



With very little happening in the Avon Insurance Combination at this moment I thought it would be a good idea to review our progress to date. Having played just eight matches we find ourselves in the bottom half of the table, thankfully higher than at any time last season. Our two wins and two draws have given us an average of a point per game. We won our opening game of the season against Swindon Town here 1-0, and we won our last game of 2000 against Cambridge United 3-1, also at Adams Park. What went between were a 2-2 draw with both Oxford United and Southend United and three heavy defeats by Brighton 5-1, with Cheltenham and Norwich City both 4-0. As I have said before we are not strong enough when it comes to playing the reserves sides from Division One, and if we play too many young players against any of the teams then it is a difficult task. In both the matches we have won there have been at least three to four experienced regular first teamers coming back from injury. The match with Bournemouth scheduled for Wednesday 13th December got called off because of a waterlogged pitch. That was a pity because both Dave Carroll and Chris Vinnicombe were due to return in that one. We also lost the Northampton game, scheduled for 19th December, it clashed with our Millwall replay but they called it off owing to their youth team playing in the F.A. Youth

Cup. This will mean our next fixture, Luton Town on Tuesday 9th at Adams Park, is our best chance of playing once more, that is if the LDV Vans does not cut across it.

The Bournemouth match has been re-arranged for Wednesday 21st February at Dean Court, kick off 2pm. We do have a new date for the Northampton game, it will now go ahead at Sixfields on Wednesday 18th April 2001, kick off 2pm.

It just remains for me to say a HAPPY NEW YEAR to all of you out there in Blues land, as always we are very pleased to see you whenever you can get along to our reserve fixtures.

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GARY GOODCHILD REVIEWS THE PROGRESS OF THE CLUB'S YOUTH POLICY....

HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all from everyone involved with the Youth Department. During the Christmas and New Year period there is a break in fixtures for the youth teams, so it is an ideal time to take a step back and review how the club's youth policy is progressing. Our overall goal of course, is to produce new young players competent to play in the first team. That is not as easy as it sounds, there is no endless supply that we can plug into. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication by our Centre of Excellence staff, Scouts,