

THE BIG INTERVIEW - CLIFF MYERS

Although supporters will (quite rightly) point to the 1948/49 season and the Gary Johnson years as the "marquee" seasons, there was another period in the club's history when trophies came and the side were successful on the pitch. In the late sixties/early seventies, the Glovers were a dominant force in non-league football; at the heart of the team was Cliff Myers.

Cliff arrived at the club in January 1968 from Brentford, signed by manager Ron Saunders. So how did a Londoner come to turn up in leafy Somerset? He explains. **"I'd played with Paul Smith in London before at Charlton Athletic so when Ron rang up, I was straight down the A30 from Brentford"** he confirmed. **"It meant leaving the Football League of course but I was happy enough to do it."**

Cliff's arrival at Huish was a catalyst for a huge improvement in the team's fortunes. In his five seasons in Somerset, the attacker scored 84 goals in 329 appearances, an incredible record for someone who wasn't an out-and-out striker. It goes without saying that there were some massive highs during his time in the green and white, all of which he was happy to recount.

"I remember lots of great games with Yeovil. The FA Cup game against AFC Bournemouth in 1970/71 when I scored the winner against the Cherries including Ted McDougall, Phil Boyer and the rest; a Cup match when we beat Brentford 2-1 in 1972/73 and I scored past the Bees keeper Gordon Phillips who was godfather to one of my children and obviously the Arsenal game that followed the Bournemouth tie; all good memories."

Although the Glovers reputation as a giant-killer was maintained, it was in the League that Town really started to make moves. The Londoner helped his side to 12th spot in his first part season which was then followed by finishes of 8th, 2nd (by a point), 1st, 7th and 2nd (by a point again). The consistency of the team epitomised by players like Cliff who averaged almost sixty games a season was clear to see; in fact twelve of Yeovil's all time top twenty appearance makers played pretty much at the same time.

Cliff, by now in his late twenties, left Yeovil for Torquay United for the princely sum of £6,600 in 1973 before then moving on to Salisbury and Minehead in later life. His position in the pantheon of Yeovil Town legends was assured though; the team had won the Southern League Premier Division, finished runners-up twice, won the Southern League Challenge Cup, reached two FA Trophy semi finals and the third round of the FA Cup. Not a bad CV, eh?

Nowadays, Cliff can usually be found on the Greek island of Rhodes running the "Sunburnt Arms" in the town of Lindos although he's happy to confess he's taking more interest in his garden as others take the strain behind the bar. **"I look after my 1500 square metre garden nowadays. I only plant things that need trimming now but even this seems to take so long!"**

This year has seen two anniversaries clocked up. Cliff celebrated his 65th birthday last month and 2011 also marked the 20th anniversary of the Londoner moving to Greece having already had completed fourteen years in charge of a contract cleaning company. Originally the "Sunburnt Arms" was a restaurant on the beach but now it is a bar in Lindos run by the whole family with his daughter Natalie as licensee. His idyllic life also gives him the chance to return to good ol' Blighty now and again and we

caught up with him as he was in Yeovil, staying with good friend Dot Smith, wife of the late Paul, his former team mate.

"I'm over in England for a few weeks" he said. "I've got to have a minor operation soon so I've taken the opportunity to visit some good friends at the same time." Old habits die hard though and the ex-Glovers was soon in the stands watching his beloved team at the recent Johnstone's Paint Trophy tie with AFC Bournemouth, a foe of his almost forty years ago. **"I thought we didn't do too badly in the second half, we just need to sharpen up a bit."**

So there you have it. A bona fide legend returns to Yeovil Town nearly four decades after he left to catch up with some good mates. Ken Thompson, Stuart Housley, John Clancy (pictured with Cliff) and Terry Cotton amongst others met up with Cliff this time around and he's keen to keep in touch with colleagues old and new before he returns to the sunshine in the weeks to come. We all wish him well for his forthcoming op and hope that he'll pop back in to see the Glovers again soon.