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This month we have started with the planning for the clubs' annual 6-a-side tournament.

Owen Pulford (Taffy to his friends!) has kindly volunteered to be the tournament co-ordinator this year – well done Taffy. Hopefully by the time

you read this the first invites along with a Christmas card from the club will already be winging their way to teams invited to the tournament.

As usual we will be looking for trophy sponsors for each of the age groups, the payment for this is £100 & goes towards the costs of winners & runners up medals, so if you are interested in sponsoring one of the age groups or know of someone then please let your teams manager know.

Due to the growing number of teams it has been necessary to move the seniors tournament to the following week (Saturday 10th June). Not only will this allow us to accommodate our girls teams on Friday 2nd June but it will mean that we can extend the seniors tournament to include more teams than in previous years, something we thought we should do due to the popularity of last years event.

It seems that lots of the managers & players have organised festivities over the Christmas holidays. The u11's & u13's boys along with the u13's girls are having a Christmas party at the Legion Club & the u7's are having a 'TAFFYOKE' at the Raven. The u8's are joining in with the festivities by all going off to watch Coventry City (more like watching the Queens speech than a party but I'm sure they will enjoy it!).

Well, whatever you're doing Brinklow FC wish you all

A MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Paul Wilby

communications@brinklowfc.co.uk

Here are the answers to the 'Boltys Brain Buster' quiz in last months magazine

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1) Newcastle United and Exeter City | 2) Thierry Henry |
| 3) Gulls | 4) Wigan |
| 5) Offside by Barry Stoller | 6) Kevin Poole (41) Bolton |
| 7) Tommy Hutchinson | 8) Paul Ince |
| 9) Wes Brown | 10) John Terry and Thierry Henry |

The winner was Charlie Huddlestone BFC U11's Girls

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Martin Pulford

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email: pulfordmart@aol.com

Kit & Equipment

Taffy Pulford

01788 833107

email: pulfordmaars@aol.com

MICRO's TEAM NEWS



We are currently training indoors at Ernesford Grange Community Centre at the unearthly hour of 9.00 am every Saturday morning. We have an excellent turnout every week with the players working really hard (keep it up!!).

We still have several places available so any year one parents can contact us on the numbers below. We will hopefully all be attending the Christmas Academy and Party and are really looking forward to it.

Finally we would like to take this opportunity to wish all our players and their parents a wonderful Christmas and a successful New Year.

Mark Troughton
Adrian Barratt

Manager: Adrian Barratt
Tel No: 024 76451620 Mob: 07768 526057

Manager: Mark Troughton
Mob: 0788 6441157

U13's GIRLS NEWS

The Girls have continued to play at a central venue one Saturday and train every other. We have had a mixed bag of results, we have won, drawn and lost in equal measure, playing really well one game and losing shape the next. We seem to play our best football against Alcester who are by far the best team in the league and even though we lose, the effort, teamwork and standard of football is fantastic and we have started to close the gap.

What is slightly disappointing is games we should win easily, we have all the play, then just seem unable to score, that's when the panic football takes over. This is something that Dale and myself are trying to work on in training. If we keep our shape, keep playing good passing football the goals will follow.

Overall we are really pleased with all the girls spirit and efforts. They are improving week by week and this is all we can ask of them. They really are a great group of girls, the spirit within the team is really high, the support they give each other whether they are on or off the pitch is fantastic and we always leave the games smiling.

We now have full kits to play in and new rain-jackets, the girls are all chuffed to bits. A big thank you to all our sponsors who have enabled us to purchase all our kit and equipment, The Revel Dental Surgery, Nuneaton Precisions Ltd, Marleens Cards and Crafts and our newest sponsor Derek Lodge from The Training Matrix Ltd.

Finally, I must give a massive thanks to all the parents, friends and family who give up half a Saturday to come along to the matches and cheer the girls on, in sometimes bitterly cold weather. I know the girls really appreciate it and we would not be able to play without your help and support.

I hope you all have a good Christmas, but don't eat too much Christmas pud girls - lots of games to play in the new year!

Janine Stothard

Manager: Janine Stothard (FA Level 1 Coach)
Tel No: 01788 832680 Mob: 07732 570940

Coaching Assistant: Dale Huddleston
Mob: 07740 782159

SOCIAL NEWS



Brinklow Football Club Six-a-Side Tournament 2006

Friday 2nd (late afternoon K.O.) - U11's Girls and U13's Girls

Saturday 3rd (am) - U7's and U11's

Saturday 3rd (pm) - U8's and U12's

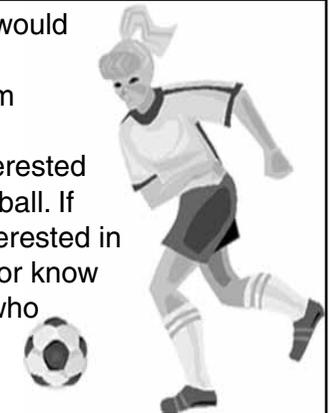
Sunday 4th (am) - U9's and U13's

Sunday 4th (pm) - U10's and U14's

Saturday 10th - Seniors (Including Youth & over 35's, as a combined competition)



The Club would be pleased to hear from parents or players interested in girls football. If you are interested in joining us, or know someone who might be interested please contact Dave Anderson on Mob: 07979 961364 or Tel: 01788 832472



GIRLS FOOTBALL

SENIOR TEAM NEWS

Brinklow League results for November (Coventry Alliance Division Four)

Brinklow 2 Hawkesmill Res 2 (Justin Neal, Micky Bullock)

Potters Green Res 1 Brinklow 1 (Simon Bullock)

As you can see by the league table the top five teams have started to pull away from the rest and our main four rivals for the league title have started to bunch behind us in a bid to topple us from the top spot for the first time this season. Dave and I feel that this month has been our poorest for some time and that complacency may have set in at a far too early stage in the season. Weather permitting we are due to play 3rd placed Ambleside and 4th placed Heart Athletic in the league over the next two weeks and wouldn't 6 points give us a nice Christmas feeling?

Foleshill Charity Cup 2nd Rnd

Brinklow 1 Bourton and Frankton 3 (Mark Bird)

A fine team performance though against Alliance 1 Bourton and Frankton in the Foleshill Charity Cup saw us completely dominate the game having chance after chance to score double figures with our opponents defending in numbers and scoring their three goals on the break, one of them being the last kick of the game. During this game we more than proved that we're capable of playing at a much higher level than we are in this season, with the entire Bourton side, save their manager, proclaiming that we were by far the better side.

Boyd Carpenter Cup 3rd Rnd

Brinklow 5 Bedworth Ex Service Res 0 (Justin Neal 2, Chris Gray 3)

We then took this form into our next game in the Boyd Carpenter Cup 3rd Round against Alliance 3 Bedworth Ex Service Reserves. A hard fought first half saw our side go in at the break 1-0 to the good and when Justin Neal got his second half way through the second half, we cruised to a fine 5-0 verdict with new signing Chris Gray snatching a fine hat trick from the edge of the area. The opposition's after match 'telling off' told us just how much we'd again dominated this game. We now entertain Dunlop Reserves from Alliance 2 in the Qtr Final.

Top Scorers

Justin Neal 21 Dave Anderson 8 Mark Bird 8 Iain Stockdale 7

A very Merry Christmas to everyone connected to Brinklow Football Club.

Paul Huddlestone

LEAGUE TABLE ON
3RD DEC 2005

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
BRINKLOW	10	8	2	0	51	6	26
WITHERLEY UTD	11	7	1	3	33	16	22
AMBLESIDE	12	6	3	3	17	18	21
HEART ATHLETIC	11	5	4	2	31	20	19
POTTERS GREEN	9	5	2	2	17	15	17
COLLYCROFT	11	4	2	5	26	27	14
HAWKES MILL	10	3	4	3	25	17	13
BILTON SOCIAL	11	4	1	6	18	36	13
SHILTON	13	2	4	7	14	37	10
KEN WARDENS	9	2	2	5	13	24	8
A.E.I RUGBY	8	2	0	6	13	26	6
FILLONGLEY	11	1	3	7	18	34	6

Manager: Paul Huddlestone (FA Level 1 Coach) Assistant: Dave Wright
Mob: 07802 422292 Tel No: 024 7644 7249 Mob: 0736 953489

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U8's TEAM NEWS

Training

Training at Princethorpe College, last one before Christmas will be 8th December, Restarting on Thursday 5th January.

Brinklow Academy – Club Christmas party

Brinklow FC are running a one day academy on Saturday 17th December, starting a 10am Then there will be a Christmas party in the Church rooms starting at 1pm Cost for the day is £10.00 Hoops team do not have a game that day Hibs team do have a game, against Admirals (away, subject to weather) Hibs team are able to go to the party, cost £5.00 per person. If anyone wishes to attend, please can they let either Will or I know asap

Our own Christmas Bash

We have decided to opt for going to the Ricoh stadium, plan is to go and watch Coventry City versus Wolves on 2nd January, which is a 3pm kick off. The plan is to take the boys to Mcdonalds (by the BP, Binley) beforehand at 1pm then move on to the stadium for 2.30pm ish Can you let me have names of the Boys who wish to attend and importantly any adults that wish to accompany us. We need at least 6 adults, including Will and I. I need to have names of children and adults by 15th December as we will need to obtain tickets.

Assistance at Games

Can you all please remember, both teams parents – please help after the games with tidying up, putting away the goals and flag posts – Many hands make light Work, please don't just walk away.

Great Yarmouth

I need deposits for the following tour people, £15.00
Lee Kemp Harry Smith Tom Maltby Richard Gosling
Please can I have by Sunday 11th so I can sort out all our deposits with the club.

Calendars

I promise to have some samples ready for sale later this week

Declan Mellett

Manager (RED): Declan Mellett (FA Level 1 Coach) Manager (BLUE): Will Barnes (FA Level 1 Coach)
Tel No: 01788 833593 Mob: 07768 366965 Tel No: 01788 833630 Mob: 07985 941701

.....Continued from Page 13

Finally

I've rambled on a bit this month but I'm so pleased with the way things have turned around in the last few months for the Under 14s. In particular, I have been very impressed with the way the lads, parents and the management team pulled together to get us where we are today. The desperate days in the early part of the season where we were struggling for players and results are now thankfully a dim and distant memory and its amazing how things have progressed and improved since the start of the season. The team is playing & training well and with great spirit. Thankfully we now have a brilliant goalkeeper in Callum Hayward and for the first time this season we have a great base to build on and I'm full of optimism for the future. I hope everybody has a very happy Christmas and I look forward to the New Year when the Under 14s will continue to go from strength to strength. Thank you for your support.

Peter Day

.....Continued from Page 7

the ball in the back of Binley Woods net before two minutes were up. The game flowed from end to end until Binley Woods came back and having put the Brinklow defence under pressure scored the first of two first half goals.

The second half saw more strong football from both teams with Binley Woods extending their lead until Brinklow came back with a goal that many senior teams would have been proud of. A Binley Woods assault on goal produced a good save from Daniella Francioso, a clearance to Daniel Pfadenhauer in midfield and a through ball to Daniel Westhead who ran past the Binley defence and placed a well struck shot over the goal keeper to bring the score to 3:2 where it stayed until the end of the match.

A great game between two well matched sides. It was difficult to name player of the match as everyone did so well, however, for outstanding play it went to Ryan.

Brinklow 4 London Road Lions 5

Brinklow took an early lead after good passing set Ryan Payne up for his opening goal of the season. Not content with a one goal lead Brinklow applied sustained pressure and were two up after 10 minutes after a shot from Daniel Westhead skimmed a defender on the way into the net. London Road came back and drew level at half time.

The second half opened with further pressure from Brinklow and some near misses before a loose ball was chipped into the net by Robert Betts to restore Brinklow's lead. Again London Road came back with two goals before Billy Smith hammered the ball into the net to level the game at 4 each. London Road still had more to give and took a break to score the final goal and claim victory in a well balanced competitive game. Another good strike just wide of goal in the last minutes almost saw Brinklow draw level but it was not to be. Player of the day was Billy Smith.

Once again we showed that we can play good football. Our passing game is improving with every match and we have added three new names to the score sheet.

Hawkes Mill Juniors 0 Brinklow 1

Our first away game in our new change kit sponsored by the Bulls Head Restaurant was against Hawkes Mill Juniors in Coventry. The game started with an early penalty in favour of Brinklow which unfortunately we failed to capitalize on. The match moved at fast pace from end to end and side to side and saw more good passing football from the Brinklow team resulting in a finely taken goal from Ryan Payne shortly before half time. The second half continued in the same way as the first with pressure from the Brinklow midfield and breaks from the Hawkes Mill team. Although both teams had opportunities to score neither side added a goal and the final score was a single goal victory for Brinklow. Our first win of the season, with hopefully more to follow. Player of the day was Griff Griffith.

Goal scorers so far this season

Ben Cross	7
Daniel Westhead	5
Ryan Payne	2
Billy Smith	1
Robert Betts	1

Christmas

We have two more matches scheduled to play before Christmas (provided the weather permits), the last of which is on Sunday 18th December. The day before is the Christmas Academy and Party at the Brinklow Church Room from 10:00am and all players are booked for this. Our final training session at Lutterworth before Christmas will be on Friday 9th December. Dates for training and matches after Christmas will be advised in due course.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

Gordon Betts

YOUTH TEAM NEWS

The Brinklow Youth Team



Simon Tyler



Shane Orton



Josh Tailby



Ben Clarke



Daniel Carter



Adam Callagher



Michael Jones



Alistair Keay



Jack Draper



David Sinclair



Shaun Clusker



Robert Wallace



Lee Harris



Dale Huddleston



Craig Burrin

Joint Manager: Mick Holt
Tel No: 01788 833051 Mob: 07734 465995

Joint Manager: Dale Draper (FA Level 1 Coach)
Mob: 07710 918740

U9's TEAM NEWS

Our first win of the season with more to follow

November was a good month for the team. In four games we scored 7 goals and gained 4 points to move us one place higher in the league. It was particularly good to see goals come from a range of players and from some very good team football. Even in the two games that we took no points from we still played excellent football and actually looked the stronger team for much of both games, scoring 6 of our 7 goals in these two matches.

Leamington Hibs 0 Brinklow 0

Brinklow took on Leamington Hibs on a wet and windswept pitch. From the first whistle this was a fast paced end to end game with opportunities for both teams. Strong defending and good goalkeeping kept the ball out of both nets although there were a good number of attempts many of which came within inches of delivering victory.



The team in their new change kit sponsored by the Bulls Head Restaurant

Brinklow demonstrated good passing play and were in command for most of the first half. Leamington raised their game in the second half and several times broke from defence to put pressure on the Brinklow back line. The final no score draw result reflected how evenly matched the two sides were. With all players on form it was difficult to choose between them but Player of the Day went to Billy Smith for his tackling and strikes on goal, which with less mud to contend with could have put Brinklow on the score sheet.

Binley Woods 3 Brinklow 2

Our first return match of the season was away to Binley Woods. After a minutes silence before the game Brinklow came out showing that we could play good football and Daniel Westhead had

Continued on Page 15.....

Manager: Gordon Betts (FA Level 1 Coach)
Tel No: 01788 833886 Mob: 07909 991575

Assistant: David Lowe (FA Level 1 Coach)
Tel No: 01788 832599 Mob: 07881 857759

Assistant: Moreno Francioso (FA Level 1 Coach)
Tel No: 01788 833267

U10's TEAM NEWS

Red Division Results:

Brinklow 0 Bedworth Eagles 1
Mount Nod 1 Brinklow 0
Brinklow 2 Whitley 1
CTK 4 Brinklow 2

Green Division Results:

Brinklow 1 GNP Sports 4
Brinklow 1 Pro-Santos 2

Goalscorers Chart:

Andrew Skerratt	10
Ryan Wareham	6
Keenan Sangha	5
Thomas Barnes	4
Rhys Thomas	4
Jack Tipper	4
Taylor Williams	3
Thomas Lovegrove	2
Joshua Smith	2
Joe Burton	1

Mid-Season Review

Well we have just about reached the half-way point in our league programs and I am pleased to announce that both teams are still comfortably positioned in their respective divisions.

The Red Division outfit are only 6 points off the top spot, which when you take into account the fact that we have just come off the back of some extremely tough games, playing the top three sides in the last month, proves that we have everything to play for after the festive break.

The Green Division side had a fairly depleted fixture list in November due to varying reasons, but once again proved that they are more than a match for any side in their division, and are poised nicely to push for the heady heights after Christmas.

As I continually pointed out last season the league tables don't lie, so the positions we find ourselves in this term just proves how well all of the boys are developing and playing. On the other hand we must not rest on our laurels because nothing is decided at Christmas. It is in May, at the end of the season, when the tables are finalised which will indicate how far the boys have progressed. An exciting and very interesting run in that will unfold for both sides in the new year.

Under 10 News

The New Year will bring about a new era in our age groups football development, with us all having to make the transition to 11-a-side. Preparations are already underway with us utilising the first half of every training session to familiarise ourselves with the changes in the laws and the different positions and formations. The boys are all seemingly enjoying the step-up and are adapting to 11-a-side very quickly, understanding the changes and continually asking questions and offering extremely constructive feedback.

To hopefully put some parents minds at rest, we of course will be continuing with the policy we agreed on last season. No player will be asked to leave the club and we will not be bringing any new players into the club. Our philosophy is to coach players and not to poach players.

We are more than happy with the squad we have assembled, and we will remain loyal to those players. More details will follow regarding the changes to 11-a-side in a Parents Meeting which we will hold on Thursday January 5th at 7.30pm British Legion Brinklow.

As all of the boys are rapidly improving with their football, we as coaches are finding it difficult to keep up, so Rich, Mick and myself have booked ourselves on the Level 2 FA Coaching Course which we will take in February.

I'd just like to take this opportunity on welcoming Alex Mcguire to our set-up. Alex joined us after the recent Autumn Academy as a training player.

That's about all the news, so all that is left for me to say is Well Done to all of the players, thank you to all of the parents for your continued support, have a fantastic Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Martin Pulford

Manager (RED): Martin Pulford (FA Level 1 Coach) Manager (GREEN): Mick Williams (FA Level 1 Coach)
Tel No: 01788 570551 Mob: 07724 073275 Tel No: 024 7654 0094 Mob: 07970 685395

Assistant (RED): Richard Farthing (FA Level 1 Coach)
Tel No: 01788 833858

U14's TEAM NEWS

Season Review

It's that time of year I'm afraid, where many of my fellow managers, players and parents suffer the shared frustration and inconvenience as matches are called off week after week due to bad weather. The Under 14s seem to have been hit particularly badly as they have only played two matches in the last six weeks. However despite this, I'm delighted to report real progress from the Under 14s camp.

The best news over the last month is finally the Under 14s now have a goal-keeper. It's been a long wait but the best things are usually worth waiting for. We are very happy to welcome Callum Hayward and his family to Brinklow Football Club. Because of the bad weather Callum has only played in three games but already looks very assured between the posts and already has made one crucial penalty save. The good news doesn't stop there. The team as a whole are playing and training particularly well. The Under 14s remain unbeaten in November picking up maximum points in their last two league games and thrashing a top three side 5-0 with 20 minutes to go before the referee called the match off (bad underfoot conditions). Whilst the whole of the squad is performing very well, special mention must go to certain Brinklow players at either end of the pitch. I've already mentioned Callum in goal. But in front of him we now have one of the best defences we've had for a long time. Leading the way in defence is James Kearney and along side him every credit must go to Adam Heffernan, Tom Fountain, Kai Sud and Callum Day. It's a new defensive unit but they have become very good in a short space of time and it's credit to themselves just how quickly and how good they have become. Very well done – keep up the good work lads.

At the other end of the pitch words can't sum up the admiration I have for our lone striker Karandeep Sharma. With the system we play Kuran is our sole striker and carries many responsibilities. Not just does he strike fear in the heart of opposition defences with his pace and striking abilities, whether the team is losing, winning or drawing or it's at the start, middle or end of a match or he's banging goals in right, left and centre or missing chance after chance – Kuran continues to give everything he's got. His attitude and commitment is second to none and even if that's not enough he's a thoroughly likeable young man as well. We are most fortunate to have him in our team.

This month we also have to sadly say goodbye to a number of players. For varying reasons we say goodbye and thank you to Sanjay Sanghera and Arjan Sohotta. Both Sanjay and Arjan have been with Brinklow FC for some time and on behalf of the management team and players we thank you for the contribution you have made to the team over the years and we all wish you the best for the future.

Training & fixtures

Below is the training and match schedule for the next few weeks. It takes us up to the 18th December which will probably be the last time the lads get together before the Christmas break. The only additional thing we might do is arrange a 'Xmas do' for the lads but I'll be in touch about that nearer the time.

Sun 11th December	Match	Elite Colts	KO 11:00am
Fri 16th December	Training	Walsgrave WMC	6:00pm – 7:00pm
Sun 18th December	Match	TBC.	

Photos

I've promised a photograph of the new and improving Under 14 squad in recent editions of OTB but ironically the one due to be published was considered not good enough as the team were squinting when the photos were taken because the sun was in the players' eyes. Since then we haven't managed to get the whole of the team together all in one place at the same time – but we'll continue to endeavour.

Continued back on Page 6.....

Manager: Peter Day (FA Level 1 Coach)
Tel No: 01788 832732

U13's TEAM NEWS

The Under 13's have struggled some what this month, it seems all the other teams we face have developed physically a lot more quickly than ourselves from the last time we met each other. What I think we need to do, is to help one another out on and off the field by talking and giving encouragement, and with this, hopefully we can gain our confidence back and begin to get the results that we are capable of achieving.

Finham Lions 3 Brinklow 2
Goals from Taz & Gianni.

Brinklow 3 Ernesford Dynamos 6
Goals from Elliot (2) & Gianni.

Brinklow 1 Kerseley Colts 8
Goal from Elliot.

Pinley 10 Brinklow 2
Goals from Taz & Gianni.

Goal Scorers So Far

Gianni Sangiorgi	15
Elliot Lascelles	14
Tom Glasscoe	8
Tarun Sud	5
Jake Bourke	2
Jamie Huddlestone	1

Dates For The Diary

17th December - Christmas Party (Karaoke) 5-8pm, Brinklow British Legion
23rd December - U13's Sponsored back pack 10am-2pm, Sainsbury's in Rugby

Finally, wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a great New Year.

Neil Huddlestone

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Bulldogs 1 Pinley 2

"Back to earth with an almighty bang!"

This was not a nice game. Four players out due to injury or sickness it was always going to be hard. The Bulldog spark just wasn't there, it was like everyone was hung over. An average first half for Bulldog standards and they went into the break two goals down. Second half yet again saw a dramatic improvement and you could sense another famous comeback and when mid way through the half The Bulldogs were awarded a penalty you felt it was on the cards. Alas the spot kick was missed. Five minutes from the end their doggedly persistence paid off and the Bulldogs pulled one back. Despite a valiant last five minutes it just wasn't to be.

Another very rewarding month, despite losing our undefeated tag we have played, at times, some fabulous football. Merry Xmas to you all.

Andy Main

U11's TEAM NEWS

Hawkes Mill 1 Brinklow Bears 1

Only one game to report on since the last issue.

The game was a very entertaining encounter to watch by two evenly matched teams. Hawkes Mill started the stronger but some great defending by the Bears kept them at bay, the Bears soaked up the early pressure well and then started to play to their strengths with some great passing and moving and persistent battling. The Bears goal came from Turbo challenging for the ball on the half way line, he then carried it down the right, skipping two challenges before chipping over the keeper. We continued to pile on the pressure with H hitting the post and Dale hitting the bar. In the second half we continued to battle for every ball and not allow them to settle, and chances came and went with JB and Adam coming close.

We hope you all have a great Christmas and new year and you will all continue to support the lads and encourage them, as they have had a fantastic first half of the season.

Gary Stothard

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*Which part of a football ground is never the same
from one day to the next?
The changing rooms.*



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at half time.

Again Brinklow went on the attack with some good passing play with Rosie Johal almost scoring on several occasions. Bedworth dug in and had a few chances on goal denied by Brinklows keeper. Brinklow again had majority of the possession and Holly Craddock went on the break to score Brinklows second goal. It was down to the excellent goalkeeping from Bedworth that kept the score 2:0 to Brinklow.



Another very busy month for the girls with some excellent results again. With the year drawing to a close and looking back at what the girls have achieved it is absolutely brilliant for our first time in a competitive league.

All the girls should be very proud at what they have done so far and if we can carry on like this after Christmas we are heading for a very good season indeed.

And don't forget girls Christmas Academy December 17th – See you there.

Sam Smith

Exhall Tigers 0 Bulldogs 2

"Bulldogs just singing in the rain..."

On an absolutely atrocious day, weather wise, the Bulldogs toughed it out again against a high rolling opponent. The Tigers came into the game off the back of two convincing wins against highly rated teams.

It was never going to be pretty but it wasn't long before the Bulldogs flare and style started to shine through the mud. They started to produce chances working both wings. Ten minutes from the break the Bulldogs tenacity was rewarded with a penalty. What followed could appear on "what happened next" firstly Ben Stone hit the crossbar only to see Henry Deboer follow in and put the ball firmly in the net only for the referee to disallow the goal and award a goal kick, signalling at three players who had encroached before the penalty had been struck. All three were Tigers, so figure that one. This had an effect of lifting Exhall and sending the Bulldogs into the break a little wet and down hearted.

After a sterling half time talk the Bulldogs returned to the muddy battle plain, their spirits lifted, their hearts warmed and an enthused determination within all. Five minutes into the half Henry Deboer slid the ball into the Exhall goal. Ten minutes later a short corner move between Tommy Wright and Glen Wright resulted in Glen squeezing a shot inside the post past the keeper. The Bulldogs kept a strangle hold on the game from there on. Exhall only having one real chance only to be denied by a watery hole on the goal line. This was a game in which the team had to battle both the opposition and the elements, I can't stress how appalling the rain was. Another 110% performance.

Man of the match Dan Slatter

AT7 4 Bulldogs 7

"The biggest comeback since Patrick Duffey's reappearance in the shower on Dallas..."

An afternoon kick off does not seem to aide the Bulldog psychic. It wasn't long before I realised I was living a nightmare where nothing I said or did was going to make any difference to this game. You could say the pitch was very bumpy, you could say that the pitch lines were far from adequate, you could say the referee was so young and inexperienced; he had only just started school, infant school. You could say all that and more but it wouldn't have changed the fact the Bulldogs went into the break four goals down and having missed a penalty of their own.

What I said to the Bulldogs at halftime was not a magical incarnation, was not a ranting telling off nor was it a biblical speech alas "Winston Churchill". No, what I said was.....well I suppose you just had to be there really!

All the damage had been done in the first half by the AT7 number nine, scoring all their goals and causing havoc in our back line. Solution, mark him out the game. Peter was given the task of becoming his shadow. Such was Peter's efforts that the AT7 number nine never saw the ball, at times he was marked so close I swear young Mr Allen was inside the geezers shirt! Next we needed goals and lots of them. Enter left stage Owen "Billy Whiz" Deacon, whose dynamic pace started to make holes in the AT7 defence and it, was fitting that he should open the Bulldogs account banging the ball into the net after another dynamic run. Within minutes Ben Stone made it two. Next Glen Wright blasted in a free kick from outside the box. The Bulldogs were on fire, every one of them seemed inspired they could have walked on hot coals. This was the Bulldogs at their best. It was a team performance of such magnitude. The goals just kept coming. Ben Stone found himself on the end of a ball from nearly every Bulldog on the park.

When the dust had settled The Bulldogs had scored seven unanswered goals, five to Ben Stone. A second half performance of "Marvel Comic" proportions. Outstanding.

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Brinklow 3 Stanton United 2

Another rain soaked day saw Brinklow Girls U11's take on Stanton United.

From the start Brinklow quickly took control and some great passing play produced an early goal from Holly Craddock. Brinklow continued to have most of the possession having many chances to add to the scoreline but Stanton managed to clear their lines. Brinklow kept the pressure on forcing six corners on the trot however the score remained 1.0 at half time.

Stanton came out fighting in the second half enjoying more possession but Brinklow kept the pressure on until Georgia Anderson scored Brinklows' second. The game was more evenly matched, Stanton applied pressure producing a goal. Brinklow responded with another goal from Holly Craddock. The game continued from end to end with Stanton scoring again. Brinklows' defence responded and defended tightly to deny Stanton an equalizer. The final score 3:2 to Brinklow.

Oadby & Wigston 2 Brinklow 0

Brinklow faced top of the table Oadby & Wigston knowing it was going to be a tough game. Both teams started well and looked evenly matched. Brinklows defence of Harriet Lowe, Gemma Smith and Alice Clarke dug in and defended their goal brilliantly. Some good goalkeeping from both teams kept the score level. Play continued from end to end and at half time the score of 0:0 accurately reflected the play.

Play continued with Oadby having more possession but Brinklow continually came back, but eventually conceded a goal to Oadby. Both teams had several chances on goal, again excellent goalkeeping kept both teams in with a chance. Oadby scored a second goal but again Brinklow fought back, looking like they could still score. Both teams continued to look evenly matched but as the final whistle went the score remained 2:0 to Oadby.

Bedworth 0 Brinklow 1

Brinklow played away to Bedworth Eagles. From the start Brinklow took most of the possession but were unable to capitalise on it. Alice Clarke stepped into the keeper's shoes this week and produced a good all round display. The game was a difficult one due to the weather conditions however both Brinklow and Bedworth battled it out in the mud and ice. Brinklow went on the break with a good display of passing and attacking leading to a goal from Holly Craddock. The score 1:0 at half time.

The second half produced much of the same with both teams battling it out. It was a game which neither side were completely able to take charge of. Brinklow had many chances but were unable to improve on the half time score of 1:0. Bedworth were unable to level the score leaving Brinklow with 3 valuable points.

Brinklow 2 Bedworth 0

Brinklow took on Bedworth again this week on home turf.

Brinklow made a good start and went on the attack straight away quickly producing a well-taken goal by Georgia Anderson. Brinklow enjoyed much of the possession with Charlie Huddleston having some good midfield play. Bedworth's goalkeeper made some great saves to keep the score 1:0

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We would like to wish the girls and their parents a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and thank them for their commitment.

