

● YEOVIL Town FC's line-up for the new season. Back row, from left – Rob Cousins, Kevin Braybrooke, Tony Pennock, Jamie Smith, Dean Birkby, Chris White. Middle – Terry Cotton (assistant manager), Lee Groves, Jamie Laidlaw, Chris Seymour, Jerry Gill, Tony Pounder, Leroy Whale, Terry Hardwell (phsio). Front – Warren Patmore, Graham Kemp, Graham Roberts (player-manager), Micky Engwell, Lee Harvey. Steve Browne was absent from the photocall. *Picture by Nigel Andrews*.

Roberts' turns down big move

GRAHAM Roberts has turned down two offers to leave Yeovil Town – one from the Football League and the other to manage a Conference club. He has now signed a 12-month contract to stay at Huish Park.

Roberts, the 36-year-old former England international, worked last season without a contract. He said this week: "I wanted to stay to finish the job I started, so I am happy with this development".

The blunt boss threw a

spanner into the Huish Park works this week by saying he was not happy with the level of fitness of some of his players. "I am not not naming names but they know who they are, and if they don't do something about it they will be on their way".

Roberts dropped another pre-season bombshell when he revealed that midfielder Steve Browne would miss the first three or four weeks of the season.

"He had to have a cartilage scraped out in the summer - that was a bit of a shock to us. But he has started training at West Ham and won't be out for too long".

With Lee Francis now having moved to Hendon on a free transfer, Yeovil's first team squad is down to 13 for the opening ICIS League match as Roberts and skipper Micky Engwell are both suspended.

"I am in the market to strengthen the squad and there could be a new face in the line-up for the friendly with Portsmouth (tonight, Thursday). I am after a player who would have cost me £10,000 a month ago, but now I'm hopeful of getting him for nothing".

The player, who has not been named, is with a nonleague club - "and it isn't Bath City", says Roberts.

The transfer saga involving Bath duo Jerry Gill and Rob Cousins drags on. The clubs have not agreed terms, although they were not far from a deal, and a tribunal will now set the transfer fee.



● ROBERTS - signs 12-month contract

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