

Welcome & Apologies

Richard Farthing opened the meeting at 7.30 pm and welcomed all in attendance. A register of attendees was circulated and apologies were noted from Scott Craig, Steve Burroughs, Gavin Brigg, Janine Stothard and Steve Wilson.

Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the 2007 A.G.M were circulated and reviewed; they were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Committee Recommendations

a. Subscriptions set and passed at the following rates:

Seniors £120

Micro's £2 per week training fee

Mini Soccer non league £40

Mini Soccer league £60

11 a side £70

The increase in subscriptions was required, as the Club will face an increase in pitch hire charges due to the loss of the Revel Prison College facilities. The extra financial burden will fall onto the junior section of the club and therefore there is no increase in the senior fees, as pitch hire has already been provided for in their budget.

b. The club shall appoint another Secretary who will be responsible for the senior section.

Manager's report

Senior 1st team – Report attached.

Reserves – Dave Wright reported a difficult season and echoed comments made by Paul Huddleston in his 1st team report. However moving forward some players have started to integrate and a line has been drawn under previous problems.

Under 16 – A tough age group to manage but an enjoyable season, good performances from players who were looking forward to the challenges of adult football. One or two players will be leaving and Peter Day is looking for new recruits.

Under 15- Report attached.

Under 14- Probably the most successful season for this age group. A strong nucleus of players that put together an unbeaten run of 13 games and were challenging for the league. At the end of the season they finished 3rd in the league. New players are needed for the new season. At the Brinklow 6 a side the team reached the final but were beaten in the final.

Under 12 – Report attached.

Under 11 – Their first season in 11 a side football and after a steady start on a win, draw and a loss the team settled down reasonable well. Unfortunately the team lost some players for various reasons. One such reason was rules, which prevented Daniella Francioso playing for the team; Frank Francioso thanked the committee for their support in dealing with that issue. Despite going 8 games without a win the team played some of their best football of the season during that period. In the last two games of the season the team scored 14 goals so the squad is optimistic for next season.

Under 10- Two teams played in the red and green leagues respectively. This was the last years in mini soccer and the red team were top of the league in the early stages of the season. However they fell away during the winter but put together an impressive cup run reaching the semi-finals. The green team found life a little more difficult and found the demands of the season hard. The two teams needed to amalgamate for 11 aside but in reality some of the players from the green team would struggle in the red league. As a result Will Barnes will take some of those players to Stretton Athletic FC. The red team won the Hillmorton 6 a side and were runners-up in the Brinklow tournament.

Under 9 – Two teams one in the red league and one in the blue league, which is unique compared with the other age groups. Both teams performed comfortably in their respective leagues. Wayne Pulford congratulated Charlie Munroe who has been signed on by Coventry City. Thanks were given to the team sponsors, Frog Squad, Palace Improvements and The White Lion. The red team won the Rugby Town tournament.

Under 8 – Report attached.

Under 7- The players were split into two teams called Thunder and Lightening. Both played well and the management are pleased with the progress of the players. 5 players are currently training with professional academies. Much of the season was geared to preparing for league football in the under 8's however due to the rule changes imposed by the FA the team will have to play another season of friendly football.

Micro's- Neither Christian McTurk or Andy Hunt were present.

Girls under 13 – The team played in the Coventry & District league and performed well. A good cup run got the team into the semi finals but they lost to Leamington Hibs. However the result was reversed due to Hibs playing a player who was not registered. Although the team enjoyed the final they lost the match. It is also possible that the league may award runners-up to the team as Hibs face discipline action. All of the girls were a credit to the club and a pleasure to work with and have developed strong relationships.

Girls under 11 – No report.

Girls under 10 – No report.

Richard Farthing thanked all of the managers for their hard work and dedication. Gordon Betts thanked Martin Pulford and Richard Farthing.
Nick Walsh thanked the under 8 management and commented that the group of players in the blue team were exceptional.
Dave Wright praised the ability of the players in the under 10 red team.

Treasurer's report

Gordon Betts read his full report, which is printed in the end of season reports folder, which is attached.

Gordon resigned as treasurer due to work commitments. Richard Farthing thanked Gordon for bringing the accounting function of the club into the 21st century. Gordon has done a very good job and has provided sound guidance and advice concerning the Club's finances.

Chairman's report

Richard Farthing presented his last report as Chairman, which he found to be an emotional experience. A copy of his report appears in the end of season reports folder and is attached.

Richard resigned as Chairman.

Tony Glasscoe expressed his thanks to Richard. He commented that it was clear to see how much Richard cared about the Football Club and how hard he had worked during his tenure in the chair.

Election of Officers

All of the following were elected unanimously after written proposals were received.

Chairman – Declan Mellett
Vice Chairman- Tony Glasscoe
Treasurer – Rucky Griffiths
Secretary – Mick Holt

Seniors Secretary – Taffy Pulford
Assistant Secretary – Andy Hunt
Welfare Officers- Neil Huddleston
Committee – Richard Farthing
Committee – Paul Huddleston
Committee – Paul Wilby
Committee – Peter Day
Committee – Liz Clarke
Committee – Gary Stothard
Committee – Steve Phillips

Under 10's

Never a dull moment with this team, on & off the pitch and this season was no different. Red's topping the league for the first few months then slipping back during the winter months.

Another good cup run, semi-finals for the second year running.

- Runners up in the Brinklow tournament
- Winners of the Hillmorton tournament

Currently on summer break, then preparing for an 11-a-side in the red league.

Will be signing 14/15 players.

New assistants for the forthcoming year will be Mark Vickers and Andy Mayne (Stanley's Dad).

Greens:

Results never came for the Greens this year. The loss of two key players early in the season dented any promotional aspirations.

Will Barnes & Pete Bennett (Parent) have decided to set up a team under the banner of Stretton playing in the Green league. There was parent concern from the Greens regarding the ability gap. I expect seven of the nine Green team members to go with this new team. For the record this has not been acrimonious and fully understand the parents concerns and wishes

Chairman Speech

I am really looking forward to chairing Brinklow FC and working with such a distinguished committee and management team.

Thanking the outgoing Chair – Rich – for all his hard work and creating a sound platform for which this new committee will move forward on

We have over 200 players – Boys & Girls. Financially sound – PSG – a website that is read all over Coventry and the County. A re-organised seniors. It will be a breeze; well that's what I told Cherysee. We have lots to be proud off.

We are not owners of the football club but merely guardians and it is important we remember why we are here. Football is important to society with so much talk of teenage crime, knife killing etc we have an important roll to play. It has to be fun for all the players, managers and committee along with driving competitiveness, understanding winning and understanding loosing.

I would like to see Brinklow FC reaching further into the eastern area of Coventry and into the west of Rugby. Our Mini soccer set up is thriving with all our teams winning honours of some type.

Our 11-a-side teams are successful where we have teams. I would like to see at least one team per age group. Success breeds success, success can be measured in different ways. Can be by just achieving to put a team together. Alternatively success can be a measure by winning the league, ultimately the Red or A league.

We should not be frightened of embracing both measures of success.

We should look to continue to develop the e girls section with the appropriate resources. With the senior section now on a strong footing, I am sure the on the pitch results will start to come back,

Finally I welcome our new treasurer Rucky, Taffy Seniors Secretary and Steve to the committee and watch out all you other non-committee members, we are going on a recruitment drive plus we are looking for a head coach.

Remember it has to be fun for all and football is about dreams at all ages – Huddy remember Connor's comments, lots to be done.

Declan Mellett
Chairman

Chairman's Report

The 2007-08 season has been another busy one both on and off the pitch. I am always amazed just how quickly each season passes by, one minute we are all in pre-season training and the next playing end of season tournaments.

Off the pitch the Committee have met regularly to discuss a wide range of issues but primarily to ensure that the administrative function of the Club is kept away from the Managers of the teams. Some of the issues have been challenging and taken more time than they should. Minutes from all of the Committee meetings have been published for the information of all Club members.

One particular problem that the Committee had was dealing with issues within our Senior Section. I'm afraid that the formation of a Reserve team was not as successful as we would have hoped. Administration problems, team selection issues were constantly discussed at Committee, which diverted attention and time to other areas of the Club. To be honest, with hindsight, the Reserve team was formed too hastily without sufficient planning. As Chairman I take responsibility for that, especially as I really thought it was the way forward. We had a situation where our Youth team were too old for the Youth league and I didn't want to lose players to other teams. I felt the opportunity was there for some of these players to force their way into our 1st team. On reflection I believe we should have had one larger 1st team squad of players. However we have now turned those negative issues into a more positive robust approach to our Senior Section by introducing a brand new Senior Constitution. In this document we have provided clear direction on the development of players from under 15 and above and how they should be introduced into adult football. We have also provided a selection policy and identified the need for the senior's to have a dedicated Secretary and Vice-Chairman. The creation of these roles will allow the unique problems that occur in adult football to be dealt with more efficiently.

The Committee have also discussed the problems that we have in retaining players in the adolescent years. Unfortunately we were not able to run an under 13 team last season and we are going to have recruit new players if we are to have under 13 and 14 teams next year. The Manager's were also consulted on the issue to see if we could

identify the cause of the problem. It is not clear why this happens but the moving into secondary education is one problem and the location of Brinklow is not attractive to players and parents from Coventry and Rugby. However this is not a unique problem to our Club, I have spoken to other teams who face similar difficulties. It is amazing how popular and well-supported mini-soccer is compared to the 11 a side format of the game. A number of ideas were put forward to try and recruit new players, which included advertising, more media coverage and the holding of academy days. All have been taken on board and tried but we are yet to see the benefits.

The Football Club is continuing to support the Brinklow Church Room Management Committee with the proposed refurbishment of the building to include brand new changing rooms. A meeting has been arranged on 3rd July with the Football Foundation and Football Association to discuss my application for a grant to provide further funding for the project. The BCRMC has already raised just over £100,000 of the required £150,000 and I hope that if successful the Football Foundation grant will go a long way to that target.

The Parent Support Group has been formed and I would like to thank Peter Day and Alice Stenger for their work in developing this forum. The PSG is an informal body of parents and supporters who met several times throughout the season. The purpose was to listen to the views of parents on how the Club was run. Both positive and negative feedback was encouraged and some very good work came from these meetings, not least the providing of volunteers for the 6 a side. It is also hoped that this forum will identify those who may become interested in standing for committee in future years, I certainly hope that this will continue in the future. It is very important that the Committee is balanced in terms of representation of all sections of the club. We should be mindful that as our sons and daughters grow up there will come a time when their parents will wish to move on and no longer take on Committee duties we must therefore encourage more help from players, parents and supporters.

Even before the new season begins we are facing new challenges. Unfortunately after many years of support the Club will no longer be able to use the Revel Prison Colleges pitches. The reason for this is that the College is to be used for more Prison

Service functions at weekends and therefore the management cannot provide a guarantee of pitches every single week. One full size pitch will be available but this is not enough and we are now short on pitches. Tony Glasscoe, Peter Day and Mick Holt are currently reviewing our pitch resources for 2008-09. Without doubt we will have face up to a greater financial burden in terms of the cost of hiring pitches providing that we can find them and that will mean a slight increase in subscriptions. I would like to appeal to everybody to think of suitable locations for pitch hire and let one of the guys know if you have a contact that can help. I can report that we have been granted the following facilities for next season;

Barr Lane, Wolston Leisure Centre, St Margaret's School and The Revel College (one team only)

I would like to thank all involved at these locations for their supports and work in preparing the pitches, including Andy Main at the Revel, David Heir and Derek Poole at Wolston Leisure Centre, the Headmistress at St Margaret's, Mick Holt and Neil Huddleston for Barr Lane.

I would like to congratulate all of our teams on their performance last season. There were tears of joy and tears of sorrow but lots of fun and great football. Football Development is key to our future and for the new season the new committee will review our current football development plan and deliver a structured approach to coaching. What happens on the pitch is so important to the success of the Club. It follows that the better the teams perform then the problems on player retention and attracting new players become less. We have seen some really good football from our teams and a real family atmosphere, highlighted at our 6 a side and presentation night. It a real compliment that the likes of Coventry City, Leicester City, West Bromwich Albion and Birmingham City Academies have been to watch our players and invited some players to join them. I would like to thank all of our coaches for their work in developing these players, and congratulate Wayne Pulford who has been invited to coach at the Coventry City Academy.

We have enjoyed our fair share of success on the pitch and I would like to start by mentioning two teams who achieved success in their leagues. The league campaign is long and the demands are tough, so to win the league or to finish runners-up is a magnificent effort. Well done and congratulations to our Under 8 Blue team who won

the John Bryan League and to our Under 15 team who finished runners-up in the John Bryan League. Also well done to the Girls under 13's for reaching the League Cup Final and finishing Runners-up.

Other notable performances;

6 a side winners – Under 10 at Hillmorton, Under 9 at Rugby Town and Under 7 at Lutterworth.

6 a side runners-up – Under 12 at Brinklow, Under 10 at Brinklow, Under 8 at Leamington Hibs and Under 9 at Weymouth.

The annual 6 a side was again held on Barr Lane and once again the weather helped us by staying nice and dry. It was a great success and for the first time we had teams from as far away as Cambridge and Southampton. I have received several compliments from guest teams, which is very pleasing. I would like to thank Dennis Hoskins of Fosse Precision Ltd and Steve and Leanne Phillips of Palace Improvements for their sponsorship. We tried out some new ideas including larger goals for the older ages and it worked very well, there were certainly more goals scored, which made for entertaining games. The tournament is the most demanding event that is put on by the Club but it is so important in terms of keeping subscription and other costs down. Thank you to everybody who helped during the weekend, it was superb and the whole Club turned out in one big family.

Likewise I hope that everyone enjoyed the Presentation Day, which returned to Barr Lane. I would like to thank Mick Holt for arranging the trophies; we have received many compliments on the quality of them. Also to Alice Clarke for doing a really good slide show displaying our players dazzling skills. The day flew by and again thanks you to everyone for supporting the event.

The Football Club relies heavily on sponsorship to keep costs down, kit sponsors, trophy sponsors, tournament sponsors and On the Brink sponsors. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of our sponsors who's details are listed in full on the Club website. I would also thank the local businesses in Brinklow who help us in so many other ways throughout the year. It might be the loan of a cash and carry card,

the storage of equipment, the loan of a van or providing entertainment but whatever it is I thank the following;

Brinklow Village Stores, Pumpkins Deli, The White Lion, The Raven, The Bulls Head, Sposa and to the Scouts for the use of their facilities.

It is also appropriate that I put on record my sincere thanks to the Committee and Managers who work so hard to ensure that we provide football in a safe and friendly environment for all of our players. Everybody has taken on their role with dedication and enthusiasm; all are volunteers and give up a lot of their spare time.

After 3 years as the Chairman of this fabulous Football Club the time has come for me to step down. I have informed to Committee of this and the reasons why I have made this decision and feel that it is appropriate that I make those reasons public. Obviously the role takes up many hours in dealing with all sorts of issues and fortunately I have had the time to do this. However it is very important that the Club continues to move forward with fresh ideas and new people to implement them. It would not be in the best interests of the Club for me to seek a fourth term in the position. It is true that much of the work undertaken by the Club Chairman and other Officers of the Club is never noticed and hopefully it has done so during my term in office because if it has then the Club has been run well. I know that I have done the very best I can and although I have made some mistakes I am satisfied that I learnt something from them and the Club ultimately benefited. In addition I would like to refocus and refresh my work with my own team who have, on occasions, suffered because of my role as Chairman. Finally, with the spare time that I will have I am looking forward to spending it with my family.

Whoever takes the role as Chairman for the 2008-09 season will have my full support and I will help that person as much as possible. Hopefully I will be elected to the new committee where I can continue to support the Club.

I would like to say thank you to one or two people who have given me their up most help and support to Tony Glasscoe, Mick Holt, Paul Wilby, Martin Pulford and especially to Hayley, Charlotte and Jack for all of their support and patience.

Rich Farthing.

Under 12 Report 2007-08

The under 12's started the season with 14 players to take its place in the red league. We welcomed two new players, Nathan Biddle and Bradley Hall, who have both settle really well and have improved during their first season.

Martin and I knew that we would lose Martyn Berry in December when his family returned to New Zealand. Unfortunately we also lost both Thomas Barnes and Ryan Wareham during the season, which reduced our squad to only 12. Unable to recruit new players we were left to battle out the rest of the season, firstly with that 12 but then just 11 when Josh Smith got injured.

The beginning of the season didn't go very well and we lost the first 5 or 6 games in a row. However things did pick up and when Christmas arrived we put together a run of results, which saw us go half a dozen games unbeaten. Ultimately this wasn't enough especially as we lost crucial games against those teams fighting relegation at the end of the season. Only having 11 players took its toll when we could not field teams for the last 2 games of the season when players were away on school trips.

The position that we were in was all the more frustrating when you look at the cup run we had. Drawn away in each round against red league teams and one team who were top of the blue league, we got to the semi-finals. In that match against Rugby Town the league champions we were leading in extra time with minutes to go. Unfortunately our 11 players ran out of steam and we were edged out 2-1.

We did manage to get 1 team into the final of our own tournament but lost in that game to Admirals.

We finished bottom of the red league and will be relegated. Martin and Lloyd have decided to play elsewhere next season, hopefully with our under 14's and I wish them all the best. I have enjoyed every minute of our time together but can't help wondering what we could have achieved with 2 or 3 more players. Hopefully we will see them back very soon.

I am now working very hard to try and get in enough players to run an under 13 side next season.

Thanks to all of our players and supporters who have never given up on us despite a tough year.

Rich

Under 15's Presentation review for 2007 – 2008

Firstly my apologies to all for not making such an important presentation night for Brinklow under 15's, but a major family commitment has clashed with what is a fantastic ending to the season.

This season saw the current under 15's complete their 10th year at the club and it is fantastic we still have 4 of the original players that first started when they were just 5 years of age. These are Jamie Huddleston, Matthew Wilby, Tarun Sud and Tommy Hyde. All my appreciation goes to you boys for being so committed throughout the years.

Special thanks go to Paul Wilby and Mick Holt for all your assistance throughout the year, with all the extra work commitment I've been doing, it has been many times I've had to call on you 2 to cover for me in training when I haven't been able to make it. Also special thanks go once again to Les Ellison from Benchmark Recruitment, for your kind sponsorship of the under 15's six a side age group trophies.

To me this season has been without a doubt, the most consistent of seasons we have put together, as a whole team in competitive 11 a side football. This has resulted in us finishing creditable runners up in the league, narrowly missing out on the title by just one point to the eventual winners.

On some sadder notes:

Firstly,

we will be saying our goodbyes to Taz this year, who after being with us from the start feels it is time for a change, - Thank You for all the good times you have given us Taz, and that goad against Binley Woods when you ran down that left wind before perfectly chipping their goalie with the resulting shot going in the opposite corner of the net!

Finally,

With all work commitments, it has meant I am not going to be available to stand as manager for next season. This is something I have thought hard and long, but I feel I could not be able to dedicate myself 100% as I have done in all the previous years, And 10 years is not a bad time to let go. You will all still see me around on match days, and hopefully I can be of help to all that want me.

Thanks to all once again
Neil Huddleston (Ginge)

