

This is Yeovil, happiest town in the country

Bristol has a population of 428,100, Plymouth has 256,400 and Wolverhampton 249,470. All are sizeable cities with big football sides, writes *Martin Hesp*.

But now Yeovil (population 40,000) is in a higher league than all three and has duly been described by its mayor as the "happiest town in England".

No wonder they're calling the Somerset community "the town that punches above its weight" – but then, its indomitable football club has long had a name for being a giant-killer. In fact, that was the only thing worrying some of the thousands of supporters who squeezed into the town centre for the club's victory parade yesterday – some of the more cautious fans were pointing out that Yeovil could now be regarded as a giant that needed beating.

It was the only negative note to be heard amid the deafening throng as the open-topped double-decker bus, crowned with victorious players and staff, pulled into the town centre just after midday. Most people were talking up the future and what the club's

'Leeds United fans had T-shirts printed saying, *Where the hell is Yeovil? They certainly know now*'

Yeovil fan Roger Brimble

promotion to the mighty Championship and its big-name teams will mean for the area.

"This will bring a lot of money back to Yeovil – people will come here to see the town



These sentiments were being echoed by a South Somerset District Council spokesman, who said: "Yeovil's Glovers are now the highest placed football team in the South West and their achieve-