



On Wednesday we look forward to meeting Cheltenham Town here for the first time in the Avon Insurance Combination. Cheltenham have joined the league two seasons after winning promotion to the Football League by winning the Nationwide Conference. They made a very good impression last season in Division Three coming close to a play off place and just missing out after giving a good account of themselves.

We shall be looking to take all three points from this one as having played five matches we only have one win, and that our opening game against Swindon who are now at the top. In our last game at Norwich we played well in the first half but two defensive lapses cost us a 4-0 score line that on the night was a bit harsh. The good news was Keith Ryan returned and played a full 90 minutes, the bad news was that Paul Emblen, also making a return got injured again. He must be sick of East Anglia as at Ipswich last season he limped out after half hour, once more at the half hour mark he left the field with a knee injury. We thought it might just be twisted but sadly he has damaged his anterior cruciate ligament and will be out for the rest of the season. Just as we look to be getting Rhino and Davy back we lose Bairdy and Embers to the treatment room. I mention Davy Carroll because it is possible he will be making a

come back on Wednesday after being out for five months with a pelvic problem. Davy has worked very hard to get back and all credit to him, it is not so easy when you are past 30. Everything takes a lot longer, especially re-gaining match fitness and keeping your enthusiasm for the game when a long injury sets in.

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**FROM OUT OF THE
SMOKE THE UNDER 19'S
MAINTAIN 100% HOME
RECORD, WHILE THE
UNDER 17'S WIN
BOTTOM OF THE TABLE
CLASH AT BARNET....**

UNDER 19's

I am pleased to report that last Saturday the boys maintained their 100% record at Molins with another emphatic win over Portsmouth that lightened up a dull, drizzly morning. Once again our team were all under 18 as we prepared for the forthcoming Cup tie with Brighton and we played a 4-4-3 formation. As the game kicked off, smoke from a bonfire in the adjacent fields started to drift across the pitch making it difficult to see and at one point was so thick the top goal was barely visible. So it was not surprising that both sides struggled to string much together in the gloom. When the fire was finally dampened down, we gained control of the game despite Pompey's physical approach and deservedly took the lead on