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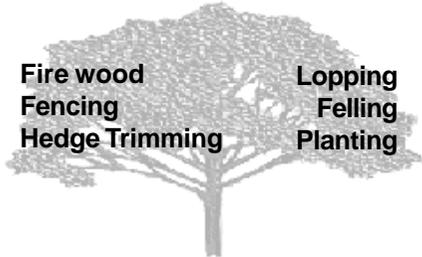


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Dave and Carolyn welcome you to

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It seems that lots of the managers & players have organised festivities over the Christmas holidays. The u11's are going bowling followed by a meal at TGI Friday's, Andy Mains u9's & u8's have a football tournament & party planned at the Revel & Micks lot are going Karting. I also hear that Tony Glasscoe is appearing as the Mother Goose in panto at the Belgrade (actually we're going to see Aladdin!) Well, whatever you're doing Brinklow FC wish you all

A MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

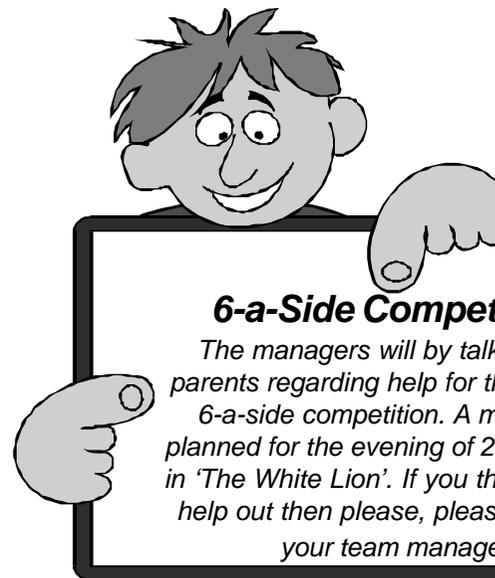
Paul Wilby

wilby@wilby.screaming.net

Somewhere in **'ON THE BRINK'** you will find 5 footballs with a letter in the middle, can you find them? The first is below to help you. Once you have got all 5, arrange the letters to make up the name of a player who scored a hat-trick against Roma last week! Last issues answer was **'FRIEDEL'**.



THE ANNUAL
**BRINKLOW
6-A-SIDE
TOURNAMENT**
WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE WEEKEND OF
**SAT 31st MAY and
SUN 1st JUNE 2003**
**Seniors Tournament
FRI 30th MAY**
BARR LANE PLAYING FIELD



6-a-Side Competition!

The managers will by talking to all parents regarding help for the Brinklow 6-a-side competition. A meeting is planned for the evening of 21st January in 'The White Lion'. If you think you can help out then please, please speak to your team manager.

SENIORS TEAM NEWS

Bilton ADI	1	Brinklow	5 (Hospital Cup)
Brinklow	4	Avon Mill	0
Barley Mow	3	Brinklow	5
Brinklow	5	Alba	1
Brinklow	4	Yelvertoft	2



Since our last '**ON THE BRINK**' The seniors 1st team has had a very good spell in which we have played five games and recorded five straight victories, an excellent record by anybody's standards. This being done without once this season having been able to put our full squad together for any one game. One of the noticable things about this division is that all the teams involved have footballing ability and there being no such thing as an easy game, even against the lower teams. It is good to see that we are now consolidating within this division and also starting to take on the top sides, gaining results along the way.

Probably our best performance over the last month was our recent game against Yelvertoft, it being extremely satisfying to see that we are capable of raising our game when required to do so. Playing at the Revel on November 24th it was a rampant Brinklow that took the game to Yelvertoft from the off and after several early chances it was no surprise when we took an early lead, midfielder Mark Bird firing home from the edge of a crowded penalty box. This was followed soon after when Dave Anderson showed his guile and experience to provide a cool finish for goal number two. At the pace that we had been playing it was understandable that the 'foot came off the pedal' but this allowed a shell-shocked 'Toft to regain their composure giving them a chance to play some football. It was though against the run of play when they scored with their first chance, their second goal being a scrappy effort that should have been dealt with.

After half time with the score at 2-2, the 'Toft' came out with all guns blazing and had it not been for the woodwork and some superb goalkeeping from Paul 'Freaks' Freaky, then we could well have been in trouble. Pleasing to say that our character once again shone through, a battling Brinklow regaining the initiative and taking the game back to the 'Toft'. It was only to be a matter of time until we scored and after missing a somewhat fortunately awarded penalty Gaz Moore once again came up with the goods, holding off his marker on the edge of the box to score with a thunderous shot. After this there was only going to be one winner and when we were awarded our second penalty, centerback Luke Kennedy stepped forward to take the responsibility, giving us a 4-2 lead and in the end the victory that such an excellent all round team performance thoroughly deserved.

So have we turned the corner? At half way through the season we are comfortably placed in the league and through to the quarterfinals of the 'Big One' - the Hospital Cup. There is still a long way to go but if we can continue to be consistent along with full commitment from all concerned then I remain hopeful that this may yet turn out to be another exciting season for the seniors and Brinklow F.C.

On a final note, on behalf of the seniors 1st team I would like to wish everybody involved and connected to Brinklow F.C. our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Barry Wilkinson

A Rangers and Celtic fan get into a nasty car accident. Both vehicles are really wrecked, but amazingly neither of them are hurt. After they crawl out of their cars, the Celtic fan says, "So you're a Rangers fan, that's interesting. I'm a Celtic fan... Wow! Just look at our cars. There's nothing left, but fortunately we are unhurt. This must be a sign from God that we should meet and be friends and



live together in peace the rest of our days." The Rangers fan replied, "Totally agree - this must be a sign from God!" The Rangers fan went on, "And look at this - here's another miracle. My car is completely demolished but this bottle of whisky didn't break.

Surely God wants us to drink it, to celebrate the fact we are alive?"

He hands the bottle to the Celtic fan who nods his head in agreement, opens it and takes few big swigs from the bottle, then hands it back to the Rangers fan. The Rangers fan takes the bottle, immediately puts the cap back on, and hands it back to the Celtic fan. The Celtic fan asks, "Aren't you having any?" The Rangers fan replies, "Nah...I think I'll just wait for the police....."



CLUB OFFICIALS NAMES AND CONTACT NUMBERS

President
Mr R Chattaway

Vice Presidents
Mr P Edmunds Mr T Bramley

Chairman

Malc Coombs

024 76542474 or 07901 935554

Vice Chairman

Alun Yeend

01788 832579

Secretary

Mick Holt

01788 833681 or 07734 465995

Treasurer

Katie Crane

01788 833187

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Paul Huddleston

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Barry Wilkinson

07876 743351

Gary Collins

01788 544530 or 07879 027177

Senior (Reserves) Team Manager

David McKiernan

01788 832655

Lee Kenney

07790 076475

Youth Team Manager

Dave Wright

024 7644 7249 or 07831 210561

Under 16's Team Manager

Keith Byrne

01788 832283 or 07715 940062

Under 14's Team Manager

Mick Holt

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Under 13's Team Manager

Rob Steel

024 7654 2719 or 07785 248964

Under 11's Team Manager

Pete Day

01788 832732

Under 10's Team Manager

Tony Glasscoe

01788 833221 or 07770 654123

Neil Huddleston

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Under 9's (RED) Team Manager

Dave Payne

024 7626 1250 or 07759 876212

John Harman

01455 220717 or 07818 011355

Under 9's (GREEN) Team Manager

Andy Main

01788 832033

Under 7's Team Manager

Nick Skerratt

01788 832157 or 07761 424501

Magazine Editor

Paul Wilby

024 7654 3903



Brinklow 3 Christ the King 1

This match was an excellent game with two very evenly matched teams.

Brinklow got an early lead after a slick run and finish by Andrew.S. But after some good football they turned around at 1 - 1, Christ the King grabbing an equalizer just before the half time whistle. Both keepers were having excellent games, Andrew.J. denying the opposition on several occasions.

After the half time pep talk, the lads came out and performed brilliantly. A well taken goal by Sean put Brinklow back into the lead and in the last few minutes one of Andrew.J's long kicks was flicked on by Lloyd into the path of Andrew.S, a quick shimmy past the defender and into the top corner. The result a 3 - 1 fine, hard fought victory for the lads.

Stretton 1 Brinklow 6

When we arrived at Stretton the heavens had opened and it looked for a moment as if we were going to have to turn straight round and come back. But as the rain eased off the Brinklow boys enthusiasm won everyone over, seconds later they were already getting stuck into their warm up routine. The game kicked off 6-a-side as Stretton were not able to field 7 players. The first few minutes were scrappy in the difficult soggy conditions, but Brinklow soon started to take control. An early goal from Jake after a good build up involving most of the team, steadied the nerves, then we started to play some good passing football and Andrew.S doubled the lead shortly before half time. Their 'Peter Crouch' forward, (a good 10cm taller than our players), did break through the odd time only to be cleanly tackled by Jake Lloyd and Ryan.

Early in the second half Stretton scored a goal very much against the run of play but Brinklow soon started to dominate again. Lloyd went close after a driving run forward, it was a sign of what was to come. Connor made several of his surging runs from defence, putting pressure on the Stretton midfield. Ben scored his first match goal for club, swiftly followed by Sean and Andrew.S. Jake wrapped up the game by hitting a typical cracking drive from distance that shot into the roof of the net like a bullet for the final goal. Andrew J in goal had very little to do, a different story next match, I feel! An excellent 1-6 win, and an all round great team effort from the 8 lads we took along. A lot of very wet, muddy but incredibly happy lads resulted.

Many thanks to all the parents who have helped out with the younger lads when myself, Kim and Martin are busy with the matches where we are only able to play one team. It is greatly appreciated by all. We always hope that as often as possible two games at a time can be arranged so everyone gets a game, unfortunately several teams this season have only been able to provide one game.

Brinklow U7's Christmas Party

Coventry Sports Connexion, Saturday 21st December, 10.30am until 12.45pm.

Hour & half football followed by buffet food. £5 per player. Money and names to Nick asap please.

Nick Skerratt

"You've got to believe that you're going to win, and I believe we'll win the World Cup until the final whistle blows and we're knocked out."

Peter Shilton

'Germany are a very difficult team to play... they had 11 internationals out there today.'

Steve Lomas

'I always used to put my right boot on first, and then obviously my right sock.'

Barry Venison

Thanks to **Sam Hayley** of the u10's for the Jokes!!



Well, the past month has only seen us play three games due to different reasons. Our first game being at home to St Thomas Cross.

Brinklow 3 St Thomas Cross 2

The game started well with Brinklow going into an early lead. A low drive was deflected high into the air by a St Thomas defender and Kenney overhead kicked it into the bottom corner. Neil Johnston then made it 2 - 0 with a nice finish showing everyone a glimpse of what is to come. St Thomas then came back at us and after a slip in defence they had pulled one back. Again Brinklow pushed and thanks to a great cross from Roger Lunt, Kenney made it 3-1. St Thomas grabbed another but it wasn't to be and Brinklow won 3 - 2. It could have been more and perhaps would have been if it wasn't for a disallowed goal for Brinklow in the dying seconds.

Brinklow 2 Royal OAak 5

This clash saw us play top of the table opposition. All of the lads went into the game very determined and managed to grab a goal through Neil Johnston. It was a good move. Man of the match, Dennis Hoskins played a great ball upfield to Kenney who managed to get it through to Johnston who calmly finished it. For most of the first half, Brinklow played their best football of the season. However the Royal Oak managed to get back into it and not only levelled the score but took the lead as well. The final score ended up 5 - 2, (Dave Galpine grabbing the second) but it was a bit harsh after a good display.

Brinklow 1 Alstom 1

This was a tough game in wet and muddy conditions. The first 5 minutes saw Alstom come at us but after settling in Brinklow began to attack back. Eventually our good play paid off. Turkey won the ball in midfield and played it to whiff on the right. Whiff then released Woger down the wing! And he put in a great cross that Lee Kenney finished with a diving header. Alstom came back with a goal of their own just before half time. The second half saw both sides have a goal disallowed and a string of chances, but it wasn't to be and it all ended a draw. One factor was defending by Brinklow; it was possibly their best performance this season.

Overall this month has been tough for all the lads, as we haven't had a string of games making it difficult to hit consistent form. Hopefully next month will be different. Finally good luck to Antony Ford who is having an operation on his wrist. He has had a good season so far and will be missed in midfield. Well, he might be missed!!

Lee Kenney

.....*Continued from page 12*

Brinklow Youth 2 Chapelfield Colts 1

I had been tipped off before this game to expect a physical battle, and not surprisingly Colts lived up to their reputation. I opted not to say anything to the lads and preferred us to play our usual free flowing passing football. However, there were tackles flying in from all over the place, with several of our lads being caught with late tackles from behind and off the ball. Fortunately for us the pre-season friendlies which we played against senior teams like Ryton had prepared us well for games like this, so I was pleased with the way in which we competed. Halfway through the first half, we were rewarded with a direct free kick outside of the box. Up stepped Greg Wright and let fly with a 'Beckham' style free kick from 35 yards which dipped just inside the top left hand corner, which the keeper had no hope of saving.

Our first half performance was poor compared to recent weeks, so I asked the lads to step it up second half and we were soon awarded a penalty for a blatant push, which Danny Vincent drilled past the keeper. We had most of the possession throughout the second half and Scott was barely troubled in goal, until the final few minutes when they were wrongly given a late penalty, which according to our reliable linesman (Wardy's Dad) should have been a free kick as the foul was committed well outside the box. The ref was having none of it and they scored an undeserved consolation goal.

Man of the Match Greg Wright (Cracking goal !!!)

We are on a role at the moment, playing some tremendous football, but as the old saying goes, we need to take each game as it comes. There are a few teams behind us with games in hand, so we can't afford to get carried away. Keep it up lads.

Dave Wright

YOUTH TEAM NEWS

Hawksmill 1 Brinklow Youth 4

Due to a number of players being away, we were forced to make changes to our usual starting line up. This meant that Chris Reason was asked to play at right back and had by far his best game all season. Dale Lines who had been playing as a Goalkeeper in recent weeks, moved to the centre of defence and also played well along side big Andy Houston. In spite of atrocious weather conditions, our lads played some good football against a strong wind. We got off to a great start, with an excellent goal from James Hennedy, shooting from well outside the box, which the keeper had no chance of saving. Half time score 0 - 1. Wardy, Danny and Sharp, were controlling the midfield well and it wasn't long before we added a second goal with a powerful shot from Tom Muldoon across the keeper into the bottom corner. With the advantage of a strong wind behind us in the second half, we added to our goal tally, with a second from Tommy Muldoon a 'sweet chip' over the advancing keeper. Mid way through the second half James Hennedy also got his second goal, which was another long range effort, leaving the keeper stranded. Hawksmill claimed a late goal, but by that time the points were safely in the bag!

Man of the match Chris Reason

(Great all round performance and cracking last minute tackle, to prevent a second goal for Hawksmill)

Brinklow 5 Christ the King Red 1

Before today's game, Christ the King were unbeaten and were in second place breathing heavily down our necks desperately needing to win this game. Most of their players are a year older, playing for teams like Marconi and Sphinx midweek, so we knew we needed to be up for this one and we certainly were, with our best performance all season. Physically they were stronger than our lads, but in terms of ability we matched them in every department. Against the run of play, Christ the King took the lead from a well taken goal. We kept our heads, playing some good football and we were soon back in the game with a fantastic goal from Danny Vincent, who went round two players looked up and chipped the keeper from well outside the 18 yd box. Minutes later Danny was on the ball again having received a great pass from Alec James, he turned his man, raced past an oncoming defender and let fly from 25 yds and the ball hit the roof of the net, with the keeper stranded, it was almost an action replay. We went into half time with a 2 - 1 lead and the lads were buzzing. We kept up a high tempo to our game throughout the second half, and caught Christ the King on the back foot, with a couple of great goals from James Hennedy, making him our leading scorer with a total of 8 goals in as many matches. Christ the King failed to get back into the game second half and Tommy Muldoon added a further goal late on, making the final score a thumping 5 - 1 victory for the Brinklow Boys, which sent Christ the King off packing back to Coundon, not knowing what had hit em!!!

Man of the match Danny Vincent

(Two fine goals and a tremendous midfield display - the best I have ever seen you play!)

Bulkington Sports 1 Brinklow Youth 4

After a convincing win last week, we were determined to keep our winning run going. However, we got off to a bad start, with a freak overhead kick from the Bulkington centre forward that lobbed our keeper Scott in goal from 25 yards! We soon picked up our game and scored two identical goals from corners. The first was an in swinger corner from Tom Muldoon which Reasy headed home from 6 yards and 5 minutes later Andy Houston did exactly the same from another corner supplied by Tom Muldoon, which left the Bulkington Manager screaming at his players - it's called marking mate!! We kept on the pressure and added a third from James Hennedy, a cracking free kick from 30 yards straight in the top right hand corner. Bulkington were struggling to contain us and with half time approaching Reasy added a fourth goal an easy tap in from inside the 6 yard box. We could have made it five before half time when Arran was brought down in the box and the referee awarded a penalty kick. Arran was due a goal, so the lads let him take the penalty, but unfortunately he pulled his shot wide.

We were unable to add to our score line in the second half, but the damage had already been done in the first half, which saw us come away with a comfortable 4 - 1 victory.

Man of the match Wardy (Great battling performance!)

Question: How can you get 13 players 2 adults, three fans, 13 kit bags and 4 balls, in 2 cars?

Answer: 2 willing drivers, who aren't prepared to make two trips to Bulkington and back! So either get in or walk....

U9'S TEAM NEWS (GREEN LEAGUE)



Brinklow 0 Dunlop Juniors 8

Yet again the scoreline doesn't reflect the Bulldogs play, with three key players missing from a small squad it was frantic! In the first half Brinklow could have easily gone into the lead, instead we ended up three goals down.

However we battled through to the end of the game and never gave up. I'm encouraged to see elements of our training being executed on the field, in particular the start of some excellent passing.

Man of the match Connor Jenkins

Brinklow 1 Wyken Colts 3

This was by far the best performance so far by the 'Bulldogs', the squad is really taking shape. Most of the play went to Brinklow in the first half and we went 1-0 down just at half time. Picking up where we left off in half 2 the 'Bulldogs' made it 1-1 with a Ben Stone goal. The Colts scored from a corner, a hungover linesman missed what was clearly a second goal by Brinklow, the game was pacy and back and forth. Ended up 3-1, a really enjoyable game for players and spectators alike. A warm welcome to Glen Wright who made his mark in his first game.

Well done everyone!

Andy Main



*I remember when Father Christmas first passed his sleigh-driving test.
He came skidding down in front of the toy factory.
'Have you passed?' I asked.
Father Christmas pointed proudly to the front of the sleigh.
'See for yourself!' he called proudly. 'No-el plates!'*



.....u14's match report

Brinklow U14's 4 Coventry Irish 2

As will probably set the scene regarding this season opponents, Brinklow had never before faced Coventry Irish, so we didn't know that to expect from the Glasgow Celtic look-a-likes. Brinklow immediately from the kick off applied early pressure to the Irish defence with Danny Carter shooting wide from a precision long ball from new boy Adam Callagher. Within a minute Ricky Lee had a good chance from a corner but like Carter, shot wide. Brinklow had quite quickly realised that the Irish defence wasn't up to much and finding the ball at this feet Macca chipped the visitors keeper to make it 1-0. Soon after the Cov Irish lads had their first meaningful possession of the ball and with our defence in 6's & 7's the Irish forward absolutely thrashed the ball past the helpless Brinklow keeper, Dale Huddleston to bring the game level. James Parker put Brinklow ahead soon after, and Ryan Wood putting a great clearance to him, the opportunity was just too good to miss and he coolly rolled the ball into the net. In a matter of minutes, after some lovely passing, a Danny Carter pass found Joe Shore who seized the moment to make it 3-1. With half time beckoning there was a bit of a goal mouth scramble with Danny Carter scoring this time to make it an impressive 4-1.

At the start of the 2nd half and completely against the run of play one of the Cov Irish forwards found himself in a one-on-one situation and pushed the ball into the Brinklow net, perhaps giving themselves a glimmer of hope at 4-2. The remainder of the game was a story of chance after chance going begging, without any exaggeration the lads could have scored another 6 goals but luck was against them to increase their lead. However, on the day we were a far superior side and we thoroughly deserved all three points. A special mention must go to Adam Carragher who had a great game. In the short time he has been playing for Brinklow he has grown in confidence and I'm sure he will be a real asset to the team this season. Well Done.

U9'S TEAM NEWS (RED LEAGUE)

Dunlop Junior Colts	0	Brinklow	2
Brinklow	0	Stoke AT7	1
Chaplefield Colts	5	Brinklow	0
Brinklow	1	London Road	1

November hasn't really been the best of months for us with two defeats coming from it, although one of them was very unfortunate, the other well maybe they just got lucky (Five Times Ha! Ha!), never mind it can only get better.

I would like to welcome a new player to the team Adam Nailor, who has been a real bonus for us he seems to have fitted in well. I also wish Glen Wright the best of luck on his move to Andy Main's team "The Bulldogs", I hear he had a very good game on his debut alongside Ben Stone.

First game up this month was Dunlop Junior Colts who proved a very stubborn team to get past, although we did just that, with two late goals coming from Matthew and Craig. The first coming after a fine turn and shot from Matthew, which seemed to settle a few nerves. About five minutes later after a superb run and shot from Lee Huddleston, came back off the post to Craig Payne who knocked the ball into the back of the net for our second. Joe Kemp and George Harman were solid at the back, while the rest of the team pushed forward.

Man of the Match **George Harman**

Next up was table topping Stoke AT7 who had won every game so far this season. It turned out to be a very tough game for us, and AT7 possibly having more of the possession in the first half, but not really in a position to do us any harm. Second half Brinklow came out a different team having two or three good chances unfortunately not taking them. Late on AT7 took possibly their one and only clean cut chance to make it one, nil.

This was a very good performance from the boys, John and myself were both very pleased with them, but thought a draw would have been a fairer result.

Man of the Match **Adam Nailor**
(A great start)

Chaplefield Colts were next up and for twenty minutes we matched them in every department until two mistakes and two goals conceded, our heads dropped, we ended up our worst result ever of five goals to nil. Hoping this was just a one off, and in one way it might do us good and realise that we can't just turn up and expect to beat these teams.

Man of the Match **Shaun Russell**
(One of the few who never gave up)

This takes us up to London Road Lions, first half we did really well to be still in the game the way that London Road bombarded our goal, largely due to Mathew being in top form making some great saves. Second half we made a couple of changes and we were a much better team, going forward at every opportunity, Matthew Pine was back to his best causing London Road plenty of problems. Craig then scored a lovely goal after a great build up from Lee and Matthew. London Road equalised five minutes from time. A fair result in the end, and a good game was had by all the players, well done! Lads.

Man of the Match **Mathew Mooney & Lee Huddleston.**

Date for your Diaries

Saturday 21st December
UNDER 9'S CHRISTMAS PARTY
10.45 – 2.00pm approx
Money to be in A.S.A.P.

Dave Payne

U16'S TEAM NEWS

As this is the last 'on the Brink' before Christmas may I take this opportunity to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. I'm sure the players and their families will enjoy the break over this festive period.

Congratulations must go to Ryan Byrne who has been successful in getting selected for the Warwickshire County side. This honour is no more than he deserves after all the hard work and effort he has put in over the years.

WELL DONE RYAN, WE'RE PROUD OF YOU!



Ryan Byrne

In the last month the football we have played has certainly been exciting for the player's and supporters, a quote from Taffy summed up one game when he said "I would have paid good money to watch that game". Cheers Taffy thanks for the compliment.

The first game in November was against our old rivals Chaperfield Colts. They were top of the league and we were joint second. The game got off to a terrible start for Brinklow with us going two goals down early on in the match, as the game progressed Brinklow were being totally out classed in all departments and we were lucky to be only 2-0 down after half time. Clive and myself had a few harsh words to say to the players about their performance in the first half. The players responded to our team talk and within 10 mins of the second half we were 4-0 down. At this stage I felt like jacking the whole thing up and taking up golf (only joking, Alun). Anyway the players at this point started to recover some pride in their game and we started to put pressure on the opposition, We managed to get a goal back and this lifted all our players, in fact it lifted them so much we pulled the game back to 5-5 with some great goals from Martin Russell (2), Gareth Yeend, Peter Sharpe and Alex Pouncett. The only down side to this story was that Chaperfield were awarded a penalty in the last minute and went on to win the game 6-5. **HARD LUCK LADS!**

Our next game was against V.S Sports from the Coventry A league in the Birmingham junior cup. Again we started slow going two goals down but this time we came back and ended up winning 5-4. In this game the players showed great character and determination as they came from behind twice. Goals came from Alex Pouncett (2), Gareth Yeend, Peter Sharpe and Jack Wiggins.

A GREAT TEAM PERFORMANCE!

We had a free week on the 17th November, so Clive and myself went golfing with the Brinklow Golf Society. Can I take this opportunity to thank them for a memorable day out. We both picked up Prizes, Clive for winning the competition and me for not (least said).

Our last game was also a cup game our opposition being another 'A' league team, WhiteHart. We finally went out 2-0. The team battled hard throughout the whole game. **GREAT EFFORT BY ALL!**

Before I go, there are three people I would like to thank, Clive for helping me out with the football team and Heather and Alun for supplying a replacement kit for the lads who are growing too fast!

Forthcoming games

8th Dec - Christ the King or Finham (cup, away)

15th Dec - Allesley Athletic (home)

Keith Bryne



'No-one hands you cups on a plate'
TERRY MCDERMOTT



U14'S TEAM NEWS

-----match report on Page 5-----

Merry Christmas from all of the U14's



U10'S TEAM NEWS

Whitley	4	Brinklow	2
Brinklow	0	Finham Park	6
Squires Gear	1	Brinklow	0

November results have been pretty disappointing for the under 10's. Despite having played some good football at times we have not managed to secure any points, and in fact have not got on the scoresheet in the last 2 games. (I'm beginning to sound like Gary McAllister). Naaah it's not that bad !!

The team went into the Whitley game in good spirit, following a good run of form in October. The pitch was very heavy and made life difficult for both teams. Tom Morrison and Tom Glasscoe played out of position at the back as we tried to put some muscle into midfield in the form of Jamie Huddlestone and Tommy Hyde. Two scrappy first half goals from the home side gave them a real boost and the Brinklow heads looked to have dropped. During the second half Whitley scored again quite early on so it was time to see what some of our new players were capable of. Sam Hayley and Taylor Cross were joined by Tarun Sud and Joe Partridge in a 4 player substitution. Full credit to these four lads because they came on and turned the game around through some sheer hard work and determination. Good vision from Jamie Huddlestone started to rip the Whitley defence apart. Tom Glasscoe fought tirelessly to win possession and was eventually rewarded with a well taken goal, quickly followed by a through ball for Tarun who slotted home Brinklows second. Sam Hayley, Taylor Cross and Joe Partridge all continued to defend aggressively for Brinklow, and the determination to fight for a draw was clear for everyone to see. However the final whistle came all too soon, with Whitley finishing up nervous winners. Full credit to the whole team that day for playing with such passion and commitment.

Another mega-muddy affair saw Brinklow travel to Squires Gear in the second round of the cup. This game unfortunately sums up our month. Made all the chances, played all the football, but couldn't finish! Multiple corners and free kicks, goalmouth scrambles, hit the post, and sent clear cut chances just inches wide of the target. Thirty seconds of extra time left before penalties and Squires put a bullet low into the right hand corner of the Brinklow net. Absolutely gutted - each and every one of us.

The positive from this game was the number of chances we can create, combined with an otherwise very solid defensive performance.

We'll continue to play positive football and work on what we do with the ball in the final third of the pitch, and the results will come. December doesn't look easy with two more away games out of three, but I'm confident the players will turn it around before christmas. Keep your heads up lads. We can do it !

'Welcome to Danny Hale'

Must give a big welcome to Danny Hale who has joined us this month as we continue to grow the squad for 11 a side next year. Hope you enjoy being part of the club Danny !!

Also a final thank you to Steve Hyde of Premier Micro services who has kindly kitted the team out with some very smart rain jackets. Thanks Steve.

Tony Glasscoe

'I would not be bothered if we lost every game as long as we won the league.'
Mark Viduka

'We lost because we didn't win.'
Ronaldo

'If you don't believe you can win, there is no point in getting out of bed at the end of the day.'
Neville Southall

Thanks to **Sam Hayley** of the u10's for the Jokes!!



U11'S TEAM NEWS

Season review

The last month has seen the first league defeat for the Under 11s together with a number of postponed matches due to poor pitch conditions. Coincidentally this follows last seasons pattern, where we got off to a flying start and when the weather 'turned', the team's form temporarily dipped.

However, this time, the Under 11 showed the resolve and confidence to overcome a previous thrashing, by gaining a credible draw, against a useful Rugby Town team (we should have won really!!). The lads are also in a transition stage at the moment, going from a successful 4-4-2 formation to a 3-5-2 formation which requires more flexibility and understanding of the game. This will undoubtedly take some time to 'bed in' and results in the short term may be affected, but to the lads credit, the signs even at this early stage, are very encouraging.

Postponed matches

Apologies to everyone for the inconvenience and frustration of postponed matches. I dare say there will be many more to come. The decision to postpone a match is usually out of my hands. But I do insist whoever makes the decision let's me know as soon as possible, so that players & parents weekends are minimally disrupted. Occasionally the decision will be late, the reason for this is to give the match every chance to go ahead, but sometimes if the weather continues to be unkind, notice will be short. But please be assured I do try my best to give as much notice as possible.

Help

In the early part of 2003, I will be withdrawing from running the team. John Cramp, with the help of those who usually assist & support me, has very kindly offered to take over my role and responsibilities. Consequently, I would be very grateful, if all players, parents and members of the club etc. could please give John any support and help he might need.

New Kits

I'm pleased to say the new kits have arrived and hopefully by the time you've read this, they've seen some action. They're slightly on the large side, but if the sleeves are rolled up and shirts tucked in, the boys will look the part and also hopefully feel the part (they'll soon grow into them!!!). The next task is to acquire shower-proof jackets. These should not take as long to order as the kits, and should be available in 3 - 4 week's time.

Thank you

As 2002 draws to a close can I thank everyone who contributes to the running of the team. From John Cramp for his excellent refereeing and assistance, Ged Wood, Gary Wilcox & Simon Thompson for their help in training and matches and all the parents who help set up and take down the goals etc. Many thanks.

That just leaves me to wish all the lads, mums & dads and everybody connected to the Under 11s, a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Peter Day

U13'S TEAM NEWS

Christmas Edition!! - I don't believe its here so soon!!!

First I must apologise to the Club and the under 13's for not having a report in last months issue. Unfortunately with work and trying to run the team, I did not find the time to get the report in on time. So let's

bring you up to date with what has been happening over the past several weeks.

Allesley Aces	1	Brinklow Juniors	9
Brinklow Juniors	4	Finham Park Colts	3 (Cup Game)
Brinklow Juniors	0	Spencer Sports	3
Brinklow Juniors	5	The Boat	3
Binley Woods	3	Brinklow Juniors	3
Phoenix Boys	2	Brinklow Juniors	1

During the last few games three great moments took place. The first was in the game with The Boat; James Mercer scored with his left foot which was particularly impressive as no one has ever seen him kick the ball with his left foot, as it's only ever been used for standing on! If that was not enough James went on to score a second with the same foot, amazing! The third moment came in last weekends game against Phoenix Boys; after catching Phoenix offside Dan Giles placed the ball, got down in the mud on all fours and headed the ball back to the keeper, who calmly picked it up and kicked it up the pitch. The Referee waved play on. Before any of our other lad's pick-up on this idea all managers should confirm that this is not a legal move.



Match Report

I would like to report on a match I was only able to watch half of before rushing off to the U.S. for work, the local derby with Binley Woods. In the first half Brinklow looked tired and struggled to contain the Binley team, who lead 2-0. I would like to put our lads performance down to the Managers half time talk, but feel that all the praise should go to the lads who managed to get a draw out of a great second half performance (including a penalty save by Jamie Bayliss).

Man of the Match Tom Brookes

Player	Goals
David Brannon	10
Dan Gyselynck	7
James Mercer	5
Rory Higgins	4
Harley Steel	2
Alex Payne	1

I leave you with some definitions of the offside rule to think about over Christmas and hope you all have a great time!

Definition 1: The Bermuda Triangle area of the pitch which "innocent" players are drawn towards.

Definition 2: The offside rule is there to attract to football those people who can already explain how to play cricket.

Definition 3: A player is offside if they are nearer to the opponent's goal line than both the ball and the second last player - except on alternate Saturdays when in addition the second last player must be facing in the opposite goals direction in which the ball is directed.

Definition 4: A player is not offside if they are in their own half of the field, or they are level with the second last opponent, or the player, opponent and referee form a triangle as perceived by an imaginary linesmen positioned on the Celestial Meridian.

Definition 5: All offside regulations are immediately found to be in favour of the defending team if shortly after the ball is played they all stop, in unison, and raise their right arm to the linesman and appeal for an offside decision.

Rob Steel