

'Lieutenants' go beyond call for boss

GARY JOHNSON has hailed the efforts of the "lieutenants" in his management team as well as brother and scout Pete after capping a history-making campaign with a top accolade.

A little over 24 hours after beating Brentford 2-1 at Wembley to win the npower League One play-offs, Johnson was named the division's boss of the season by the League Managers' Association.

The 57-year-old, assistant Terry Skiverton technical coach Darren Way and head scout Pete rubbed shoulders with the likes of Sir Alex Ferguson and his Manchester United successor David Moyes at the London dinner before rejoining his squad for Tuesday's bus tour of Yeovil.

Johnson spoke of his pride at winning the LMA award but praised the chemistry between his coaches as well as the work carried out by his brother.

"I'm very proud to receive the manager of the year award

“Terry and Darren have gone beyond the call of duty

for our division and I'm sure that I must have got at least one vote from the Oldham manager (son Lee)," said Johnson.

"But like all awards you accept the award on behalf of your staff, especially Terry Skiverton, Darren Way and (keeper coach) Gareth Stewart.

"You also accept them on behalf of everyone who works for the football club from the

"They are 100 per cent professional people as well as being very close friends for a long time.

"I feel the chemistry between us has helped get this club into the Championship."

The Glovers were cheered by thousands on their return to the town on Tuesday, with supporters lining the streets from Huish Park to the Borough and then packing the Westland Leisure Complex car park ahead of the evening's civic reception.

Players and staff also enjoyed a tour of Augusta Westland in the afternoon, where employees came out in their hundreds to applaud their new heroes.

Johnson said the celebrations were a fitting way to end a season where his team defied the odds to reach the Championship for the first time, adding he was looking forward to finally reflecting on Sunday's game.

"It's lovely to end the season celebrating with the fans. I think the boys have been celebrating with the fans for a couple of days," he said.

"We were still in London for the League Managers' Association dinner but as soon as we got back we realised the euphoria around the town.

"It was really well organised and we felt we had got around to everyone we needed to. I'm sure most people will feel it was worth turning out to acclaim their new heroes.

"I'm looking forward to a quiet day when I can put my feet up and look back at the



PACKED CROWD: Yeovil Town players prepare to leave Huish Park on the first leg of Tuesday's bus tour. Supporters packed the streets of the town to toast their heroes who earned promotion to the npower Championship via the play-offs on Sunday. Manager Gary Johnson was named League Managers' Association boss of the season on Monday. Pictures by Jennie Banks

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Skipper admits struggling to believe club's achievements

JAMIE McAllister admitted lifting a trophy at Wembley to reach the npower Championship with a club that ten years ago was in the non-League was hard to believe.

The Yeovil Town captain led his team up the famous steps to the Royal Box at the national stadium on Sunday, having beaten Brentford 2-1. The Glovers begin their summer break this week but will return at the end of next month to prepare to face the likes of QPR, Wigan Athletic and Blackburn Rovers.

Left back McAllister - who arrived at Huish Park last summer - described their moment of glory in the capital as an "unbelievable" end to an "incredible" season. "It's an incredible feeling and we had been dreaming about it all week," he said. "We had the belief but to actually do it was amazing. At the end of the game I turned around to my wife, family and kids and the emotion was all there.

"I just thought 'what an achievement, what an achievement for such a small club'. But we had the belief in the dressing room as well as the quality

all season to be able to get up there so to actually do it is unbelievable.

"It's unbelievable to think that a club that wasn't even in the Football League ten years ago is now in the second tier and next season will be playing teams like QPR. It's an incredible achievement. The gaffer (Gary Johnson), (assistant Terry Skiverton) and (technical coach) Darren (Way) have been incredible and the players - every one of them - have been outstanding. The fans turned out for them and backed us.

"All throughout your career the 35-year-old said: "We could hear the fans throughout and we wanted to do it for them. I don't think a few teams will want to come to Huish Park next season."



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