

**TT No.39: Steve Hardy** - Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2019; **AFC Bournemouth U18** v Newport County U18; EFL Youth Alliance South West Division; Kick-Off: x; Result: 6-0; Admission: Free; Programme: No; Attendance: n/k

Another weekend down in Southampton for yours truly, and with the weather only causing my planned Sunday fixture to be called off, it turned out to be a very pleasant break indeed.

First stop was the Canford Arena in Canford Magna for the new home of the lads from AFC Bournemouth. No problem getting in here as I was just waved in and shown where to park. There were a good, few games taking place here today, including the U16s game between the two sides, and several girl's matches too. Facilities wise the main pitch was on grass, fully railed off with spectators only allowed along one side of the pitch. The TV gantry and dug outs are on the far side of the pitch and seemed to be the place where the assembled scouts had gathered. They would have been mightily impressed with the Bournemouth players I would have thought, although not so much with the lads from Wales.

Not much to say about the game itself. The score tells its own story perfectly, and it should have been much bigger for Bournemouth in reality. They scored just the two in the first half, with four more after the break, the last 3 coming in the 85<sup>th</sup>, 86<sup>th</sup> and 87<sup>th</sup> minutes though, and were no more than AFC deserved.

All credit to Newport, who had a good, few supporters with them, for not giving up. They tried right to the end, but Bournemouth were in a different class.

A large burger van did a roaring trade throughout on a surprisingly chilly morning, and my Southampton break got off to a great start.