



was a wave from a player whose future will be decided in the close season and hearty applause in response. That was soon followed by despair when Norwich had a second.

The excellent Hoolahan used his left foot to play a cross-field pass into Snodgrass on the right. He sent in a ball that took out Hart and found Grant Holt beyond the far post. The finish was expert. Holt might have joined Rodwell in scoring two on the afternoon with minutes remaining. But Elliott Bennett failed to find the No9 when he was free in front of Hart.

Having been embroiled in almost a season-long battle to avoid relegation, this win lifted Chris Hughton's side to a finish of 11th. "At least we can plan a pre-season now, it's been tough not knowing what division we would be in," the delighted manager said afterwards.

**Man of the match** Jonny Howson (Norwich City)

ation was turned inwards. And oned champions wandered off e they were probably happy to after this week's trip to the US sea twice, a disappointing sea-left behind.

minutes Norwich's Jonny How-ken charge of a game largely o each team. Collecting posses- his half, he dribbled through run that knocked over a flailing ards as he wheeled by before ome a finish past Joe Hart to goal as good as any seen this

earlier Yaya Touré had created dwell goal - his second - that level. From near his area, the ved a pass into Rodwell's path along the left. The midfielder ards John Ruddy's goal in a race n Whittaker, the right-back. owed that the incessant ham-blems which have plagued him ffected confidence as he out-'hittaker, then scored beyond he goalkeeper's left.

d been a sombre occasion for

### League Two play-off final at Wembley

#### Jonathan To Bradford City 3

Hanson 15, McArdle 19, Wells 28

City achieved promotion by out a lesson, and not just to Town. This emphatic vic- ted an accomplished perform- ascension to League One repaid alary way that the club have recent years.

around Wembley, which was a proud Bradford fans for the e in three months following Capital One Cup final, it was club are harvesting the fruit anted after relegation from the 2007.

When the joint chairmen, Mark Julian Rhodes, introduced a offer supporters the cheapest ets in the Football League and his triumphant campaign, six



**Norwich City's Jonny Howson celebrates scoring a top-drawer goal after stroking the ball elegantly past Joe Hart in the City goal** Alex Livesey/Getty Images

## Bradford rise again as a cut-price success in more ways than one

but also last term, when they were struggling against relegation from the Football League. Phil Parkinson's success as a manager has been to produce a team that have contributed to the synergy with the bumper home crowd.

"I think the season-ticket deal that the chairmen have done for the supporters is fantastic," said the manager. "If you're a supporter and you've got value for money, you tend to be more forgiving if the players make mistakes. Whereas if you've paid over the odds, you've got a bit of anger inside you. So when I came in we knew that if we can give the crowd something to respond to, they would get right behind us. We've got a mantra in the team that if we can out-work and out-tackle everybody, then the supporters can really identify with the players, and the support we've had has been incredible."

Parkinson's entire squad cost just £7,500, having paid a fee for no one other than the striker James Hanson, who opened the scoring against Northampton with a looping header from Garry Thompson's cross. Rory McArdle scored a virtu-

ally identical goal four minutes later and then, in the 28th minute, Nahki Wells volleyed a third past the Northampton goalkeeper Lee Nicholls.

Northampton's manager, Aidy Boothroyd, has also presided over an upturn in his club's fortunes since succeeding Gary Johnson midway through last season, when the Cobblers were in the League Two relegation zone, but the progress that has been made since then offered no consolation for the way his team froze at Wembley.

"It's great to have got here but when you get to a final like this, you want to be a winner, nothing else," said Boothroyd.

**Man of the match** Gary Jones (Bradford City)

**Northampton 4-4-2**  
Nicholls; Tozer, Carlisle, Cameron, Collins (Widdowson, 53); Hacklett, Guttridge, Harding, Demontagnac (Hornby, 70); Platt (Almironwa, 55), O'Donovan

**Bradford 4-4-2**  
McLaughlin; Darby, McArdle, Davies, Meredith, Thompson, Doyle (Bavenhill, 87), Jones, Reid (Atkinson, 78), Hanson, Wells (Connell, 85).

**Subs not used** Dukle, Michugh, Hines, Nelson, Johnson, Langmead, Robinson, Referee K Stroud



**Dan Burn, scorer of Yeovil's second, celebrates with the play-off trophy**

rester's corner. Suddenly Marek Stech was performing heroics, saving from Clayton Donaldson, Adam Forshaw and Bradley Wright-Phillips.

"It's very tough," Rösler said. "We couldn't find the cutting edge for the second goal. We had them on their knees." In the end, though, Yeovil were on the rise.

**Man of the match** Dan Burn (Yeovil)

Brentford were gripped by nerves and after 42 minutes, Yeovil doubled their lead. Sam Foley swung a corner to the far post and Dan Burn sent a downward header into a packed six-yard box. James Hayter and Moore both went for it but neither made contact and the ball crept over the line despite Shaleum Logan's efforts.

"The second goal was unacceptable," Rösler said. Harlee Dean halved the deficit after 51 minutes, heading in Harry For-

they were left to rue their inexplicable inertia in the opening period. Rösler's task now is to keep this team together, although the German was cheered by the words of encouragement the club's owner, Matthew Benham, offered in the dressing room after the final whistle.

Yeovil, who had twice beaten Brentford in the league this season, were the more composed side in the early exchanges and it was not a surprise when they took the lead after six minutes with a goal that would have graced any previous Wembley final. A loose ball fell to Paddy Madden, a £15,000 signing from Carlisle, just outside the area and, demonstrating outstanding technique and imagination, he stabbed an instinctive shot into Simon Moore's top-right corner with the outside of his right foot. It was the Irish striker's 23rd goal of the season. "He's had this vision for a while now that he was going to score at Wembley," Johnson said. "It was a sublime piece of ingenuity."

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