poll)



Right Midfield

1. Gavin Williams - 84%
2. Arron Davies - 8%
3. Nick Crittenden - 4%
4. Andy Williams - 2%
4. Andrejs Stolcers - 2%

Strikers

1. Phil Jevons - 32%
2. Paddy Madden - 27%
3. Leon Best - 12%
4. Marcus Stewart - 9%
5. Dean Bowditch - 8%



Manager
Gary Johnson

Left Midfield

1. Chris Cohen - 65%
2. Andy Welsh - 13%
3. Arron Davies - 7%
4. Andros Townsend - 6%
5. Sam Foley - 3%

Right Back

1. Craig Alcock - 30%
2. Lee Peltier - 29%
3. Luke Ayling - 16%
4. Andy Lindegaard - 15%
5. Kevin Amankwaah - 6%



Goalkeeper

1. Chris Weale - 63%
2. Marek Stech - 22%
3. Asmir Begovic - 5%
3. Stephen Henderson - 5%
5. Steve Mildenhall - 3%

Centre Backs

1. Terry Skiverton - 49%
2. Steven Caulker - 39%
3. Adam Lockwood - 3%
4. Paul Huntington - 2%
4. Scott Guyett - 2%
4. Terrell Forbes - 2%

Left Back

1. Nathan Jones - 48%
2. Nathan Smith - 22%
3. Colin Miles - 21%
4. Jamie McAllister - 8%
5. Michael Rose - 1%

Midfielders

1. Darren Way - 41%
2. Lee Johnson - 27%
3. Ed Upson - 14%
4. Shaun MacDonald - 12%
5. Chris Cohen - 5%

Substitutes

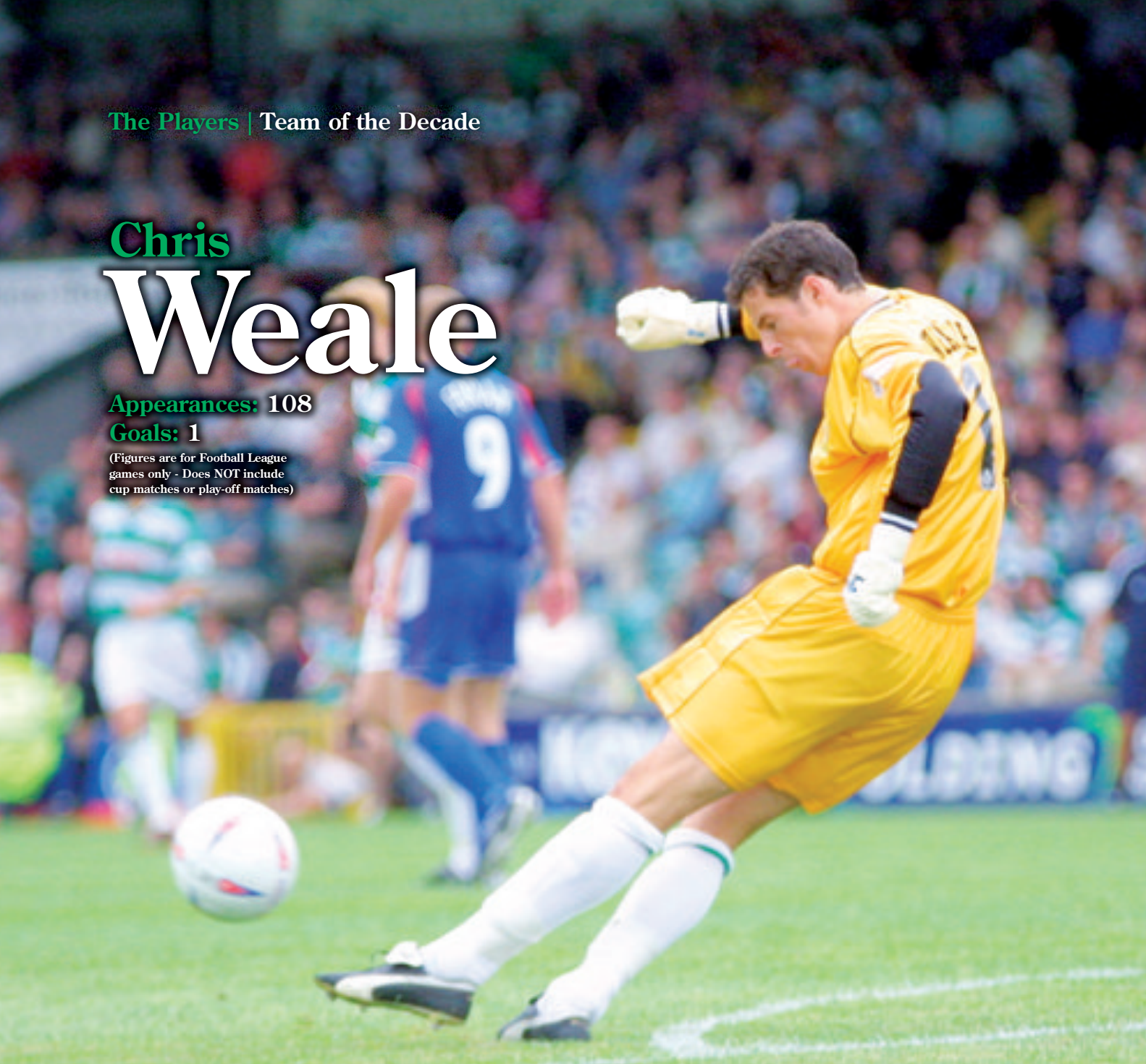
1. Marek Stech
2. Lee Peltier
3. Nathan Smith
4. Ed Upson
5. Shaun MacDonald
6. Marcus Stewart
7. Leon Best

Chris Weale

Appearances: 108

Goals: 1

(Figures are for Football League games only - Does NOT include cup matches or play-off matches)



When local lad Chris Weale arrived at Huish Park from Dorset side Gillingham Town as a fresh-faced 17-year-old in August 1999, little did anyone know what an important part the goalkeeper would play over the next seven years.

An imposing figure standing 6'2" tall, "Wealey" as he was christened by the Glovers faithful, was pretty much the complete keeper. The greats of the game have to possess a multitude of qualities and will often fail unless they have them all. Shot-stopping, coming for crosses, strong kicking, positional sense and agility are vital in keepers and the Yeovil keeper showed his strength at each as

the club rose up the pyramid from the Conference to League One.

Along the way, he made many vital saves, few more so than the superb tip over from then Stevenage striker Kirk

On April 21, 2009, he became a bona fide legend

Jackson in the FA Trophy Final. He also produced a stunning performance in the November 2003, 0-0 draw at Hull City, one of his finest games for the club.

After eventually leaving for Bristol City in June 2006, he returned to Huish Park towards the end of his three year spell at Ashton Gate on a loan deal. Five

successive clean sheets boosted his popularity further still but on April 21, 2009, he became a bona fide legend. With his Glovers side struggling just above the relegation zone and 2-1 down at home to bitter rivals Hereford United, the 6'2" keeper came up for a 94th minute corner and powered home a header to send the crowd wild in an astonishing finale.

At the end of the season, he returned to Bristol City before signing for Leicester City and spending three years with the Foxes before moving on to Shrewsbury Town in June 2012. ■

Craig Alcock arrived at the club as a teenager and progressed through the youth system, making his first team debut at Gillingham at the age of 19 on the last day of the 2006-07 season.

Born in Cornwall and equally proficient at the sport of cricket, he didn't make the first team on a regular basis until the 2008-09 season. Appearing mainly at right back but able to cover in the other defensive positions, his raiding runs down the flank were a feature of his play, often overlapping the right winger in the process.

Appearing mainly at right back but able to cover in the other defensive positions, his raiding runs down the flank were a feature of his play

The defender was also a threat at set pieces too, both in creating them with a quality delivery or getting on the end of them, as he did at Swindon Town when scoring his first goal as a first team player. "Ghost" as he was known to team mates, lived up to his name by appearing from nowhere at the back post to score with a close range shot to open the scoring in a 3-2 win.

Often vying for the right back berth with ex-Liverpool star Lee Peltier, Craig became first team captain the following season at the age of 21 and enjoyed an impressive season making over 40 appearances. Craig then added another 29 games in his final season at Huish Park though he missed more than two months of the season through injury.

Popularity with supporters was almost inevitable having been a local lad from an early age but he added to his status with a whole-hearted, honest attitude combined with a cool head

and energetic, determined tackling. His departure to newly promoted Championship side Peterborough United in July 2011 brought to an end a seven year association with the club for the then 23-year-old defender. ■



Craig Alcock

Appearances: 107
Goals: 3

The Players | Team of the Decade

Quite simply, every football team in the world should have a Terry Skiverton but as the song goes, there is only one, and he spent the best years of his career at Yeovil Town.

Arriving from Welling United in June 1999, the ex-Chelsea and Wycombe centre half became captain the following season and was a massive part in all of the success achieved by the team in the next few years. As skipper, he lifted three trophies in four years as the Clovers under Gary Johnson won the FA Trophy, the Conference title in record breaking fashion and then League Two in emphatic style.

A player who led by example through his bravery, determination, drive and energy

A player who led by example through his bravery, determination, drive and energy, "Skivo" also contributed his fair share of goals along the way.

As if a playing career encompassing more than nine seasons, a total of 382 first team appearances (putting him tenth in the all-time list) and scoring 42 goals wasn't enough, he then took on the role of manager in February 2009 following the dismissal of Russell Slade. Along with assistant Nathan Jones, the pair worked wonders and kept the club in League One working with a small budget for nearly three years.

When Gary Johnson returned to the club as manager in January 2012, Terry took on the role of his assistant, reuniting one of the most successful partnerships the club has ever seen and together the pair led Yeovil to the Championship with victory in the League One play-off final. ■

Terry Skiverton

Appearances: 194

Goals: 21

Steven Caulker

Appearances: 44

Goals: 0



In a period where the club used loan signings in abundance, few made the impact that Steven Caulker did during his brief time at Huish Park.

The tall, elegant ball-playing centre back turned up on loan from Premier League Tottenham Hotspur and was a relative unknown in Somerset at the start of a promising career. But by the time he left at the end of the 2009-10 season, his reputation had been hugely enhanced and many tipped him for a glittering career at both top flight and international level.

“Caulks” was just 17 when he made his full professional debut against Tranmere Rovers on August 8, 2009 and reached the milestone 25 appearance mark the day before his 18th birthday. He went on to play 46 first team games for Yeovil, displaying a cool, unruffled style and looking comfortable on the ball, leading to comparisons to Rio Ferdinand.

His reputation had been hugely enhanced and many tipped him for a glittering career

His impressive form led to the teenager receiving a call-up to the England Under-19s squad and when he left Huish Park after his solitary season, he took most of the end-of-season awards back to London with him and deservedly so. Upon his return to Spurs, Steven then enjoyed equally successful loan spells with Championship side Bristol City and Premier League outfit Swansea City and continued his meteoric rise up the football ladder. Playing eight times for England Under-21s, he also represented Great Britain in the 2012 London Olympics.

He began to make a big impact at White Hart Lane in the 2012-13 season, becoming a regular starter for manager Andre Villas-Boas. He also made his full international debut against Sweden in November 2012, scoring, and is set to enjoy a fantastic career at the top. ■

The Players | Team of the Decade

When a 32-year-old Welshman with a cultured left foot and an impressive physique arrived at Huish Park in June 2005, few Yeovil fans would have predicted the extent of the influence he would have on the club.

Nathan Jones joined in the summer having played in Spain as well as Luton Town, Southend United and Scarborough before spending five years at Brighton & Hove Albion. The left back clocked up nearly a hundred appearances in his first two seasons, showing an incredible level of fitness and consistency in his displays. That second season saw him captain the Glovers in the 2006-07 play-off final at Wembley against Blackpool.

Having taken his UEFA coaching badges while still playing, he then combined a coaching role with YTFC

“Jonesy” provided an experienced guide from his defensive position and assumed a mentor-like role in the team

Ladies team with a playing role in the first team. A superb example to the myriad of youngsters that came to Yeovil during his seven years at the club, “Jonesy” provided an experienced guide from his defensive position and assumed a mentor-like role in the team to help the less experienced players alongside him.

A proud patriot and committed Christian, the Rhondda-born star then

became assistant manager to Terry Skiverton in February 2009 as the pair spent three years maintaining Yeovil’s third tier status. Although the on-pitch appearances became fewer, his effect on the squad was no less strong from the touchline and when Gary Johnson arrived in January 2012, Nathan became first team coach, a role he kept until his summer 2012 departure to Charlton.

No biography of the defender would be complete without two more memories; a mention for “la bicycleta”, the famous step over that continually foxed opposition players, leaving them floundering. Neither should we forget his best Yeovil goal (one of only two) which saw a spectacular 20-yard volley with his right foot against Chesterfield in the 2006-07 season. ■



Nathan Jones

Appearances: 185

Goals: 2

One of the most popular stars to play for Yeovil this decade, Gavin Williams was at times a mercurial, magical, mesmeric talent that would surely have played in the Premier League had it not been for injuries.

The Welsh wizard was brought in at the start of the Conference title winning season from Hereford United and enjoyed a good first season but his second season was most impressive. Playing nearly 50 times in Yeovil's debut Football League season, he netted 13 times and proved his versatility by playing on the flanks, in the hole behind the front two or as a striker.

His impudent, sparky style made him a real favourite on the terraces

His impudent, sparky style made him a real favourite on the terraces while off the field, he was the club joker, a bright effervescent personality in the dressing room. He left Huish Park for Championship side West Ham in a big money deal in December 2004 but departed 13 months later for Ipswich Town after a loan spell there.

A move to Bristol City followed but in March 2010, he returned to his beloved Clovers on loan and enjoyed a fantastic two months, scoring five times in eight games to secure Town's third tier status. He rejoined again on loan from City the following season then came back for the final time in June 2011 after a short term deal with Bristol Rovers.

An asset to every Yeovil side he's played in, the Merthyr-born magician earned the nickname "Super Gav" after almost 200 matches in the green and white of Town and in season 2012-13, scored one of the best goals in his career when he ran 40 yards before hitting a screamer into the top corner against Oldham. He was released by the club in June 2013 having struggled to overcome several niggling injuries. ■



Gavin
Williams

Appearances: 127
Goals: 24

Appearances: 122
Goals: 16



Darren Way

Darren Way's arrival at Huish Park was instigated by manager David Webb in August 2000 and over the course of the next five and a half seasons, he and fellow midfield star Lee Johnson were vital cogs in the exciting wheel that was the Yeovil Town success story.

Blessed with an almost Zebedee-like spring in his heels, Plymouth-born Way was the archetypal terrier in the centre of the park, nipping in and winning tackles with determination, bravery and no shortage of energy too. And his legacy as a player would also be enhanced with a good scoring record, averaging around one in seven during his Football League days in Somerset.

Highlights at Yeovil were a-plenty with the three trophies in four years after Gary Johnson's arrival. One of the first names on the team sheet, he was named in the Football League Team of the Year in 2004-05. His form and consistency earned him a move to Swansea City in January 2006 but his spell in South Wales was injury-ravaged, playing just 21 times in two and a half years.

Plymouth-born Way was the archetypal terrier in the centre of the park

After a loan deal back to Huish Park was confirmed in November 2007, he then rejoined on a permanent contract the following summer but his return was all too short. Just before Christmas, Way was seriously injured in a road accident just outside Yeovil and after many operations, was forced to end his playing career.

Darren then joined the coaching staff, supporting manager Terry Skiverton and assistant Nathan Jones as the threesome kept the Glovers in League One against all the odds. His work as a technical coach is an invaluable back up to the management team. ■

The son of manager Gary Johnson, Lee followed his father to Huish Park in the summer of 2001 and spent four and a half seasons with the Glovers, winning three trophies. His partnership with fellow diminutive central midfielder Darren Way proved to be one of the best pairings seen at Non-League or lower league level.

The pair complemented one another perfectly and Johnson's part in it all was the creative element, the conduit to so many attacks. His position in the team demanded vision, accurate passing, drive and the confidence to put it all together and Johnson junior had all of

it in abundance. With the team winning three cups in four years, the midfield was at the heart of the success and contributed many goals each season in addition to assisting for the strikers.

Johnson scored 19 goals for Yeovil Town after they reached the League, some memorable. No one there on the night of August 24, 2004 will ever forget his extraordinary hat-trick against Plymouth Argyle in the League Cup, starting with a freak 45-yard attempted "sporting pass back"; nor his lightning quick thinking at a free kick to score in the League opener at Rochdale.

Johnson's part in it all was the creative element, the conduit to so many attacks

His creative ability saw him in the Football League's League Two Team of the Year for 2004-05 and the following season, he left for a brief spell with SPL side Hearts in January. He was reunited with his father again in August 2006 at Bristol City and spent five years at Ashton Gate before moving back to Scotland for a year with Kilmarnock.

Remarkably he became one of his father's managerial rivals in League One, as boss of Oldham Athletic, as the youngest Football League manager, appointed at the age of just 31. ■



Lee
Johnson

Appearances: 115
Goals: 14

A cultured, energetic quality left sided player is something that all teams need and when Chris Cohen signed on a loan deal with Yeovil Town in November 2005, those boxes were well and truly ticked.

Chris came to the Glovers from Championship side West Ham United and settled into life in Somerset very quickly. His lung-testing bursts from midfield, his willingness to track back plus his ability to spray passes around accurately were a joy to watch and his permanent signing in the summer of 2006 delighted Yeovil Town fans.

Although he was at the club for little more than 18 months, his effect on the team was huge. Turning 20 in his time at Huish Park, he was everything a manager could want; hard working, eager to learn and full of energy. Not to mention a sweet left foot. Little surprise then that he played 50 times in his only full season, chipping in with seven goals.

Although he was at the club for little more than 18 months, his effect on the team was huge

His time at Yeovil ended in despair though. He was rated as 50/50 for the League One play-off final following a groin injury sustained against Nottingham Forest in the semi final second leg. However, the gamble to play him in the Wembley final against Blackpool following an injection backfired and the youngster was forced off before half time in the 2-0 defeat.

It was Cohen's last game for the Glovers; when Forest came calling in the summer with a double bid for him and Arron Davies, the pair were off to the City Ground for more than a million pounds. His stay with Yeovil was all too brief but as his subsequent career at Forest proves, he was at least a Championship quality player. ■

Chris Cohen

Appearances: 74

Goals: 7



Phil Jevons

Appearances: 84
Goals: 42



After a successful debut season in the Football League, Yeovil boss Gary Johnson decided to fire up his front line and acquired a striker that had played at the highest domestic level.

Phil Jevons had come through the Everton youth academy as a prolific forward but played just nine times for the first team before moving to Grimsby. He averaged a goal every three and a bit games at Blundell Park which led Johnson to sign him in the summer of 2004.

On his day, “Jevo” was lethal in front of goal, particularly so from the penalty spot. In the title-winning League Two

season, the Liverpool-born attacker netted 29 times in all competitions, a superb return in his first campaign. He hit three hat-tricks in all (against Oxford United, Chester City and Bristol Rovers) and his longest goal drought was three games in total.

Any question as to whether Jevons could score a level higher up were soon answered. Although goals weren’t as abundant, he still managed a more than

On his day, “Jevo” was absolutely lethal in front of goal, particularly so from the penalty spot

credible 16 strikes with a three month barren spell in the middle. Two of the most important goals the Merseysider scored were to be his last two in Yeovil colours. In the penultimate match of Yeovil’s first season in the third tier, they were 1-0 down at Huddersfield in an encounter that would have seen a Yeovil win secure their place in the division. Up stepped Jevons and converted a penalty and a free kick in the second half - mission accomplished with a 2-1 win.

That summer saw the 26-year-old leave Huish Park to join his former manager Johnson at Bristol City. ■



Appearances: 35
Goals: 22

Paddy Madden

When a little known 22-year-old Irish striker arrived from Carlisle United on loan in October 2012, eyebrows were raised among the Huish Park faithful. Little did they know just what a massive part Paddy Madden would go on to play for the Glovers.

Seven months earlier, Madden had scored one of the goals in Carlisle's 3-2 win over Yeovil but his scoring really burst to life in the initial Glovers loan spell. Scoring twice on his debut against Colchester, he netted nine times in his first three months including braces at Shrewsbury and at home to Leyton Orient.

Madden broke a club record that had lasted five decades

His workrate, running and pestering defenders into mistakes, became a feature of his play and endeared him to the YTFC faithful. Gary Johnson signed the former Shelbourne forward on a two-and-a-half-year deal in January 2013 and he was repaid by an astonishing return of goals. Scoring in eight successive games, Madden broke a club record that had lasted five decades and in doing so, saw his side produce an imperious burst of eight consecutive league wins.

It turned Johnson's men into genuine promotion contenders in League One. Although the team's fortunes stuttered a little, Madden continued in a rich vein adding four in six games around Easter before enduring his longest goal drought at the end of the campaign, six games.

Players who work as hard, run as far and challenge defenders so often will come good, more so those who know where the goal is. And so it proved, at Wembley just six minutes in, Paddy Madden wrote himself into the history books with a brilliant strike to give his side the lead against Brentford. It was his 23rd goal of the season, and the icing on the cake in a season that had seen him also grab the League One Golden Boot. ■

Football League Player Stats - 2003-2013

No	Name	A	G	No	Name	A	G	No	Name	A	G
1	Chris Weale	108	1	75	Peter Sweeney	8	0	149	Ed Upson	104	5
2	Adam Lockwood	73	4	76	Nicky Law	6	0	150	Craig Calver	5	0
3	Colin Miles	86	4	77	Matthew Rose	38	1	151	Stephen Henderson	33	0
4	Roy O'Brien	27	0	78	Adam Rooney	3	0	152	Billy Gibson	9	0
5	Jamie Gosling	12	1	79	Darryl Knights	7	0	153	Ben Roberts	1	0
6	Lee Johnson	115	14	80	Tom Clarke	1	0	154	Adam Phillip	3	0
7	Gavin Williams	127	24	81	Craig Alcock	107	3	155	Ivan Sproule	2	0
8	Darren Way	122	16	82	Gavin McCallum	1	0	156	Tom Parkes	1	0
9	Nick Crittenden	29	2	83	Lloyd Owusu	45	10	157	Max Ehmer	51	0
10	Kevin Gall	123	13	84	Lee Peltier	68	1	158	Paul Wotton	45	4
11	Kirk Jackson	30	5	85	Paul Warne	76	5	159	Oli Johnson	24	3
12	Hugo Rodrigues	34	1	86	Marvin Williams	23	0	160	Alex Russell	14	0
13	Andy Lindegaard	94	3	87	Justin Cochrane	11	2	161	Andrew Tutte	15	2
14	Abdelhalim El Kholti	23	1	88	Ritchie Jones	9	0	162	Antonio German	4	0
15	Adam Stansfield	31	6	89	Wilfried Domoraud	5	0	163	Martin Gritton	2	0
16	Paul Terry	134	10	90	Jerahl Hughes	1	0	164	Steve MacLean	20	3
17	Ronnie Bull	7	0	91	Simon Gillett	2	0	165	Bondz N'Gala	31	2
18	Jake Edwards	27	6	92	Romain Larrieu	5	0	166	Jed Steer	12	0
19	Terry Skiverton	194	21	93	Kevin Betsy	4	1	167	Curtis Haynes-Brown	10	0
20	Stephen Reed	8	0	94	Gary Dempsey	16	2	168	Kerrea Gilbert	8	0
21	Lee Elam	12	1	95	James Walker	13	3	169	Kieran Agard	29	6
22	Simon Weatherstone	21	1	96	Zoltan Stieber	15	1	170	Alan O'Brien	13	0
23	Chris Giles	1	0	97	Marc Bircham	16	0	171	Anthony Edgar	10	1
24	Andy Bishop	5	2	98	Andy Kirk	17	4	172	Dominic Blizzard	54	4
25	Steve Collis	43	0	99	Jaime Peters	14	1	173	Gavin Massey	16	3
26	Lee Matthews	4	0	100	Liam Bridcutt	9	0	174	Flavien Belson	1	0
27	Dani Rodrigues	4	4	101	Simon Church	6	0	175	Marek Stech	51	0
28	Nathan Talbott	1	0	102	Scott Flinders	9	0	176	Darren Purse	5	0
29	Adrian Caceres	21	3	103	Martin Woods	3	0	177	Conor Clifford	7	0
30	Michael Rose	42	1	104	Jean-Francois Christophe	5	0	178	Gareth Stewart	1	0
31	Bartosz Tarachulski	42	10	105	Nathan Smith	112	1	179	Rene Gilmartin	8	0
32	Phil Jevons	84	42	106	Asmir Begovic	16	0	180	Ryan Dickson	5	1
33	Nicolas Mirza	3	0	107	Aidan Downes	34	1	181	Joe Edwards	39	3
34	Liam Fontaine	25	0	108	Danny Schofield	42	5	182	Dean Parrett	10	1
35	Kezie Ibe	3	0	109	Gavin Tomlin	77	14	183	Sam Walker	20	0
36	Andrejs Stolcers	36	5	110	Keiran Murtagh	53	3	184	Kelly Youga	1	0
37	Scott Guyett	89	2	111	Andre McCollin	13	1	185	Richard Hinds	35	2
38	Yemi Odubade	4	0	112	Gary Roberts	30	2	186	Lawson D'Ath	14	1
39	Arron Davies	110	22	113	James Dayton	2	0	187	Jonathan Franks	14	3
40	Kevin Amankwaah	53	1	114	Andy Welsh	111	6	188	Jonathan Grounds	14	0
41	Rory Fallon	11	1	115	Aaron Brown	23	3	189	Michael Woods	5	1
42	Marcus Richardson	4	0	116	Gareth Owen	7	0	190	Josh Morris	5	0
43	David Woolley	1	0	117	Scott Rendell	5	0	191	Sam Foley	41	5
44	Marvin Brown	2	0	118	Giftan Noel-Williams	6	0	192	James Hayter	44	14
45	Efetobore Sodje	25	3	119	Josh Wagenaar	22	0	193	Jamie McAllister	34	0
46	Nathan Jones	185	2	120	Luke Rodgers	22	3	194	Reuben Reid	19	4
47	David Poole	29	2	121	Shaun MacDonald	61	9	195	Gozie Ugwu	15	3
48	Luke Oliver	3	0	122	Aleksander Prijovic	4	0	196	Byron Webster	44	5
49	Matt Harrold	47	9	123	Jonathan Worthington	9	0	197	Keanu Marsh-Brown	21	1
50	Pablo Bastianini	20	3	124	Danny Hutchins	16	0	198	Nathan Ralph	14	1
51	Luciano Alvarez	4	1	125	Jonathan Obika	70	17	199	Lewis Young	15	0
52	Alejandro Melono	1	0	126	Andros Townsend	10	1	200	Rohan Ince	2	0
53	Chris Cohen	74	7	127	David Noble	2	0	201	Korey Smith	17	0
54	Anthony Barry	63	0	128	Danny Maguire	1	0	202	Archange Nkumu	1	0
55	Daniel Webb	8	0	129	Dean Bowditch	71	25	203	Dan Burn	34	2
56	Tommy Doherty	1	0	130	Steven Caulker	44	0	204	Paddy Madden	35	22
57	Marc Wilson	2	0	131	Ryan Mason	28	6	205	Daniel Johnson	5	0
58	Craig Rocastle	8	0	132	Alex McCarthy	44	0	206	Dale Bennett	1	0
59	Dale Williams	1	0	133	George O'Callaghan	12	0	207	Kevin Dawson	20	2
60	Terrell Forbes	160	1	134	Stefan Stam	21	1	208	Matthew Dolan	7	1
61	Wayne Gray	46	11	135	Sam Williams	70	6	209	Kwesi Appiah	5	0
62	Steve Mildenhall	75	0	136	Scott Murray	20	2	210	Wes Fletcher	1	0
63	Kevin James	6	0	137	Richard Martin	3	0	211	Ben Gordon	3	0
64	Lee Morris	34	5	138	Craig Davies	4	0	212	Jordan Cook	1	0
65	Ishmael Welsh	21	1	139	Owain Tudur Jones	20	1	213	Angelo Balanta	6	0
66	Jean-Paul Kalala	87	2	140	Scott Davies	4	0	214	Vitalijs Maksimenko	3	0
67	Mark Lynch	30	0	141	Luke Ayling	124	0		Own Goals		11
68	Marcus Stewart	67	12	142	Luke Freeman	13	2				
69	Kevin Cooper	4	0	143	Paul Huntington	77	7				
70	Anthony Tonkin	5	0	144	John Sullivan	13	0				
71	Martin Brittain	15	0	145	Adam Virgo	33	5				
72	Martin Cranie	12	0	146	Andy Williams	72	22				
73	Leon Best	15	10	147	Cameron Stewart	5	0				
74	Stephen Maher	7	0	148	Rob Kiernan	3	0				

KEY: No = YFCC Football League cap number,
A = Total Appearances, G = Total Goals

NOTE: Figures are for Football League games only
- Does NOT include cup matches or play-off matches



GERMANY
Max Ehmer



NETHERLANDS
Stefan Starn



SEYCHELLES
Kevin Betsy



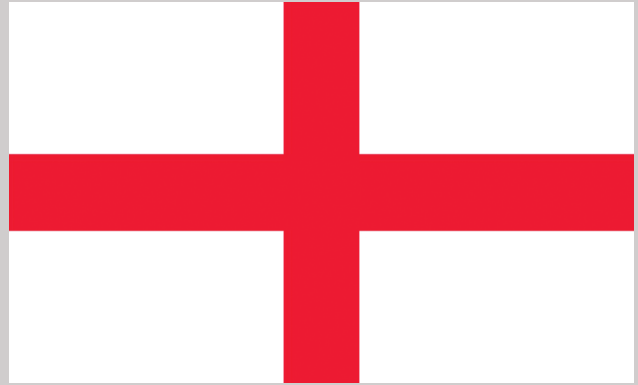
MOROCCO
Abdelhalim El Kholti



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
Asmir Begovic



HUNGARY
Zoltan Stieber



ENGLAND

Nick Crittenden
Jamie Gosling
Kirk Jackson
Lee Johnson
Adam Lockwood
Colin Pluck (Miles)
Darren Way
Chris Weale
Andy Lindegaard
Adam Stansfield
Paul Terry
Ronnie Bull
Jake Edwards
Terry Skiverton
Stephen Reed
Lee Elam
Simon Weatherstone
Chris Giles
Andy Bishop
Steve Collis
Lee Matthews
Nathan Talbott
Michael Rose
Phil Jevons
Liam Fontaine
Kezie Ibe
Kevin Amankwaah
Marcus Richardson
David Woozley
Marvin Brown
David Poole
Luke Oliver
Matt Harrold
Chris Cohen
Anthony Barry
Daniel Webb
Dale Williams
Terrell Forbes
Wayne Gray
Steve Mildenhall
Kevin James
Lee Morris
Ishmael Welsh
Mark Lynch
Marcus Stewart
Kevin Cooper
Anthony Tonkin

Martin Brittain
Martin Cranie
Nicky Law
Matthew Rose
Darryl Knights
Tom Clarke
Craig Alcock
Lee Peltier
Paul Warne
Marvin Williams
Ritchie Jones
Jerahl Hughes
Simon Gillett
Scott Flinders
Danny Schofield
Gavin Tomlin
Andre McCollin
Gary Roberts
James Dayton
Aaron Brown
Gareth Owen
Scott Rendell
Gifton Noel-Williams
Luke Rodgers
Jonathan Worthington
Danny Hutchins
Jonathan Obika
Andros Townsend
David Noble
Danny Maguire
Dean Bowditch
Steven Caulker
Ryan Mason
Alex McCarthy
Sam Williams
Richard Martin
Luke Ayling
Luke Freeman
Paul Huntington
John Sullivan
Adam Virgo
Andy Williams
Cameron Stewart
Ed Upson
Craig Calver
Billy Gibson
Ben Roberts

Adam Phillip
Tom Parkes
Paul Wotton
Oli Johnson
Alex Russell
Andrew Tutte
Antonio German
Bondz N'Gala
Jed Steer
Curtis Haynes-Brown
Kerrea Gilbert
Kieran Agard
Anthony Edgar
Dominic Blizzard
Gavin Massey
Darren Purse
Gareth Stewart
Ryan Dickson
Joe Edwards
Dean Parrett
Sam Walker
Richard Hinds
Lawson D'Ath
Jonathan Franks
Jonathan Grounds
Michael Woods
Josh Morris
Sam Foley
James Hayter
Reuben Reid
Gozie Ugwu
Byron Webster
Keanu Marsh-Brown
Nathan Ralph
Lewis Young
Rohan Ince
Korey Smith
Archange Nkumu
Dan Burn
Dale Bennett
Matthew Dolan
Kwesi Appiah
Wes Fletcher
Ben Gordon
Jordan Cook



PORTUGAL
Hugo Rodrigues
Dani Rodrigues



SWITZERLAND
Aleksander Prijovic



POLAND
Bartosz Tarachulski



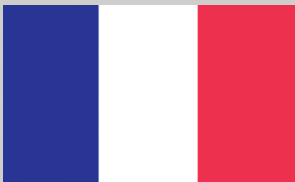
LATVIA
Andrejs Stolcers
Vitalijs Maksimenko



CZECH REPUBLIC
Marek Stech



URUGUAY
Alejandro Melono



FRANCE
Nicolas Mirza
Wilfried Domoraud
Romain Larrieu
Jean-Francois Christophe



CANADA
Gavin McCallum
Marc Bircham
Jaime Peters
Josh Wagenaar



COLOMBIA
Angelo Balanta



GHANA
Lloyd Owusu



GUADELOUPE
Flavien Belson



DR CONGO
Jean-Paul Kalala



**CENTRAL AFRICAN
REPUBLIC**
Kelly Youga



GRENADA
Craig Rocastle



NEW ZEALAND
Rory Fallon



NIGERIA
Yemi Odubade
Efetobore Sodje



ARGENTINA
Adrian Caceres
Pablo Bastianini
Luciano Alvarez



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
Justin Cochrane
James Walker
Keiran Murtagh



AUSTRALIA
Scott Guyett



JAMAICA
Nathan Smith
Daniel Johnson



SCOTLAND
Peter Sweeney
Liam Bridcutt
Martin Woods
Andy Welsh
Scott Murray
Martin Gritton
Steve MacLean
Jamie McAllister



WALES
Gavin Williams
Kevin Gall
Arron Davies
Nathan Jones
Simon Church
Shaun MacDonald
Craig Davies
Owain Tudur Jones



NORTHERN IRELAND
Andy Kirk
Ivan Sproule
Tommy Doherty



**REPUBLIC OF
IRELAND**
Roy O'Brien
Marc Wilson
Leon Best
Stephen Maher
Adam Rooney
Gary Dempsey
Aidan Downes
George O'Callaghan
Scott Davies
Rob Kiernan
Stephen Henderson
Alan O'Brien
Conor Clifford
Rene Gilmartin
Paddy Madden
Kevin Dawson

United Nations 2003-2013

(Only includes players who have made
an appearance for the club)