EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first edition of ‘ON THE BRINK’ for 2003. I Apologises for the delay in the release of this issue, what with the weather we really haven’t had much football to write about. This proved to be a good decision since we’ve had some cracking football since the weather improved (well it’s stopped raining anyway!) including an excellent win for the youth side in the cup & a brilliant win for Keiths side against top of the league Chapplefield Colts (well done lads!).

A few things about the 6-a-side whilst I think about it, the managers should have been around with forms for you to complete, listing jobs that need to be done over the 6-a-side weekend. Please ... A meeting has been arranged for the first Tuesday in March at The White Lion, if you can spare some time please pop along!

On a lighter note whilst putting together this issue I mistakenly put my surname through the spellchecker on my email, when it offered to replace my name with the phrase ‘willie’ (don’t laugh!) it got me thinking. I put the managers surname through the Thesaurus on Word2002 & this is what I got -

Huddlestone ‘Howler’ (Pretty apt for an ex-goalkeeper!)
McKiernan ‘Maximum value’
Wright ‘Wretched’
Byrne ‘By the book’
Holt ‘Holler’
Steel ‘Fortify’
Day ‘Can I have some balls please’
Glasscoe ‘Glare’
Payne ‘Pay no attention to’
Main ‘Most important’
Skerratt ‘Not found’

Paul Wilby
wilby@wilby.screaming.net

Somewhere in ‘ON THE BRINK’ you will find 4 footballs with a letter in the middle, can you find them? The first is below to help you. Once you have got all 4, arrange the letters to make up the surname of a Irish international player who’s name is broken!

Last issues answer was ‘HENRY’.
England have a qualifying match against the Scots and the boys decide to let Owen lead the charge alone as they go to a local pub. The match starts and the boys, beers in hand, toast as Michael scores in the 7th minute to give England a 1-0 lead.

The radio is turned off as the boys begin to celebrate and then turned on again a bit later. They are shocked to find that Scotland has tied the game in the 84th minute. They race to the stadium to help Owen win the match and are shocked to find that they are too late -- Scotland has scored in the 90th minute and the game has ended in victory to the Scots 2-1. They race to the locker-room to find Michael sitting in front of his locker with his head in his hands sobbing.

“What the hell happened?” they ask,

“I am really sorry I let you down,” Michael sobs,

“I got red carded 2 minutes into the second half!”

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**THE ANNUAL**

**BRINKLOW 6-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT**

WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE WEEKEND OF

SAT 31st MAY (u7,u9,u13 & u14’s)

SUN 1st JUNE 2003 (u10,u11,u16 & Youth)

Seniors Tournament

FRI 30th MAY

BARR LANE PLAYING FIELD

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**BRINKLOW F.C. LOTTERY NUMBERS**

4-16-17-26-29-34

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**THE PRESENTATION EVENING**

WILL TAKE PLACE ON

SAT 21st JUNE 2002

(PROVISONAL DATE)

VENUE TO BE DECIDED

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SENIORS TEAM NEWS

Onley Park 0 Brinklow 7
Brinklow 1 C.R.C. 5
Long Lawford 4 Brinklow 1
Hillmorton Lions 1 Brinklow 2
Brinklow 4 Ryton Albion 1

And so that was Christmas! I hope that you all had an enjoyable one and although we are now into Feb I would like to offer all within the club my belated best wishes for the present new Year.

In my experience the Christmas period is always a difficult time for many football teams, what with the postponement of matches due to bad weather, players being unavailable and in general people having their minds on other things. For the seniors this proved this year to be the case.

Prior to the Christmas period the first team have been in a rich vein of form. This was to continue when they took their run of wins to 6 on the trot with a 7-0 victory away to Onley Park. The highlight of this match was that we have seven different names on the scoresheet with Si Bullocks getting a goal at last! Unfortunately I wasn’t there to witness it, so I’m still not sure if it’s true or not!

Our next game was at the Revel, playing league leaders C.R.C. a side yet to be beaten this season. We always knew that this would be a real test for us, especially when we took note that C.R.C. had put out probably the strongest side they could field. The attitude and commitment shown by our lads was superb, it being an extremely rattled C.R.C. that left the field at half time, the score being 0-0. However with 65 minutes on the clock C.R.C. took a deserved lead from a well executed free kick, followed shortly by a needlessly conceded penalty, to make the score 2-0. I have seen our side come back many times from being two goals down, but on this occasion we just didn’t seem to have the mental strength! C.R.C. seemed to sense this, and fine side that they are, applied relentless pressure only easing up when they had taken a 4-0 lead. In fairness to our lads we never gave up, scoring a consolation goal only to hit with the last kick of the game, the final school being a 5-1 defeat. MOM goalie Paul Freakley - superb!

Our last game before Christmas was away to Long Lawford and to me this was probably one of our worst performances of the season, although we were several first choice players short there can be no excuses for the lack of passion and commitment that we showed in this match. The lads seemed more interested in getting down the pub, and although Lawford were not much better, they definitely wanted the game more, running out deserved 4-1 winners, after we have been leading 1-0.

Into the New Year and not having played for 5 Weeks, it was obvious that our side were going to be a little rusty, this proving to be the case when we played away on Jan 19th to Hillmorton. We were grateful to the ref for deeming a very wet pitch playable, it also being pleasing that we went on to dominate the game, recording a 2-1 victory. What was not so pleasing was that we could have won by double figures! However, a win is a win, and considering the conditions we had to be happy.

Sunday the 26th Jan saw us on home ground against Ryton Albion. Due to injuries we decided to reshuffle the team for this game, the lads showing their adaptability, soon settling into their stride with some flowing football. After relentless pressure, and yet again missed chances, our first goal came from the head of ‘Birdy’ getting onto the end of a superbly flighted ‘Az’ free kick. Into the second half it was much of the same with Ryton being restricted to the odd break on goal and us applying all the pressure. This was eventually to tell, Dave Anderson showing the way with a superbly executed hat-trick. This was a very good team performance and much more on course for what we expect from the side. In fact the only blip on the day was from our ‘favourite’ referee who seems to think it mandatory to award a penalty against us! This one had even their players laughing in bemusement!

Well here we are well into the season and at present all is running OK. Our pre-season aim was always to consolidate within Div 1 and I feel that we are already a long way towards achieving this. Hopefully this will now give our squad the incentive to carry on enjoying their football, as personally I still feel that we have yet to see the best of them! Quite an exciting prospect.

Barry Wilkinson
We finished 2002 with a Christmas Party for the lads (Football of course!), the Santa Claus Premier League was a close run thing with Team Rudolph topping the table followed by Teams Dasher and Blitzen! A good time was had by all. My thanks go to everyone who helped out in the smooth running of events.

Brinklow 4 AT7 1

Following their impressive victory against Rugby Town, the boys maintained their excellent form. An early goal settled any nerves, Andrew S putting away the rebound from an impressive Sean shot that was parried by the AT7 keeper. Andrew Judge in goal then boosted confidence with a superb stop. A tough midfield battle saw some great tackling from Connor Malloy and Jake with Lloyd making decisive interceptions and passes into the AT7 half. Sean then latched on to a defensive error and finished in style to make it 2-0. The last few minutes of the half saw Brinklow rampant. Ryan came on and with his first touch cleared to Jake, who made one of his strong runs across field, his cross being neatly flicked in by Andrew S. After the restart Andrew then turned provider and put Sean through for a brilliant individual goal.

This led to a change of tactic by AT7 at half time and in the second half they packed out their defence. The boys battled really hard and came close with a few well worked moves. AT7 came into the game more and forced some great goalkeeping from the brave Andrew J. Brinklow started to push up more in their hunger for goals but it was AT7 who grabbed a late consolation goal. Overall it was a great performance by the whole team.

Unfortunately most teams have been unable to field two sides so I would like to thank Steve for stepping in and taking indoor training for the boys not involved in the matches.

Forthcoming matches
15th February v Whitley (Home) - 2 games
8th March v Weddington Thistle (Home) - 2 games
22nd March v Sphinx (Away) - 2 games
29th March v Balsall Hornets (Home) - 2 games

We will continue to train indoors at Ernsford Grange for the next few weeks until the weather improves. Hope everyone received a copy of the hand out from Richard re the new waterproof training jackets, orders to Richard or myself a.s.a.p.

Nick Skerratt

Q - Why were the two managers sitting around sketching crockery before the start of the game ?
A - It was a cup draw!

Q - Why do managers bring suitcases along to away games ?
A - So that they can pack the defence!

Q - When fish play football, who is the captain ?
A - The team's kipper!

Q - How do hens encourage their football teams ?
A - They egg them on!

RESERVES TEAM NEWS

Well it has been quite a while since our last report and a lot has happened so I'll do my best to tell you about it.

Brinklow 2 The Imperial 2

Well this game was always going to be a major fixture to us as we had been hammered 10-1 on the opening day of the season by "The Imp". As we were all determined to put right that defeat we went into the game challenging hard all over the pitch. It was thanks to our hard work that both Brinklow strikers got good early chances but failed to convert. It was a massive blow when The Imp took the lead towards the end of the first half. In the second half again The Imp scored, going into a 2-0 lead. The goal seemed to drive our team however, and 8 minutes from the end Dave Galpin continued his goal scoring run with a great finish to make it 2-1. It gave us all hope and 15 seconds from the end Lee Kenney went on a mazy run and fired a ball across goal where Galpin scored a dramatic equaliser. A great end to the game.

Brinklow 3 The Bear 3

This was a tough game as we played in blowy conditions. It was Brinklow who took the lead with a goal by Gaz Moore. Lee Kenney added to it just before half time. After the break The Bear came back at us and not only got back to 2-2, but took the lead. Fortunately we got a late equaliser but we only had ourselves to blame for a poor result.

Brinklow 0 Lawford 6

I don't think it will come as a surprise to you when I tell you that I haven't got much to say about this match. The pitch was nice and it wasn't too cold either. That's about all of the match I remember. Except one last thing. Although we were losing at the time we managed to get a penalty; up stepped Martin Smith. He calmly put the ball down and looked up. Unfortunately Whiff had forgotten to put his studs in and somehow landed on his backside as he shot. It was a good effort and the ball almost reached the keeper!!!! Unlucky Whiff!!!

Brinklow 9 Newmans 5

In this game we got off to a flyer and goals were flying in all over the place. Newmans tried to fight back and got 5 goals to their credit but to be fair I don't think they ever had a chance and we went on to score 9, thanks to Dave Galpin (4), Lee Kenney (2), Martin Smith (2) and Roger Lunt who scored the pick of the bunch. And well done Whiff on scoring a penalty.

Brinklow 0 Wolston 1

This result left us gutted, we never really got going and challenged Wolston like we know we could. Wolston grabbed their winner 5 minutes from the end and we just couldn't pull it back. On behalf of the team that played in that match I'd like to tell Dave and all of Brinklow .............SORRY!!!

To summarise there has been a few gaps between games and our form of late can only be described as inconsistent but I'm sure we'll pull it back.

And one last thing, I'd like to say well done to Gareth Yeend who was the only good thing to come out of the Wolston game. I'm sure it won't be long till he joins the seniors.

Lee Kenney

Two men fishing on a river bank in a remote area of the countryside on a Saturday afternoon miles away from a radio or tv, suddenly one man turns to the other and says "Coventry City have lost again", the other man was astonished and said "how on earth do you know that?" The other man replied "it's quarter to five."
Firstly many thanks for Tony Glasscoe and Neil Huddleston for helping mark out the pitch at the Revel. I owe you both a beer - cheers lads!

Brinklow 3 Whitley 2

This was a much tougher battle than we expected, with Whitley taking the lead 1-0 with a sloppy goal. Tom Muldoon equalised shortly with a cool finish slotting the ball past the keeper. We then sat back and Whitley sneaked another goal which meant we were losing 2-1 as we reached half time.

The lads went out second half, realising that we needed to pick up the pace of the game and we soon got our act together. I moved Tom Muldoon up front and it wasn't long before he netted his second, drilling the ball ... floated in from the right saw big Andy tower above his marker and headed the ball like a rocket into the roof of the net. "Man of the match Tom Muldoon (2 great goals - good wing play)"

Kenilworth 4 Brinklow 1

A cold and wet Sunday morning on a boggy pitch, often means we have a problem and this game was no exception. Two key players not mentioning any names, failed to turn up which meant a complete change in our formation. I could tell early on that this wasn't going to be our day and Kenilworth knew it taking an early lead, which saw them entering half time 1-0 in front. I tried to rally the lads into life, but nobody was up for it and we were soon 2-0 down!!!

Arran, scored a much deserved goal, a cracking shot from just outside the box. We were unable to add to our tally and Kenilworth took full advantage with a couple if goals late on to add salt in the wound. This was by far our worst performance all season and has probably cost us the chance of winning the league! "Man of the match Arran White (Well finished goal, lets have some more)"

Brinklow 2 Balsall & Berkswell 1 (CUP)

The lads were looking the part playing in our new kit (Yellow - City Away), and it was nice to be back at the Revel playing on a good pitch. Balsall & Berkswell took an early lead due to a defensive error (or too much beer the night before). The lads responded with a great goal from Arran, who skipped past the defender in 'Thierry Henry' style and chipped the ball over the advancing keeper. We entered the half time on equal terms.

The lads played much better second half with some great passing football, we enjoyed most of the possession. Andy Houston made up for his earlier mistake, by scoring one of his trademark goals, a powerful header from a perfect corner from Tom Muldoon, which led to us winning the game and going through to the semi - finals. "Man of the match Chris Ward (Never stopped running, biting tackles and great passing)"

GNP 0 Brinklow 5

Having had a long lay off due to the Xmas holiday and some bad weather, the break in hindsight did us good. GNP play at Foleshill park and the pitch we were asked to play on, was in an awful state, with 4 inches of water in one goal mouth. However, all of the lads wanted to play so flippers and snorkels were provided and we got on with it. We were soon in front due to a dodgy decision by the ref, who awarded us a direct free kick, 6 yards out, due to a back pass. A quick tap of the ball to Andy Houston, who drilled it in to the top corner, with GNP players falling all over the place saw us take a 1-0 lead into half time.

The lads came out second half playing into the flooded goal area, which became a bit of farce, but great entertainment. The GNP defenders were unable to clear there lines and for 45 minutes we were camped in their half. We were soon adding to our goal tally with 2 cracking goals from James Hennedy, 1 from Danny Vincent and a well deserved goal from Terry Kinney, leading to a comfortable victory. "Man of the match James Hennedy (Two good goals)"

We now have only 3 league games left and are in the semi - final of the Cup. Well done lads keep it going!

Dave Wright
Our first game was against Morris Rangers, whom we comfortably beat by seven goals to one. Adam Nailor scoring his first goal for the team, soon adding a second. (Well done, Adam). Lee Huddleston had a great second half scoring twice, but Matthew Pine was in outstanding form scoring a superb hat-trick and claiming the Man of the Match Award.

Second game up was against Christ the King in what was to be a thoroughly entertaining game. Christ the King, just edging it one goal to nil in the end. Man of the Match – Mathew Mooney, who made some outstanding saves.

This years Christmas Party was a tremendous success, a good time was had by all with Shaun Russell’s team winning the five-a-side competition for the second year running, and also finishing up top goal scorer again (Well done! Shaun.) I would just like to thank everyone who helped on the day. Thanks to all the boys who behaved absolutely fantastic and made it a really great day.

Dave Payne

Our next game was against Allele Athletic, we knew this game was going to be fairly easy as we beat them 18-0 the first time round. This time the game was a little bit closer, we only beat them 14-2, the goal scorers were Ryan Byrne and Gareth Yeend Hat tricks, 2-a-piece for Martin Russell, Pete Sharpe and Luke Morton, plus a goal-a-piece from Alex Pouncett and Grant Manderston.

On 8th December we played AT7 which was a game I thought we should win, the final result ended up in a 3-3 draw. Goals scored by Rajen Patel 2, Alex Pouncett 1.

Our final game before Christmas was in the Birmingham Junior cup against Christ the King and this was one of the best games I’ve witnessed in many a year. The final result was 3-2 and both teams fought to the very end, it could have gone either way but Brinklow came out on top thanks to goals from Ryan Byrne, Martin Russell and Alex Pouncett. After Christmas we were in the Fourth round of the Birmingham Junior cup, this was against Erdington Star from Birmingham. This was quite a special day as we played in a stadium equipped with stands, dug outs for the managers and changing rooms. Brinklow were by far the better team in the first half scoring their first goal thanks to Martin Russell. Erdington came back with an equaliser early in the second half. Brinklow were awarded a penalty which Martin Russell hit a fine shot only to see the goalkeeper make a fine save which rebound to Grant Manderston who hit it first time against the bar. The match seemed to be heading for extra time but with minutes to go Erdington scored a soft goal which put them through to the next round.

Brinklow’s next game was against Chaperfield Colts who are top of the league, this game was transferred to the Revel College. I’d like to thank Mick Holt who helped me mark out the pitch. This fixture is always special to me as one of my good friends helps run Chaperfield and in the previous 3 games they have beaten us. Straight from the start Brinklow were up for this game winning every 50-50 ball on the floor and in the air. Martin Russell opened the scoring with a well deserved goal which saw Brinklow dominate the game even more. Chaperfield were getting more and more annoyed with their performance as the game went on. Ryan Byrne then scored an outstanding goal to put Brinklow 2-0 up. The opposition were beginning to lose their rag as they could see the game slipping away from them, a few harsh words were said to the Brinklow linesman (myself) which went straight over my head. At the end of the day the better team won fair and square.

Forthcoming Games
9th Feb Christ the King Home
16th Feb Coundon Cockerels Away

Cornwall Football Tournament
We have notified that the tour dates have been altered to Saturday 12th April - Thursday 17th April (5 nights). The remaining £30 balance per person is now due. Could you please make sure all money is paid to Keith or Heather by Sunday 12th February. Cheques made payable to Heather Yeend.
Happy New Year one and all!

What a desperate start to the year weather wise. We have only managed to play one league game since the middle of December, and a backlog of fixtures is the last thing we need when we are trying to fix up some 11-a-side friendlies.

The one game we did manage to play this month, was ruined by a dreadful (but not unusual) performance by the referee. Brinklow started the game brightly and quickly settled into their trademark game of neat passes and patient build up, winning a 2-1 lead. As the game progressed Brinklow looked comfortable, with Alex Stage and Tarun Sud adding some fresh legs. However what happened in the final few minutes was hard to believe. Jamie Huddlestone was shielding a ball that was running for keeper Matthew Wilby. No problem there then you might think. But the completely unsighted referee had different ideas claiming that Jamie had 'passed back' to Matty. Unbelievably he gave a direct free kick and Christ the King snatched an undeserved equaliser. It's hard to swallow decisions like that, and even harder to try and make sure that 10 year old footballers can!

That's life and I suppose bad decisions will balance out for us eventually. We know we were the better team on the day and the U10s can be proud of their performance.

Earlier in the month, my other half Jan organised a pantomime trip for 57 of the football club players and families, which I know everyone thoroughly enjoyed. Well done Jan.

During the next couple of months we will be playing a few 11-a-side friendly matches to help prepare for next year. Our main focus is more about building for next year at the moment as we raise some of these friendly games at Barr Lane (weather permitting) on Saturday mornings, so any support will be very welcome!

PS - the only good thing about Rochdale is the Balti Pies

Tony Glasscoe

The individual photos are up on the website, take a look at http://icd.internetphotoservices.co.uk/wilby@wilby.screaming.net
With the weather taking its toll coupled with the Xmas break, the Under 11s have only played one match in nearly two months, so there's not much to report. The one game we did play was against a tenacious Hawksmill Juniors side. Although we won the match 4 - 0, it was pleasing to see Tom Fountain (defender) unanimously voted Man of the Match. Tom is one of many players in the under 11s squad who do a great job for the team, week in and week out who rarely get the credit they deserve. So well done Tom.

Thanks to John Cramp and Simon Thompson and all who are helping while I take my TEMPORARY leave from running the team. I hope to be back by the end of Feb (if John will relinquish the reins). Once again, thank you to parents, players and everyone connected to the club for helping John out.

Below is a photo of the Under 11s in their new kit. This was funded by the Mums v Mums sponsored football match and the Dads v Lads penalty shoot-out. Also from these proceeds the Under11s now have there own matching waterproof tops (in club colours) and personal drinks bottles. They really look the part. All they need now are some matches!!!!

Hopefully by the next edition, we will have played a few more games and have a little more to report. But in the meantime thanks to everyone for their support and well done lads for the patience and commitment you’re showing, its encouraging to see everybody at midweek training so full of enthusiasm.

Peter Day

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**Brinklow 4 Coundon Court 2**

Considering the lack of football Brinklow started strong and dominated the first half. Passing the ball and working well as a team it made Coundon look ordinary. After 10 minutes Brinklow got awarded a free kick and from 20 yards out James Mercer scored a peach that the keeper had no chance of stopping. Brinklow continued to out play Coundon and the second goal came from a strong move through midfield started and finished by Harley Steel who scored following a shot from Dan Gyselynck. Coundon looked like they would never score with the Brinklow defence, lead by Alex Payne, playing very strong and looking comfortable bringing the ball out of defence. The third goal for Brinklow came from a move from the back, Thomas Pye-Ford tackled the Coundon winger and played a lovely ball up the wing to Rory Higgins who crossed for Dan Gyselynck to finish. 3-0 and Half Time.

Brinklow should have cruised through the second half and for the first 15 minutes it looked that way, but then a combination of tired legs and everyone wanting to become the striker allowed Coundon back into the game. Coundon's first goal came from a well taken penalty awarded after a late tackle just inside the area. Brinklow started to re-group only for Coundon to score a second after a fumble from the Brinklow keeper (better not named Jamie BaYiSSS). Coundon tried to push on from the restart but their second goal seemed to have inspired Brinklow and it was not long after that they made the game safe with a second goal from James Mercer.

Man of the Match       Harley Steel.

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**Brinklow 18 Allesley Aces 0**

From the score line you can assume that this was a fairly one sided game and you would be right. Brinklow played good football and scored a succession of goals that had Allesley completely demoralised by the end of the game. At half time Brinklow were leading 10-0 and in the second half switched the team around with defence in attack and attack in defence, even Jamie the keeper got in on the action who scored after being set-up by Dan Giles. Allesley's moment came after they were awarded a penalty only for Dan Gyselynck, playing in goal, to make the save.

Only one player didn't get on the score sheet, Rory Higgins who missed a sitter, unlucky Rory! First time on the score sheet for Brinklow Tom Brookes with a hat trick, Thomas Pye-Ford, Jamie Bayliss, and Kyle Reid. Hard to give a Man of the Match but I would give it to the Allesley Keeper!

**We need a New Manager!**

The U13’s are looking for a new manager for next year to replace Rob who will be giving up the role. Interested? Then speak to Rob or contact Mick Holt on 01788 833681

Rob Steel