

Brinklow FC Under 8s 2011/12 – Season Report

We started this season in the red division of the John Bryan Friendly League. As expected we found it tough against sides that were more experienced as many had competed in this friendly league during the previous season. Despite often playing much stronger opposition the boy's heads never dropped and in October we did manage to register a win against Christ the King.

In November we were moved to a lower league and the wins started to come. What really helped the team was the use of warm down games, 2 x 10 minute periods that followed the main competitive game. This allowed our fringe players to obtain proper match experience and also allowed our non-registered players to get a taste of competitive football.

We were very lucky with the weather all season only having two games cancelled, with accurate weather forecasting we were able to plan in advance to play games on the all weather surface at Wolston. Wolston was our training base from November and alongside the excellent coaching provided by Nathan Smith has help improve the team's skill level throughout the season.

We did however suffer from the lack of a regular goalkeeper all season, Sam Berrey was the first to take the gloves followed by Danny Gardener and then Oscar Taylor and Derry Taylor swapped often doing a half each. This is not ideal and we have a permanent goalkeeper for next season – Luke Haywood, who seems to enjoy it.

Brinklow Under 8s got stronger as the season developed, as shown in our last two tournaments, **Bilton**:won3, drew 1, **Chapelfields**: won 4 lost1. However there are areas that we still need to improve on but these boys have already demonstrated a willingness to learn and improve.

Managers player of the year – Finn Conway
Players player of the year – William McCormack
Parents most improved player – Oscar Taylor.

The two highlights of the season for me were:

- the first win against Christ the King, having lost all our previous games the boys showed true character to win this game and the joy on their faces was priceless
- the 0-0 draw with Bilton, at their tournament, after both teams had won their first 3 games,16 minutes of intense committed football followed, at the end of the game both teams were generously applauded off the pitch.

The squad that finished the season was Archie Graham, Darragh O'Malley, Derry Taylor, Danny Gardener, Finn Conway, Luke Haywood, Oscar Taylor, Reece Eyden, Sam Berrey, Sam Marshall, Scott Haywood, William McCormack, Zach Smith. Archie and Reece will be leaving us but we wish them well and hope to see them again soon.

A big thanks to Fosseway Vehicle Services for sponsoring our raintops and Frankie & Bennys for their ongoing sponsorship of the kit and a thanks to Martin Smith for securing these sponsorships. We have also had ongoing fundraising lead by parents Jane Smith and Julia Berrey throughout the season. These above efforts as well as the hard work of the Brinklow Committee have ensured the cost of running this team is reduced.

Another thanks to all the parents, from those that collect the money (thanks Kev for all your work on this) put up the goals, referee games, provide impromptu BBQs, hope you have enjoyed it as much as me and hope 2012/13 is as good as this season was.