



Because of our success in both the F.A. Cup and the LDV Vans Trophy plus the amount of wet weather, it has been necessary to cancel some of the Avon fixtures. Two weeks prior to Christmas we were called off at Bournemouth owing to a waterlogged pitch just as Dave Carroll and Chris Vinnicombe were about to make a come back. The very next week our match at Northampton went out the window because their youth team were playing in the F.A. Youth Cup and we were involved in the F.A. Cup replay with Millwall. Now owing to the LDV Vans game at Orient our match with Luton at Kenilworth Road is under threat. If we don't manage another game we would not have played since 29th November, when we beat Cambridge United, to the 17th January when we should meet Windsor & Eton at Stag Meadow. The one good thing to come out of all of this is players are returning from injury and at last we can look at having a decent squad to select from. As usual we have problems fielding a strong enough side to compete on a regular basis, especially when a crop of injuries occur as we have experienced right up to Christmas.

At the moment we have been able to keep off the bottom of the table thanks to our last win over Cambridge, it is my aim this season to improve upon the last two in the Combination and at least finish in the bottom half rather than bottom of the table.

As these notes were being prepared news arrived that the match at Barnet has been

cancelled because we are due to play Windsor & Eton away in the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup Third Round. The match goes ahead at Stag Meadow, kick off 7.45pm. This now means the next Avon Insurance Combination fixture will be on Wednesday 24th January at home to Millwall, kick off 2pm.

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NEWS OF THE YOUTH TEAMS

HOPING FOR A RETURN TO ACTION.....

On Tuesday the boys and I returned to training following our Christmas and New Year break. At the time of writing these notes, with the adverse weather of late there must be doubt if the youth teams' matches went ahead today. However, hopefully both the under 19's and 17's travelled to Cambridge to meet their counterparts at United's Simco Sports Ground. Both matches were rearranged fixtures following postponements earlier in the season. The under 19's faced the difficult task of playing the leaders of their section. United have lost just once in the conference this season and have led the table for most of the season. So the boys will have had to be on top form to gain something from the game. As for our under 17's, their fixture was officially a home game, but to give the pitch at Molins a chance to recover from the battering it has taken from the wet weather, we took up Cambridge's offer of playing the match at their ground. We