



EDITORIAL



Welcome to the Christmas edition of '**ON THE BRINK**'. To celebrate I have finally managed to get something on the clubs website, go take a look at

<http://brinklowfc.co.uk/>

All the basic info is now on the site (contact details, maps to the pitches etc) but some links are still under construction. I have however added a caption competition in the 'News' section, send me a funny caption for the photo & I'll post it on the site. Best caption wins a football!!

Paul Wilby

wilby@wilby.screaming.net

Somewhere in '**ON THE BRINK**' you will find 7 footballs with a letter in the middle, can you find them? The first is below to help you. Once you have got all 7, arrange the letters to make up the name of a Bradford player with a trumpey bottom!



Last issues answer was '**HOLLAND**' (MATT).



12's and under Xmas Party

**Brinklow British Legion
Sunday 28th Dec.
2-5 pm**

Registered players of BFC, free entry.

Brothers & sisters £1.00.

Parents welcome to stay and have a drink in the bar.

MICRO FOOTBALL



We have now collected all the sponsorship money and the grand total is in excess of £700, again well done everyone for a great effort, we really cannot tell you how important it is to have your support now and in the future years.

As you are all now aware we have made our first purchase with the money, The training tops, I am sure you will all agree the boys look very smart in their new tops, they also look and must feel that they belong to a team, which of course they do. It gave me great pleasure to hand out their tops and see their reaction I think I enjoyed it more than they did!



Just to keep you in the frame we will be making some more purchases in the near future this will be equipment that we can utilise during our training sessions.

Murph, Jim, Paul and I continue to be impressed with the progress the boys are making, it seems every week they are developing into better footballers and they are really starting to think about what they are doing and what they need to do next on the pitch. We are really looking forward to the day when we can get the boys onto the park and playing their first competitive game.

There will be a Christmas party for the team on Sunday 21st December, this will be held in the church rooms in Brinklow which is opposite the White Lion Pub, we will confirm the start and finish time although we expect it to be approximately 2pm-4pm. There will be music, fun and games and snacks.

You will also have the opportunity to get your hands on one of these classy team photographs, there will be I am afraid a small fee.

Thank you all for your continuing support

Wayne Pulford

U7'S TEAM NEWS



Two months after the squad first came together they have progressed to the point that it was time to play some friendly games to put into practice what they had learnt in training.

Christ the King, Coventry

For a first game we were taking on a strong team and their previous match experience showed. From the kick off Christ the King mounted a prolonged attack on the Brinklow goal and produced some excellent saves from Daniella and some strong defending by Ben, Robert and Matthew. CTK's experience soon told and they moved to an early 2 goal advantage before Brinklow settled into the game. Some encouraging moves developed from Griff, George and Georgia but we were unable to capitalise on them and went into the break with a 6-0 score line that completely understated the energy and effort that the team had put in.

The second half opened with further pressure on the Brinklow defence bringing out some good midfield tackling by Jake, and Billy whilst some good touchline play from Georgia and Ryan saw Brinklow take the game to CTK. Unfortunately CTK were as strong in defence as attack and were able to keep a clean sheet. The final score of 10-0 was not a true indicator of the effort that the team put into their first game in which they all gave 100% and for which all the managers and parents were extremely proud.

St Nicolas Boys Club, Nuneaton

It had to happen - after 3 months of dry Saturday mornings the weather finally changed and our second game was cancelled because of a waterlogged pitch. A meeting of the Pools Panel declared the result a draw.

As Winter is now taking hold training is moving indoors so that we can concentrate on developing skills without catching cold.

Gordon Betts



'I understand you're a member of the school football team,' said a visiting uncle to seven-year-old Johnny. 'What position do you play?' 'I'm not sure,' answered the boy, 'but I think I heard teacher say that I was the team's main drawback.'



A goalkeeper had had a particularly bad season and announced that he was retiring from professional football. In a television interview he was asked his reasons for quitting the game. 'Well, basically,' he said, 'it's a question of illness and fatigue.' 'Can you be more specific?' asked the interviewer. 'Well,' said the player, 'specifically the fans are sick and tired of me.'



U8'S TEAM NEWS



Brinklow A	8	Brinklow B	1
PSA Peugeot	0	Brinklow A	4
Coventry Jag	1	Brinklow B	3
Brinklow A	5	Wyken Boys	0
Brinklow B	0	Christ the King	9

Junior football to me is about allowing the lads to enjoy themselves on the pitch and hopefully to see some improvements in their play. This month I can honestly say that on both counts we have achieved just that. Some excellent football in our own derby paved the way for possibly the 3 most complete displays of football you will ever see from this age group, with the A team completely dominating both games against Peugeot and Wyken, with neither opposition having a shot on goal. Credit for this falls on all the lads but when you have Thomas "Sol" Ridding, Lloyd "Stopper" Pulford in defence backed up with Andrew "Clean Sheet" Judge in goal it's no wonder. Of course clean sheets don't win games so with Jack "Nicky Butt" Farthing, Connor "Roy Keane" Molloy, Jake "Beckham" Salmon dictating the engine room and creating opportunities for Andrew "Ruud" Skerratt and Sean "Laarsen" O'Reilly, they very rarely miss, so games are won.

The 3rd complete display was by my other side, who traveled to Cov Jag and what proved to be their best day so far. Liam "Lineker" Kehoe scoring twice partnered by Ben "Giggs" Kimberley backed up with Josh "Gerrard" Smith, Joe "Figo" Burton, Connor "Keane" Molloy, Alex "Heartson" Sidwell, Ryan "Rooney" Wareham, the defence as solid as Ryan "The Rock" Stothard and the outstanding performances of our duo of Jordan "Cruyff" Batchelor and Daniel "Safe" Batchelor, this team won their 1st game of the season with I am sure many more to come.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who supported our race night whether by donating prizes or sponsoring races which raised an incredible £307. Well done to Richard and Hayley for their efforts. It just leaves me to say to everyone involved not only in the under eights but the whole club Merry Christmas

Martin Pulford



A desperate manager, whose team had lost fourteen consecutive games, rang a colleague for advice on training methods. 'I'll tell you what you should do,' said his friend. 'Take the team out on a six-mile run every day.' 'What's the point of that?' asked the manager. Today's Monday,' was the reply. 'By Saturday, they'll be thirty-six miles away and you can forget all about them!'



Blackburn FC is apparently under investigation by the Inland Revenue for tax evasion; they've been claiming for Silver Polish for the past 20 years.



U9'S TEAM NEWS



Bears 6 Pro Santos 1

After a shaky start and an early goal for Santos, the Bears settled down and played some exciting and attacking football. Josh B (J.B.) equalised and then turned the Santos defender brilliantly for a tremendous second.

The move of the game brought the third goal, starting with Willem in goal who found Harley, H passed to Lewis who threaded a ball wide to Adam "Super" Cooper who finished in spectacular style. GREAT TEAM GOAL lads.

Phil capped another good game with his first Brinklow goal from a JB corner. Then H also notched his first from the penalty spot. Lewis "Lineker" rounded off the scoring with a good solo run down the right and powerful shot. Unluckiest man was Josh "Turbo" who hit the woodwork 4 times but again put in a brilliant hard working performance.

Man of the Match Harley "H" McKittrick

(a great display of tackling and passing)

Coventry Aquatics 2 Bears 1

We are all still pinching ourselves, wondering just how we did not win this one. If Sky Sports had televised it you would have seen the stats:

	Aquatics	Bears
Corners	2	23
Possession	15%	85%
Shots	2	1 lost count

Aquatics took a fortunate lead when a corner spun off a Brinklow leg into the net. Despite many great chances we could not find the net and were unlucky to go two down from Aquatics second corner. With a few minutes left Turbo pulled a goal back with a superb finish clipped in past the keeper. Adam stepped in goal as our two regular keepers were both unavailable and was magnificent. Heads up lads, if you keep playing like this the luck will change.

Man of the Match Phil Barratt

(an amazing performance, dogged in defence and driving forward to support our attacks)

Whitley 1 Bears 0

Another brave battling performance, and again the result does not reflect our performance. Connor looked unbeatable in goal with yet another fine display from Phil in defence. Lewis is improving with each game in midfield and Turbo fought for every ball and made our best chances.

With 10 minutes left a hopeful cross crept in at the far post, it was a cruel blow. It shows however that the Bears can compete with the league leaders and should fear no team. It is only a matter of taking our chances and that will come.

Man of the Match Adam "Super" Cooper

(Tactically aware and solid tackling)



The team with their new training tops sponsored by McKittrick

Scorers		Man of Match	
Name	Goals	Name	
Lewis Pepper	9	Josh Stothard	2
Josh Brennan	9	Joe Winbush	2
Josh Stothard	5	Harley McKittrick	3
Harley McKittrick	1	Josh Brennan	2
Phil Barratt	2	Lewis Pepper	2
Adam Cooper	1	Philip Barratt	1
Own Goals	1	Connor Jenkins	2
		Adam Cooper	2
Total	28		

u10s continued on page 17

U10'S TEAM NEWS (GREEN LEAGUE)



Bulldogs 1 Wyken F.C 1

An ill-tempered affair which ended in the whole entourage chucking their dummies out the pram!

Half time and the Bulldogs were 1-0 down, but as is the norm with the Bulldogs they never dropped their heads. Five minutes to go and Ben Stone (who had been absent during most of the second half) returned to the field and immediately made an impact.

Constant pressure during the dying seconds eventually resulted in a well earned goal, scored sensationally by Ben Stone. Fired up and eager for the winner the Bulldogs rushed back for the restart, only for the referee to blow for fulltime immediately after the restart. Wyken then ranted and raved, calling the ref and Bulldogs cheats for playing extra time. In truth the second half was shorter than the first, but it really was sour grapes. It left a nasty taste in the mouth after what was a very spirited performance. I'm sure this will backfire on the Wyken team as the Bulldogs are determined to get a results in the return fixture. Well played everyone

Man of the Match Ben Stone

Bulldogs 11 Leamington Hibs 2

As the scoreline suggests the Bulldogs were too strong for the hibs.

Ben Stone played for the first 10 minutes and stood down after scoring 4 goals in that time. Michael Paul took over up front and scored a brace himself. Luke Tailby gave another impressive performance scoring a trademark thunderbolt left foot goal. Henry DeBoer gave his most impressive performance to date, with accurate passing, tenacious tackling and a tremendous long-range goal as the cherry on the cake! Worthy of goal of the month.

Man of the Match Henry DeBoer

Bulldogs 1 Dunlop 0

A top of the league clash, The Bulldogs went into this game knowing they were in for a battle as Dunlop were the only team in the league with a 100% record of wins. From the whistle it was blatantly obvious the Bulldogs were in a determined mood, they took the game to Dunlop and dictated play. Dunlop were a hard nut to crack but just before half time the Bulldogs went ahead with a reliable goal from Ben Stone. The second half proved hectic but the Bulldogs were not to be denied victory.

Man of the Match Danny Wood

Bulldogs 2 Wyken Colts 2

This was the biggest test of character the Bulldgs had encountered, 2 nil down at half time playing a very physical side. Full credit to the lads who stuck to their task, battling all the way.

The second half saw Wyken with their backs against the wall, the Wyken manager got more and more animated as the Bulldogs drove forward, the Wyken defence cracked and captain Glen Wright blasted the ball into the net!

Corner after corner saw the lads pummelled the Wyken goal with minutes to go Ben Stone scored and almost went through the net, a minute later to our relief the whistle went.

An excellent stirring fight back from the lads. Wyken picked Glen Wright as Man of the Match as I couldn't separate them.

Man of the Match Glen Wright

Andy Main

U10'S TEAM NEWS (BLUE LEAGUE)



Athletic Utd 3
Brinklow 2
Binley Woods 0
Exhall Tigers 2

Brinklow 2
Balsall & Berkswell 1
Brinklow 2
Brinklow 6 (AET - Cup Match)

Apart from one blip a much better month for the boys as far as results are concerned, they seem to be playing with more confidence and an absolute joy to watch. Unfortunately we went down 3-2 against ATHLETIC UNITED who got their winner in the dying seconds of an error prone game. We were made to pay for our poor finishing in the first half.

Man of the Match Matthew Pine

Brinklow 2 Balsall & Berkswell 1

Brinklow escape with all three points after a thrilling comeback after being a goal down for most of the game. Two goals in the last seven minutes from Owen & Beckham (well almost - Matthew Pine & Lee Huddleston) another excellent goal from Matty and a excellent thumper from Huddy Junior. - Well done boys for not giving up. Also well done to Jason Taylor who played well when he came on, now its up to him to keep this up.

Man of the Match Stuart Day

(Best I've seen him play. Got stuck in from the start)

Binley Woods 0 Brinklow 2

Brinklow stun high flying Binley Woods, and chopped then down to size.....

The goals again coming from Matthew Pine and Lee Huddleston. but the whole team played their part Craig was outstanding at the back with the help of Harry Jeavons then Lee Rollins, Nathan and Stuart both had decent games in midfield, the team were so much in control of the game the score doesn't tell the whole story. Binley Woods never had one shot at Matthew Mooney all game. Brilliant display one and all.

Man of the Match Craig Payne

(Unpassable)

**'Brinklow stun
high flying
Binley Woods,
and chopped
then down to
size.....'**

Exhall Tigers 2 Brinklow 6 (AET - Cup Match)

Brinklow eventually tame the tigers and made them look nothing more than big pussy cats..... An absolute thriller of a game to watch, although we should of had the game wrapped up at half time. Matty Owen giving us the lead, right up until the last minute where upon the tigers took it into extra time. Lee Huddy Junior restored Brinklows lead with Matty making it 3-1 two minutes later. Exhall Tigers then hit back once again before a wonderful goal by Nathan. The second period of extra time saw Lee Huddy Junior score and then Harry Jeavons make it six.

George Harman and Lee Rollins were joint Man of the Match both were outstanding Stuart Day also had a good game and was unlucky not to get his name on the scoresheet. Well done boys!!!

Dates For Your Diaries

07/12/03 Caludon Youth v Brinklow

14/12/03 Brinklow v Christ the King

Just a quick reminder there is still money outstanding for training could you all please make your payments asap. Thanks for your support.

Dave Payne

U11'S TEAM NEWS



Well not a lot to write about this month having had a two week break through the school half term holiday. But we have managed to play three games, winning one and losing the other two.

Brinklow 4 Binley Woods 0

Report supplied by Matthew Wilby.

JJ (c) scored a right footed goal from a good corner, Zack scored 3 goals one in which Tom Glasscoe dribbled down the right of the field and crossed the ball in for Zack who hit it first time. Tom Glasscoe played well with some spectacular long range near misses. Danny, Charlie, Dale and Kyle all came on from the sideline and all played well.

Man of the match Joe Partridge

(For playing a very good solid game in left defence)

Cov Sphinx 10 Brinklow 0

Well the score says it all for this game, letting in some sloppy goals. We still don't seem to be playing to our ability and instead we seem to be going in to games without the fighting spirit we used to be so full off.

Man of the Match Tommy Hyde

(One of the only players to play to there ability)

Whitley 12 Brinklow 3

Our pre match talk seemed more confident for this game but after the first ten or so minutes you would never of thought so. Chasing the game four nil down you would of thought our heads would drop, but to our credit we carried on and whenever we got the ball over the halfway line we looked like we could cause problems for their defence which was camped virtually on the halfway line. To our credit we managed to pull the score back to five three at halftime with goals coming from Taylor Cross 1 and Zack Murphy 2.

Second half seemed totally different, letting them score seven goals to our none. Let this be a lesson to us all, the only way to win is to keep playing our best for the whole game.

Man of the match Zack Murphy

(Never gave up in the heart of midfield)



Kyle, Stephen & Zack compete for the ball in the game against Cov Sphinx

Thanks go to Joe and Arthur for there running of the line, cheers.

Neil Huddlestone



A First Division player not noted for his modesty was regaling his friends in the local pub. 'I came out of the ground after the match last Saturday and there were literally hundreds of fans outside waving autograph books at me!' Noticing the sceptical looks on the faces of his listeners, he added, 'It's quite true! If you don't believe me, ask Micheal Owen - he was standing right next to me!'



U12'S TEAM NEWS



Season Review

In last months On the Brink I reported the Under 12s had played only two games in the previous month but had won them both. This month, again we have played only two games, but this time have lost both games. To their credit, despite everything being against them, it's been pleasing to see the lads competing until the final whistle, but on the down side they've seen no reward for the hard work they're putting in. It hasn't helped with not knowing the availability of players from one week to the next and so many games being postponed. As a result, we haven't been able to establish a pattern of play since the start of the season and also it hasn't allowed the management team to let players play in their preferred position which, when combined, usually helps us to win more matches than we lose. However, I know the Under 12s are made of sterner stuff and I'm sure this dip in form will only make the boys try even harder.

Training

'It will be imperative that everyone attends these (training) sessions as they will become the only times we'll be able to meet to talk about tactics and practice moves. Your support to fulfil these sessions will be invaluable.'

For a variety of reasons, it was decided at the beginning of the season that the Under 12s wouldn't have any midweek training, but do proper outdoor training every two or three weeks instead. The quote above was from September's *'On the Brink'* and is now more relevant than ever. We're now into the 'nitty gritty' of the season and I can't emphasis enough the importance of everybody attending these training sessions whenever they take place. For those who have other commitments on these days, out of courtesy, I would appreciate a call in advance.



Welcome

For the second month running, I'm pleased to say the Under 12s have recruited another valuable squad member. James Kearney has joined us from Bedworth United F.C. To date, I have only seen James in action at training, but if his efforts in training are anything to go by, James will be a big asset to the team. Welcome to James and his family from all at Brinklow F.C.

Scorers		Man of Match	
Name	Goals	Name	
Josh Pointon	2	Callum Day	1
Alex Cramp	2	Jordan Thompson	2
Arron Steel	2	Alex Wood	1
Chris Brennan	4	Milan Sud	2
Miles Wilcox	1	Alex Cramp	1
Alex Wood	1	Arron Steel	1

Fixtures & Training

Sun 7th December	Ernsford Dynamos	Away
Sat 13th December	Training	Barr Lane (11:00 - 12:30)
Sun 14th December	Dunlop Juniors	Away

u12s continued bottom of next page

U14'S TEAM NEWS



Brinklow 1 Coundon Court 12

Firstly, as of Nov. 1st Brinklow are under new management. Anthony Ford and Stefan Brown will now be running the under 14's.

We have experience within the game of football, as we are senior players for Brinklow 1st and Reserve teams. As we did not have any knowledge of the players abilities, this match was about getting to know each other and promoting team spirit. We quickly realised that this team had the ability to succeed but needed direction. The only goal for Brinklow was Geezer (Daniel Gyselynck).

Brinklow 2 Finham Park 5

After an excellent training session performed by Super Dave Wright, the Brinklow boys were in high spirits. Two tremendous goals by Geezer and Rory put us in the lead at half time with a score of 2-1. Second half, however, Finhams fitness showed, and despite our overwhelming passion to win, Finham took all 3 points.

Man of match Daniel Gyselynck.

Binley Woods 5 Brinklow 4 (Cup Match)

The atmosphere was running at fever pitch throughout this close fought match. Binley went into a 3 goal lead within the first 15 minutes, but this was unbelievable as Brinklow were playing their socks off. We had 3 goals disallowed due to the poor skills of the linesman. Excellent defending by Luke Forster enabled Brinklow to score 2 goals before half time. First by Tom Pye-Ford and second by Rory Higgins.

Second half saw the lads more determined. Tom Pye-Ford scored his second and James Mercer the forth. We didn't deserve to lose. Brinklow are on the way up!

Man of the match Luke Forster (excellent defending)
Tom Pye-Ford (midfielder becomes assassin)

Anthony Ford

...u12s report continued

Bits & Pieces

- There are still one or two subs outstanding. Can I please have these in.
- Annual Dads' night out (Earlsdon run?) December 23rd. Deposits already paid. Please speak to Bob Sud or me for details or if you want to come along.
- It would be extremely helpful for those of you who have e-mail, would let me have your e-mail address. This would help greatly with communication and I could also keep you up to date as to everything that's happening with the Under 12s.
- For those who have access to the web, Paul Wilby has now built the Brinklow F.C. website. Parts of it are under construction, but there is still a lot of useful information and content on it. I will be adding & updating Under 12s information to it regularly, so please log on as often as possible.

Finally can I thank everyone connected to the Under 12's team. Thankyou to all the guys who help and assist me. Thank you to all the parents for your support and finally a big thank you to all the boys for their hard work and dedication.

Have a great Christmas.

Peter Day



Hawkesmill Colts 1 Brinklow 7

Every now and again a coach is reminded why they give so much time, effort and commitment to this beautiful game called football. On a day when the playing conditions were good and 22 evenly matched lads all want to give 100% and enjoy their sport, with an impartial referee these are the ingredients for an excellent game. Rarely do all of the ingredients come together in the same place and at the same time. When all 11 players on a side know what to do and put in to practice all they have been coached it is a sight to behold.

In an evenly matched game you know the difference between success and failure rests on a simple mistake or a mistimed challenge. You know it means taking your chances and the whole team have to play to the best of their ability. It took 13 minutes for Daniel Carter to put Brinklow into the lead with a well-taken goal made up of quality passing and excellent technical execution. The speed and quality of the game was maintained throughout and Hawkesmill made every effort to even things up before Daniel McDonald hit a sublime 20-yard shot into the top left hand corner, which any premiership striker would have expected to win at least goal of the month with.

Joe shore made it 3 after 35minutes coming close on a couple of previous occasions but for some excellent defending and goalkeeping by Hawkesmill. Daniel Carter and Alex Baker added another each to take it to 5-0 at the break.

At half time what can a manager say when everything is as good as it can be but go out and do it again in the second half. It would be easy to think that with a 5 goal lead all you have to do is turn out and play the second half without a care. A tremendous amount of credit should be given to Hawkesmill who believed they could turn it around and played with that determination for the full 90minutes. They never gave up and the quality and effort put in was a delight to see. Daniel Carter scored his third goal early in the second half, followed by a second for Daniel McDonald.

Hawkesmill were awarded a penalty 15 minutes into the second half after some superb build up play. The first spot kick having to be retaken due to players stepping into the box before the kick was taken. Dale Huddleston saved the second attempt superbly only to have it retaken for moving off his line. At the third time of asking Dale saved again to deny Hawkesmill a goal. It took Hawkesmill 4 minutes from time to get a thoroughly deserved goal, which even the most biased supporter would have difficulty denying they deserved.

It is far too rare at the end of a game to see every player on the pitch smiling, a referee saying what a pleasure it was to witness such a good display of quality football and sportsmanship and the losing manager complimenting both the away team players and supporter for such a good game. It would also be easy to think the score line suggested a one-way affair, which is simply not true. This was a team performance with every single player doing his job superbly. When the substitutes came on the game did not change in pace or quality. This is what great games are made of. The only thing that remains is to ask the question, "Why can't we do this every week?"

Robert McDonald

"BEST GAME EVER!!! "

Quote MICK HOLT U15's Manager

Merry Christmas from the u15's



Available soon at the club shop!

U15's Crossword Answers from last Month !!

Across

- 1 Oxo or Bisto ———
 2 U.S. President ———
 3 You have to look for him ———
 4 Robot Wars _____ Charles ———
 5 Bruce or Evans ———
 6 Eves' other half ———
 7 Lots of trees ———
 8 His dozen is thirteen ———
 9 Winton to his friends ———
 10 Merchant who deals with fabrics ———

Answers

- Stocks
 Bush
 Hunt
 Craig
 Lee
 Adam
 Wood
 Baker
 Dale
 Draper

Down

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-----|-------------|
| 1 | Mystery name | ——— | Josh Tailby |
| 2 | Mr. Beddingfield | ——— | Daniel |
| 3 | Sir Francis | ——— | Drake |
| 4 | Alan Ladds famous cowboy | ——— | Shane |
| 5 | He had a farm | ——— | McDonald |
| 6 | G.I. | ——— | Joe |
| 7 | Lady Penelope's driver | ——— | Parker |



LADS
 v
DADS



**Boxing Day football Match! - Get him out of Bed,
 get his kit on & get him down to Barr lane.**

K.O - 11.00 am

SENIORS TEAM NEWS

Quigleys 4 Brinklow 5 (AET)

On November 2nd the seniors first team travelled to Whinfield 1, to meet Div 2 side Quigleys in the second round of the Hospital Cup In what turned out to be an entertaining cup tie. Brinklow did not get the best of starts when conceding a goal from the kick-off, the referee missing a blatant foul that resulted in our keeper losing the ball. By half time we had turned the score line round to a comfortable 2-1, only to give away a sloppy goal at the restart. The game was to continue with non-stop Brinklow pressure, but after continually being denied by an inspired Quigley keeper and twice the woodwork, due to some Kamikaze defending we found ourselves at 3-2 down, with the seconds ticking away on the clock. It was starting to look like it was not to be our day but our get out of jail card was to be a dubiously awarded penalty which Stocky coolly put away, completing his hat-trick and sending the game into extra time. With the first-half of extra-time being played in atrocious conditions we were thankful to have the wind on our back and equally grateful when Stocky yet again popped up in the box to fire home finally putting us into a deserved lead. The second period was to see us again pushing forward strongly, being rewarded with the goal of the game from Gaz Moore firing home with his left foot after having run at the Quigley defence from just inside their half. That should have been that but Quigleys still managed to find time to score another, leaving us with a deserved but somewhat fortunate 5-4 victory in what was probably our worst performance of the season to date. Still a win is a win, and through to the next round.

‘Rewarded with the goal of the game from Gaz Moore’

Brinklow 2 Merry Monk 2

Getting back to league business was to see us at home on the 9th Nov against the Merry Monk, a young up and coming team that we had done well to knock out of the Hospital Cup, earlier in the season. In what was to be a fairly even game it was good to see midfielder "Azi" getting on the score sheet with an equalizing goal shortly before half-time. The second half saw Brinklow pushing on more with Gaz giving us the lead. Unfortunately this was not to be capitalised on, and not for the first time this season we were left to rue missed chances as the Monk went on to score late in the game, the end result being a 2-2 draw, this being a fair result at the end of the day.

Barley Mow 2 Brinklow 1

Our next match was against the Barley Mow, being played at the Avon Valley school, Newbold. Our games against the Barley usually turn out to be highly competitive, and this one was to prove no exception. Our prematch talk was to revolve mainly around reminding our side that so far this season we felt that we had yet to see the best of them, and as such they were asked to start upping the tempo. It was pleasing to see that they responded in style, pushing the Barley back from the start, and going into a 1-0 lead when Justin Neal held off a defender to cleverly beat the keeper, rounding off a good team move. With Brinklow having the best of the play it was somewhat unlucky that we were to be pegged back to 1-1, the Barley hitting us on the break, scoring with a back post header from a cross that should have been cut out. Into the second half the lads proceeded to play some superb football, often leaving the Barley midfield chasing shadows, and at last starting to look like the quality side that we know they can be. Had we turned nonstop pressure into goals, and we had more than enough chances, then this was a game that could have been won at a stroll. However, we all know that football can be a cruel game, and on this day there was to be one major turning point. After D.A. had been blatantly poleaxed in the box, to the astonishment of all 22 players, plus the present spectators, the ref decided not to give what was an obvious penalty. With our side still shaking their heads in disbelief the Barley moved the ball upfield, and when one of their players went down under what was an innocuous looking challenge our

Continued on next page

.....*Seniors report continued*

astonishment turned to anger when the ref pointed to the spot. With only minutes left on the clock the resultant penalty was gleefully accepted, leaving an extremely deflated Brinklow side leaving the field knowing that they had been robbed in what was a very hard to swallow 2-1 defeat!

Brinklow 1 Rugby Workers 6

Following the previous weeks disappointment we were hopeful that our side would have the opportunity to bounce back with a home fixture at the Revel against the Rugby Workers, a side that is starting to emerge as a useful force after being taken over by former Rugby Town manager, Tommy Young. What we did not expect was the hammering that we took on the day. With our side being down to the bare bones we were forced to reshuffle the formation yet again. However we started brightly enough when Justin finished off a slick team move with a superb volley into the top right hand corner giving us a 1-0 lead with what was a top draw goal. After being denied another opportunity by a questionable offside and then the woodwork, we seemed to totally lose our focus, giving two soft goals away shortly before half-time. After the restart we again conceded but then played the best football of the match, pinning the Workers in their own half for a good twenty minutes but without gaining any rewards. We were then to be hit by a cruel breakaway goal and at 4-1 down there was to be no way back. With some areas of the side seeming to totally give up, we eventually went down 6-1, our heaviest defeat for some four seasons!

Barry Wilkinson

.....*u9's report continued*

Coventry Jaguar 1 Bears 1

A nerve jangling, brain cramping match, in which the Bears never gave up and FINALLY got their reward. Once again we dominated this match but found it hard to find the back of the net. Several clear chances were missed and after failing to clear the Jag took the lead. In the second half we threw everything at them and a fine run by Adam ended up with a penalty award. Unfortunately their keeper made a great save, however the lads were undeterred and Phil rose like a bird on the near post to head home directly from a corner. It was a great goal and we fully deserved to take at least a point.

Man of the match Adam

(Again for a solid performance in defence and midfield)

The Bears 3 Ernesford Dynamos 1

A brilliant display of fine passing and movement and the Bears move above Ernesford in the table. This was our best performance of the season with the defence of Phil, Adam and Alex solid as ever, Joe on top form when he was needed in goal and Connor, Turbo, J.B. and Harley working tirelessly in midfield. Turbo did the damage with 2 well taken goals and Lineker grabbed the third, but this was a truly excellent team performance, with superb wide play by Connor and JB. The team is now taking a real shape and has dominated the opposition in all the last six games. Lets keep the momentum going

Man of the Match Lewis Lineker

(linked midfield and attack with quick thoughtful passing)

Please all teams note, we are holding a training fun day to raise funds for our trip to Butlins Minehead along with the Under 8's. The session commences at 10.30 am on Saturday 13th December at Barr Lane. There are 5 events including "Beat the Goalie" and a Special obstacle course and prizes are available. Everyone is welcome.

Andy Pepper



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ON THE BRINK

Why did the chicken cross the road? - football managers explain:-



George Graham

"I want good, solid team chickens who'll cross the road in a straight line when they're told and how they're told. There's no room at this club for a prima donna chicken running around aimlessly - he's not worth it!"



Brian Clough

"If God had wanted chickens to cross roads he'd have put corn in the tarmac. Anyway, I'm more interested in Wild Turkey."

Ron Atkinson

"Spotter's badge, Clive. For me, Chicko's popped up at the back stick, little eyebrows, and gone bang! And I'll tell you what - I've got a sneaking feeling that this road's there to be crossed."



John Gregory

"Two months ago that chicken was saying he was happy here. Now he tells me he wants to cross the road. I feel like shooting him."



Kevin Keegan

"OK, so the chicken's dead, but I still feel, hey, he can go all the way to the other side of the road."