

The Back Up Teams



Reserves with Terry Gibson Last Wednesday we began our Avon Insurance programme for 2000-2001 with a home game against Swindon Town. As this programme went to print before the match was played I cannot comment on the result, however I shall be hoping we got off to a good start by beating Swindon and taking all three points. Since arriving in the Avon Insurance Combination we have been one of the strongest teams in the division by holding everyone else up for the past two seasons. This will be our third season in the competition and once again I say, "we shall be doing our very best to avoid the wooden spoon and finish higher in the table".

There can be no doubt that since moving from the Capital League we have found the Combination a much tougher prospect. With the size of our squad we often have a side made up of mainly youngsters who can find some of the games a difficult learning curve. The likes of Norwich, Ipswich, QPR, Fulham and Portsmouth illustrated the gap between First and Second Division

finances when their reserve sides often reached the £5 to £8 million mark in player values. Naturally after a while this was also reflected by the way they wore our lads down and we finished on the end of a large scoreline. This season we have lost Ipswich to the Premier reserve section but have picked up Brentford, Reading, Leyton Orient, and Cheltenham Town, who join the league for the very first time. Our next fixture will be at Oxford on Wednesday 30th August, kick off 7.30pm. Don't forget, we would love to see any supporters who can get along to any of the matches, especially at home where all games will be played on a Wednesday afternoon starting at 2pm. This season we should see a real improvement in some of the lads who experienced playing in the Combination last season. The likes of Roger Johnson, Ben Townsend, Ian Simpember, Leeyon Phelan, Mark Osborn, Martyn Lee, Danny Senda and Matt Brady will be looking to impress the manager and press for a first team place. We have a good crop of young players at the club right now who could be the platform for the future. It is up to them to show what they can do by adopting the right attitude to play in reserve football and create

the chance for themselves.

In our two final pre-season warm up matches we managed to beat Burnham 2-0 at The Gore, goals from Peter Holsgrove (pen) and Leeyon Phelan. The final match was against Dartford at Purfleet, once again we performed well and but for a moments lack of concentration should have gained another win. The match ended 2-2 when Dartford equalised with the last kick of the game, our goals came from Martyn Lee and trialist Joel Rogers from the penalty spot. The scheduled match with Crawley was cancelled owing to our growing injury crisis, we have agreed to take a full first team over at the start of next season.



PRE-SEASON STARTS WELL, BUT INJURIES DEplete SQUAD.....

Since returning from Norway I have had the boys working on their physical fitness. It is important that they are all in peak condition at the start of the season. However, if they are pushed too hard then they could break down, so we have mixed the training with a large amount of ball work, working on technique and encouraging them to feel comfortable on the ball. This they certainly were in our first pre-season friendly against Tonbridge Angels on



RESERVE FIXTURES 2000-2001

AUG.	16 Swindon Town	H 2.00pm
	30 Oxford United	a 7.30pm
SEPT.	20 Brighton & Hove Albion	H 2.00pm
	27 Bristol Rovers	H 2.00pm
OCT.	4 A.F.C. Bournemouth	a 2.00pm
	12 Norwich City	a 7.30pm
Nov.	1 Cheltenham Town	H 2.00pm
	8 Colchester United	a 2.00pm
	15 Southend United	H 2.00pm
	29 Cambridge United	H 2.00pm
DEC.	4 Peterborough United	a 2.00pm
	19 Northampton Town	a 2.00pm
JAN.	10 Luton Town	H 2.00pm
	17 Barnet	a 2.00pm
	24 Millwall	H 2.00pm
	31 Leyton Orient	a 2.00pm
FEB.	7 Gillingham	H 2.00pm
	14 Fulham	a 1.00pm
	28 Queens Park Rangers	H 2.00pm
MAR.	14 Crystal Palace	a 7.30pm
	21 Reading	H 2.00pm
	28 Brentford	a 7.00pm
APR.	4 Bristol City	H 2.00pm
	10 Portsmouth	a 7.00pm

Home games to be played at Adams Park
Dates and Kick-off times liable to change.



YOUTH FIXTURES 1999-2000

AUG.	19 Colchester United	a
	26 Brentford	a
SEPT.	2 Gillingham	a
	9 Luton Town	a
	16 Southend United	H
	23 Brighton & Hove Albion	a
OCT.	7 Northampton Town	H
	14 Barnet	a
	21 Portsmouth	H
	28 Cambridge United	a
NOV.	4 Leyton Orient	H
	11 Colchester United	H
	18 Brentford	H
	25 Gillingham	H
DEC.	2 Southend United	a
	16 Luton Town	H
JAN.	13 Northampton Town	a
	20 Brighton & Hove Albion	H
	27 Barnet	H
Feb.	3 Portsmouth	a
	10 Cambridge United	H
	17 Leyton Orient	a

Home games in FLYA to be played at Molins Sports Ground,
Mill Lane, Princes Risborough.