



EDITORIAL



Brinklow Football Club is looking to build on its success and popularity. With its membership increasing rapidly, it is imperative that we plan for the future and give all members the opportunity to develop and be proud to be associated with the club.

To help structure the club and organise its affairs in a more controlled way, managers and officials of the club will be requesting various information and advice from its members as well as other bodies. Any help or support you can give would be very much appreciated.

Many thanks
THE COMMITTEE

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 name of a player who is in debt!
Last issues answer was 'DUFF'.



Whilst the city of Oxford is already over run with 'dogs' according to their chairmen, the problem has recently been compounded by an influx of strays. Apparently the cause is the inability of anyone from Oxford to hold onto a lead.



Q: How many Notts County fans does it take to change a light bulb?
A: Both of them



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

'Leeds is a great club and it's been my home for years, even though I live in Middlesborough.'
- Jonathan Woodgate



A & M Promotions

Arrive in Style!

A wide Selection of Vintage & Modern Cars available in various colours.

Viewing of Cars Welcome
FREE Colour Brochure available
Uniformed Chauffeurs

Make Your Day Special...

(024) 7654 2833
COVENTRY

01788 833167
RUGBY

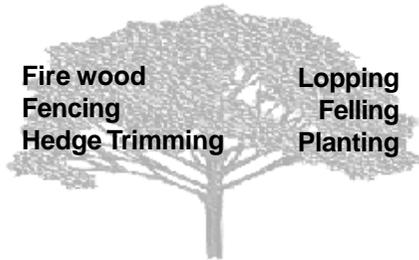


Bretford House, Bretford,
Nr Brandon

Visit Our Website
At:
www.amchauffeurs.com

Brinklow Tree Services

Fire wood Lopping
Fencing Felling
Hedge Trimming Planting



HSE High Access Riggers.
NPTC Certificated.
NEBOSH Health & Safety Certificated
Fully Insured.

Gary/John 01788 832772
07817042528

Dave and Carolyn welcome you to

The Raven

Open All Day
Every Day!

Big Screen
Live Sport

Small parties, Christenings and buffets catered for.

THE MAN IN BLACK

The offside law

The offside law is the rule that causes most discussion and confusion in football, and it leaves a lot to the interpretation of the match officials.

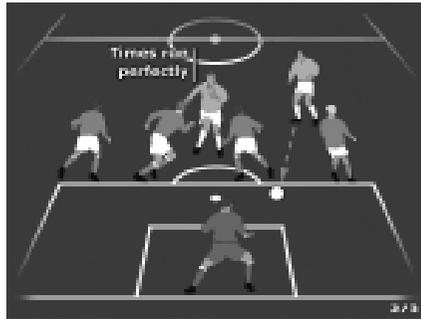
A player is in an offside position if they are nearer to the opposition's goal line than both the ball and the second last opponent.

But before you think that sounds clear enough there are plenty more things to remember. You can't be offside if:

- you receive the ball directly from a goal kick, a throw-in or a corner
- you are in your own half of the pitch
- you are level with the second last or last two opponents

Still think that you are following the rule? A player who is in an offside position will only be penalised if the referee believes that he/she is:

- Interfering with play
- Interfering with an opponent
- Gaining an advantage by being in that position



Onside !!

The striker beats the offside trap by timing his run and not moving past the second last opponent until after the ball is played.

CLUB OFFICIALS NAMES AND CONTACT NUMBERS

President Mr R Chattaway	Vice Presidents Mr P Edmunds Mr T Bramley
Chairman Malc Coombs	024 76542474 or 07901 935554
Vice Chairman Alun Yeend	01788 832579
Secretary Mick Holt	01788 833681 or 07734 465995
Treasurer Katie Crane	01788 833187
Senior Team Manager Paul Huddleston Barry Wilkinson Gary Collins	07802 422292 07876 743351 01788 544530 or 07879 027177
Senior (Reserves) Team Manager David McKiernan Lee Kenney	01788 832655 07790 076475
Youth Team Manager Dave Wright	024 7644 7249 or 07831 210561
Under 16's Team Manager Keith Byrne	01788 832283 or 07715 940062
Under 14's Team Manager Mick Holt	01788 833681 or 07941 724701
Under 13's Team Manager Rob Steel	024 7654 2719 or 07785 248964
Under 11's Team Manager Pete Day	01788 832732
Under 10's Team Manager Tony Glasscoe Neil Huddleston	01788 833221 or 07770 654123 024 7654 5963 or 07775 524191
Under 9's (RED) Team Manager Dave Payne John Harman	024 7626 1250 or 07759 876212 01455 220717 or 07818 011355
Under 9's (GREEN) Team Manager Andy Main	01788 832033
Under 7's Team Manager Nick Skerratt	01788 832157 or 07761 424501
Magazine Editor Paul Wilby	024 7654 3903

U7'S TEAM NEWS



Christ the King v Brinklow

Due to the freezing weather this game was played on astra-turf, which along with a very narrow pitch proved to be Brinklow's downfall. Despite all the lads efforts they couldn't adjust quickly enough to the different style of play required on the pitch and conceded early goals. Andrew.J. put in his usual brave performance in goal and found out how hard the pitch was! Brinklow got into the game a lot more in the second half and were unlucky not to get more than Andrew.S's single consolation goal. In the end we came away on the wrong side of a 4 - 1 score line.

Brinklow v Whitley

The first game was a very close, well fought battle. Missing Sean, half of the deadly duo up front, the rest of the team all took their chances coming forward. Ben worked hard to get himself into some good positions up front and was unlucky that the Whitley defence was one of the best we've met this season. Jack and Lloyd made surging runs up the wings and Jake came close with several long range bullets. Andrew.S's work rate was outstanding and Lloyd was a pillar in defence, reading the game well and bringing the ball out from the back with great effect. Conner responded brilliantly to Kim's half time pep talk and played a very disciplined second half making several telling contributions. A bitter blow for Brinklow early in the second half when Jake had to go off injured, after picking up a nasty knock. Ryan came on and did us proud though, putting some telling balls through to the front men. Although there were no goals it was a great game between two very evenly matched teams.

Missing some regulars the second game was again close. Andrew.J. had a rare run out on pitch and after a great surging run put away a cracking finish to put Brinklow one up (How will I ever get him back in goal?!). Whitley pulled back level and then were lucky to go 2 - 1 up when Daniel made a super save only to see the ball bobble agonizingly over the line. It wasn't long though before Liam hit a forceful drive from the edge of the box straight into the roof of the net. What a way to score your first goal for Brinklow. Daniel made several important saves against a strong Whitley attack and Ryan and Jordan in front of him put in numerous telling tackles and distributed the ball well to the midfield. Here Matthew, Robert, Thomas and Andrew.J battled hard. After working his socks off Andrew.J was rested for the last few minutes, the unfortunate Robert replaced him only to get winded with his first touch of the ball. Enter Andrew.S. Then with minutes to go the Whitley ref gave the seemingly harsh award of a free kick, for a back pass, to Whitley no more than two metres from the Brinklow goal. All seven boys lined up bravely in the goal. The free kick struck Andrew.S. on the shin who then in running the full length of the pitch beat several Whitley players and tucked it into the net. But for a blatant push by the Whitley keeper at the half way line as he was running back from a trip into the attacking box for a late corner Liam may well have added another.

A fantastic 3 - 2 win for the boys who I'm told took several days to come back down to earth!

Forthcoming matches

8th March	Weddington Thistle (Home)	- 2 games
22nd March	Sphinx (Away)	- 2 games
29th March	Balsall Hornets (Home)	- 2 games
5th April	AT7 (Away)	- 2 games

To organise the entry of 2 teams for the summer 6-a-side tournaments, I need to have a commitment from players that they can make the dates. Last year we were put in a difficult position with players dropping out at the last minute, resulting in the squads being made up with non affiliated players. Dates currently being considered are:-

Saturday 10am -4pm	10th May	Rugby Town 6-a-side festival
Sunday 10am-1pm	31st May	Brinklow 6-a-side
Sunday 2pm-5pm	15th June	Coundon Cockerels

Please can you check other commitments and let me know if you are available to play.

Nick Skerratt

RESERVES TEAM NEWS

In the past month we've only played 3 league games and one interesting friendly against the 1st Team. So here's how we've done.

Avon Mill 3 Brinklow 4

In this game we got off to a flyer and went straight into the lead thanks to a Neil Johnston goal. As Avon Mill only had 10 players we took full advantage of it and by half time we found ourselves 4 - 0 up thanks to goals from Antony Ford, Lee Kenney and another Neil Johnston strike. The second half saw the Avon Mill come back at us and grab a goal, with ten minutes left they had come back to 4 - 3 but we managed to hold on for the 3 points.

St Thomas Cross 3 Brinklow 6

Like so many games this season, we started brightly and Roger Lunt scored a rocket free kick to put us in front, Neil Johnston than added to it with a long-range effort that slipped under a dodgy keeper. All of the lads continued the good form and by half time we were cruising at 6 thanks to a good effort from all the lads, the goals came from all over the pitch with Whiff grabbing 2 and Bernard, our new South African signing, scoring a good volley. The second half was a bit different, as we again seemed to drop down a few gears and concede two goals and get none. The final score 6 - 3.

Royal Oak 3 Brinklow 1

This was probably our toughest game of the season so far, as the Royal Oak were flying at the top of Division 3. Manager Dave McKiernan tried a new formation of 4 - 5 - 1, it seemed to be working because by half time we were only 1 - 0 down and to be fair it should have been us leading as we had created better chances. In the second half, again we went in hard and gave our all and for most of the time Royal Oak were rattled. Unfortunately the Royal Oak grabbed their second after a quick counter attack. All the players stuck to their jobs though and after a cross from the left Ross Manderston got his first goal of the season to put us back in it. Lee Kenney then nearly got Brinklow level but this effort hit the bar as Roger Lunt's free kick had done earlier. The Royal Oak went on to get a third and at 3 - 1 it was too late to do anything, however it was a fantastic performance from all the lads.

With 6 points from a possible 9 its not been a bad month, ironically our best performance saw us lose to the Royal Oak but that's football and maybe on another day we'd have won.

‘Roger Lunt scored a rocket free kick to put us in front’

Lee Kenney

Three old football fans are in a church, praying for their teams. The first one asks, "Oh Lord, when wil England next win the World Cup?"

God Replies, "In the next five years"

"But I'll be dead by then", says the man.

The second one asks, "Oh Lord, when will Forest next win the European Cup?"

The Good Lord answers, "In the next ten years".

"But I'll be dead by then", says the man.

The third one asks, "Oh Lord, when will Coventry next be in the Premier League?"

God Answers, "I'll be dead by then!"



YOUTH TEAM NEWS

Brinklow Youth 7 Cannon Park Colts 1

Having not played for a fortnight, it was good to get back and see the lads play some cracking football. Unfortunately the day did not get off to a good start. Having arrived at the Revel on time for once, we were faced with a bit of a problem - "only one goal net" !!! To add to our problems the referee was late, so we decided to put the "one and only goal net" up and wait for the referee to make a decision on his arrival, whether we could proceed with playing the game or not. The ref finally turned up 10 minutes late and to my surprise was happy to let the game go ahead. Having travelled from the other side of Coventry, Cannon Park did not object either, so it was game on !

We were about to kick off when the ref suddenly halted the start of the game. The ref called myself over to the centre circle. I duly walked over wondering what the fuss was all about, only to receive a rollicking from the ref who commented..... I am not happy with the way that net has been put up. We both strolled to the goal mouth viewing the "one and only goal net" I jumped on our keepers shoulders and tied the top of the net to the crossbar. I leapt to the ground and calmly asked whether he was satisfied with the other goal ? He said well we'd better check it.... the ref turned and looked down the pitch at a "net free goal" and carried on walking towards the other goal..... he finally got to the edge of the 18 yard box and said..... there's no point really is there ? ... who said refs haven't got a sense of humour or are they plain stupid ?

The match finally got underway and we dominated the game throughout and the goals were soon flying in. Fortunately, we scored most of our goals in the end with the "one and only goal net" which meant the Cannon Park keeper could pick the ball out of the net rather than running after it.

Scorers: James Hennedy (2) , Terry Kinney (2) deserved goals, Tom Muldoon (1), a nice chip from Billie Holcroft (1) which left their keeper stranded and finally a long awaited goal from Wardy (1) which sealed us a comfortable victory.

Man of the Match Terry Kinney
(Two well taken goals and a great all round performance)

We now have only one league game left and are in the semi - final of the Cup against Bulkington Youth, which is due to be played in April. Don't worry lads - I will be organising some friendly matches.

Dave Wright



A Sky tv reporter comes down to the midlands and interviews the Cov City and Leicester managers. First of all he speaks to Gary McAllister "So Gary, what are your hopes for City this season" asks the reporter, Gary replies "well if we can pick up a few points here and there, hopefully we can stay in this division" the reporter then interviews Micky Adams "so Micky what are your hopes for Leicester this season and in the future?" Micky replies "well we'll walk this division, then we'll win the prem maybe win the F.A Cup along the way, then we'll be in europe....." the Sky reporter interrupts "Micky, don't you think you're being a bit ambitious?" "Well Gary started it" replied Micky.



U9'S TEAM NEWS (GREEN LEAGUE)



Brinklow 2 Dunlop Junior Colts (Red) 0

This was the first round of the under 9's cup. After last weeks performance I was looking forward to this game against a team two leagues above us.

Right from the start Brinklow Bulldogs got stuck in. Everyone working really hard, the sticky pitch made it difficult to play a fluent passing game. Both teams had several chances in the first half, Conner Jenkins making a couple of fine saves. In the second half the Bulldogs battled from the start and really took the game to Dunlop. With under 10 mins to go a move started in defence, after 5 excellent passes Ben Stone took the ball and struck it passed the Dunlop keeper. Dunlop pushed forward trying to get the equalizer, but the Bulldog defence of Willem (The Wall) Main and Phil (The Hammer) Hibberd was excellent. Seconds to go and the Bulldogs again charged from their own half, Tom Wright linking with Ben Stone and Glen Wright, after a scramble in front of goal Henry de Boer shot the ball into the back of the net right on the whistle. A brilliant performance and our first ever win "SWEET" Man of the match goes to Phil (The Hammer) Hibberd.

Brinklow 5 pinley NDC 2

With the Bulldogs confidence high from their previous weeks victory in the under 9s cup, they continued from where they left off. After weeks of struggling to get the ball in the net this game was a goal feast. The lads played with a very positive attitude playing some truly flowing football. Goals came courtesy of Michael Paul, Glen Wright, Ben Stone and Ryan Murray. A slight lapse in the second half let Pinley back into the game at 3-2 but it wasn't long before the Bulldogs stamped their authority back on the game and hit back with 2 goals of their own. Another excellent performance, all 5 goals coming from excellent team work and spectacular shooting.

Man of the match. Again, the whole squad are in contention, which reflects on the way they are playing. But Michael Paul takes it with his 2 excellent strikes.

Brinklow 0 Chapplefield Colts 1

After losing 8-1 earlier in the season, this game was always going to be interesting to see how much the Bulldogs had progressed. I was not disappointed! Right from the start Chapplefield Colts seemed a little stunned at the tenacity of the Bulldogs play. On a very muddy wet pitch the Bulldogs gutsy style shone through. From the start I knew it was going to be a close game, at half time it was instilled in the lads the first 5 mins of the second half were crucial. In true backfire tradition the Colts scored in the first 5 minutes. Conner Jenkins was extremely unlucky when the ball squeezed under him in the mud and rolled agonisingly slowly over the line. But the Bulldogs came roaring back, and spent most of the rest of the half camped in the Colts half. Despite all of the possession and corner after corner it just wasn't to be their day. An excellent performance in very difficult conditions. Again, I think it unfair to pick out an individual after a magnificent team game.

Brinklow 0 Coventry Sphinx Juniors (blue league) 5

The second round of the under 9's cup and the Bulldogs crash out. To be honest, there wasn't much between the two sides despite the Sphinx being a top team in the blue league (one above us!). The big difference was the timed pass. The Sphinx passing was clinical and with a late goal in the first half went into the break 2 goals up. After yet again emphasising the importance of the first 5 mins after the break, it was to backfire again! Sphinx scored from the kick-off with some very slick passing. The Bulldogs seemed to be in slow motion. After 5 mins of inept football the Bulldogs spark returned and attack was the only thing they were interested in. Chance after chance was created and it was the final pass that was lacking. 3 on 1 and even 4 on 1 chances were created, time and time again only to be stifled out by a lack of passing. It was inevitable with the whole team except the goalkeeper in the opposition half that they were going to get caught out and Sphinx scored twice more before the end of the game. The score will show the Bulldogs got thumped but the match stats will show they at least created enough chances for a draw! Man of the match. Phil (The Hammer) Hibberd for his total commitment and relentless running in attack and defence.

continued on page 6.....

.....U9s report continued

Brinklow 0 Athletic United 5

After the cup disappointment the week before this should have been a fine opportunity for the Bulldogs to bounce back. Instead, it seemed the Athletics' reputation (unbeaten this season) fazed the Bulldogs. A very lack-lustre and disjointed effort. This game above all others was the most disappointing performance of the Bulldogs. Their ability is far greater than their performance on the pitch showed.

Brinklow 2 Mount Nod Highway 1

What a turnaround in attitude and performance. If last week was the worst performance, this was by far the best. The Bulldogs battled all the game, 101% commitment throughout the whole team. This was a very physical game and I was so proud to see the Bulldogs give no quarter. The whole squad played as a solid unit. Even being down a goal at half time did not dampen their determination. In the second half a brace of goals by Ryan (Giggys) Murray earned the Bulldogs a very well deserved win. The second goal warranting a special mention as Ryan struck a sweet shot after a great run, hit from some way out into the top corner of the net, SWEET! 10 out of 10 to everyone for attitude and performance.

Brinklow 5 Dunlop Junior Colts 1

Oh what a joy to watch this performance was! The Bulldogs are gelling into a great football squad. Passing, tackling, every aspect of their game was top. Another battling game which the Bulldogs took control of early on and would not relinquish their grip. Ben Stone hit a hat trick (well-done Ben). Glen Wright scored one and Tom Wright nicked the final goal (so we let him off missing an open goal earlier on!) Just kidding Tom! The Bulldogs have come a long way since the beginning of the season, I am proud of every one of them, their progress has been excellent. As I said at the beginning of the season, this is very much a team for the future. They are now a force to be reckoned with. It would be a fantastic finale to take the scalp of one of the top teams in our league before the end of the season, and I really believe they can. So watch out you highfliers, the Bulldogs are off their leash.

Finally a big thankyou to Andy Pepper for his great advice & support, also to Dave Wright, a most excellent referee.

Brinklow Bulldogs Under 8s

Originally the team I was supposed to manage was the under 8s. Due to shortage of players I ended up with a team of 8's & 9's in the under 9s Green League. During the season I accumulated a large squad of mixed abilities. To ease the problem and to give the younger members full match experience I have formed an under 8's side using some of the under 8's from the full under 9's team and new and very inexperienced younger players, we play once or twice a month. I could not achieve any of this without the great support from Andy Pepper.

Under 8's Results

Mount Nod Highway 6	Brinklow 2	(Connor Jenkins, Willem Main penalty)
Brinklow 0	Hawksmill 8	
Brinklow 0	Whitley 0	
Brinklow 3	Kenilworth Wardens 4	(Willem Main, Lewis Pepper, Luke Tailby)
Kenilworth Wardens 4	Brinklow 2	(Lewis Pepper 2)



Q: Why did the Brinklow keeper quit from a pilots job?
A: Because he isn't very good in the air



U16'S TEAM NEWS



Brinklow 6 Sporting Club Coventry 0
(Alex Pouncett 3, Gareth Yeend 2, Martin Russell 1)

Brinklow 1 Christ The King 0 (Gareth Yeend)

Brinklow 3 Coundon Cockerels 2
(Gareth Yeend 1, Peter Sharpe 1, William Allen 1)



Name	Goals	App	Average marks so far (by Clive Morton)
Gareth Yeend	15	16	7.68
Peter Sharpe	13	17	7.29
Ryan Byrne	12	17	7.88
Alex Pouncett	11	16	7.31
Martin Russell	8	16	6.75
Grant Manderston	4	16	6.81
William Allen	3	16	7.12
Luke Morton	3	17	7.47
Jack Wiggins	3	17	7.47
Rajan Patel	3	17	7.52
Sam Lunt (Captain)	1	17	7.29
Paul Lewis	1	16	6.62
Richard Taylor (GK)	0	17	7.00

APP and average score do not include Coundon Cockerels game.

Forthcoming Games

Sunday 2nd March	AT7 Youth	Away	PM
Sunday 9th March	Finham Park Rangers	Away	AM
Sunday 16th March	Hilmorton	Away	AM

Late News - Hillmorton have just cancelled the above fixture a second time, could this mean they are scared of playing us?

Get Well Soon - Grant Maderston has been in hospital to have his appendix removed. From all of us at Brinklow we wish him a speedy recovery and hope he will be back playing as soon as possible.

Keith Bryne

.....U14s match report continued

It was a very evenly balanced game so far, but disaster struck within 8 seconds of the 2nd half commencing as, with the Brinklow defence in disarray, Bermuda lashed the ball home to make it 0-1.

This is when sometimes teams start to drop their heads, and on this occasion it seemed to me that this happened. Bermuda at half time had obviously discussed the fact that Danny Carter has the most obvious threat to them, so adopted the tactic of crowding him out, often with 3 players denying him any clear chances. Minutes later though a chance fell to Joe Shore who hit a wonderful shot high to the keeper's right. The Bermuda keeper then pulled off one of the best saves I've seen this season tipping the rocket shot just over the bar, both Shore and keeper earning applause from the crowd for their efforts. Any other game it would have been a goal, it's as simple as that. Minutes later, and again with the home team defence at 6's and 7's resulted in Bermuda increasing their lead to 0-2 with the ball flying into the car corner of the net. Then with a ball delivered high, the unfortunate Brinklow keeper spilled the ball to see it tapped in to make 0-3. Any who watches the U14's regularly know that this was most uncharacteristic of Dale Huddleston - it was just one of those days. A bit against the run of play, and after a bit of a goalmouth scramble, hero of the moment Jack Draper was in the right place at the right time to claw back some Brinklow pride and hit the ball high into the Bermuda net to bring the score to 1-3. Not much later though Bermuda again beat the Brinklow defence to grab the fourth, and final goal of the game.

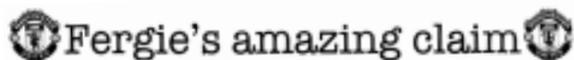
U14'S TEAM NEWS

Ernesford Dynamos	2	Brinklow	1
Hawksmill	1	Brinklow	5

In the last two games we have shown a lot of character and spirit, the first game against Ernesford Dynamos we tried a new system 3-5-2 and it really seemed to suit the lads, Adam Callager soon adapted to the sweeper role with Lee Harris and Jack Draper superb as markers. Five in midfield and two up front, Dale Huddleston in goal was outstanding in this game making a string of fantastic saves. In the second game against Hawksmill the team were after revenge from a defeat last game before Christmas 1-0. Brinklow started a bit slow but an early goal by Danny Carter soon settled them down - Hawksmill then scored a breakaway goal, this didn't worry Brinklow. Joe Shore scores another just before half time. In the second half Brinklow went from strength to strength playing some great footy. Further goals from Danny Carter and Joe Shore and one from Daniel McDonald made the final score 5-1. This game was not just about the goal scorers but the whole team played really well - keep up the good work.

Fixtures

9th March - home to Pinley Tigers
 16th March - home to Allesley Aces



Mick Holt

Alex Ferguson has *(the Bolty)* not agreed to take over as Manchester Utd boss six months ago at a secret meeting at the British Legion in Brinklow, Ferguson believes the Brinklow boss shook hands with the United's Directors on a deal to succeed him after his planned retirement at the end of last season.

In an exclusive interview with myself (Laurence Lamb) and Fergie due to be in the 'News of the World' this Sunday Ferguson says 'I don't know for certain but I'm sure it was with Mick (the Bolty) Holt that the Directors shook hands with, they couldn't put it down on paper because Mick (the Bolty) Holt was still Brinklow's manager, Fergie also added 'I had no idea what was going on at the time until I found some Brinklow Legion bingo tickets in the Board Room'.

I asked Brinklow's number 2 Martin (chicken legs) Pulford if he had heard anything about the alleged meeting he said he hadn't but it would explain why the boss had been kicking footy boots at Joe shore.

I finally managed to track down Mick (the Bolty) Holt to quiz him on the alleged meeting and he denied any knowledge of the meeting he said 'I'm happy to stay a Brinklow for the time being and would not consider a move to Man Utd - I could not afford the drop in wages'.

When I was talking to 'Bolty' he was on a scouting trip to Stretton looking at a new player he was hoping to sign, he said he looks OK but we might have a problem with his work permit!



Laurence Lamb

Brinklow V Bermuda

As often happens these days touchline talk prior to a match commencing can be an indicator as to the outcome of a game. Talk on Sunday morning was generally about how good the opposition were, and how they had apparently not lost for 7 or 8 of their previous matches. This is heard by the players, who then have a couple of choices open to them. Either they believe the hype and capitulate before a ball is kicked, or they can roll up their sleeves and get on with the game in the knowledge that even the best can be beaten.

It was obvious from the kick off that the Bermuda boys were a well drilled outfit, and they were certainly tougher opposition than the previous weeks game at Hawkesmill for the first 10 or so minutes it was quite evenly played, Danny Carter was brought down after running clean through on goal, and the resulting free kick taken by Adam was cleared by the Bermuda keeper. A little later the ball was well cleared by the Brinklow defence from a Bermuda corner - a long ball to Joe Shore who hit the side netting of the opponents goals was possibly the best move of the game so far. Several minutes later a left footed effort from Danny Carter saw the Bermuda goalie save well. So, at half time the score remained goalless

U10'S TEAM NEWS

Brinklow	1	Cov Sphinx	2	(T. Glasscoe)
Chapelfield Colts	6	Brinklow	0	
Brinklow	0	Chapelfield Colts	6	
London Rd Lions	1	Brinklow	1	(T. Glasscoe)

League position 8th (red league)

Its been a tough month for the 10's, with two consecutive games against top of the table Chapelfield Colts, and a real grudge match against Cov Sphinx, whom we stole the points from only a few weeks earlier. Taking just one point from the last twelve has seen us drop to eighth place in the table, but with matches coming up against some mid table teams in the next few weeks, we are looking forward to a push up the table for the end of season run.

Despite the heavy score against us, the two games against Colts were battled well by Brinklow, with outstanding performances from Joe Partridge who has just returned to the team after a leg operation, Tom Morrison who is in top form at the moment, and also Jamie Huddleston and Alex Stage whose quality defending was put to the strongest test by the current red league champions. Danny Hale and Sam Hayley also played some promising football over the two matches both of whom are really beginning to find their feet in the squad at the moment.

The Cov Sphinx match turned out to be a real gritty affair, which was somewhat spoiled by the Sphinx Managers touchline antics. They had not beaten us in any competition for four years, and only 3 weeks before, we had stolen all 3 points with a blinding away day performance,

so I suppose an upset was always on the cards. As ever it was a highly competitive game with some good flowing football, and lots of goalmouth chances for both teams. Sphinx hit first blood with a well taken goal, before Tom Glasscoe snatched an equaliser for Brinklow, but in a fateful fashion it was ex-Brinklow player Sam Skerratt who hit a second half winner for the Sphinx. No complaints about the spirit or commitment of any Brinklow player on the day, we simply lost out to some better finishing.

The last match this month against London Road Lions, was an absolute thriller. Everyone in the Brinklow camp was looking forward to a more competitive game after two heavy defeats and we were not disappointed. Although the final score finished at 1-1, Brinklow outplayed the opposition in every

department creating over 25 attempts on goal. Tom Glasscoe hit the crossbar twice, Tommy Hyde hit the post, and Zack Murphy and Tarun Sud had two goalmouth scrambles cleared off the line. Tom Morrison played an excellent first half in a sweeper role, allowing Jamie Huddleston to move up into midfield and with Zack Murphy also dropping into midfield we had real strength in the centre of the park. Tommy Glasscoe had a cracker, working tirelessly and skilfully from start to finish, eventually bagging the Brinklow goal from a brilliant Tommy Hyde cross. We did everything right but just couldn't grab the winner. Nail biting stuff which was great to watch. Well done lads - you can all be proud of a top performance that day!!

Looking forward to next month after that one!

Tony Glasscoe

PS - we have our first 11 a side friendly on Saturday 8th March against London Rd Lions at Barr Lane 10.30 ko. Any support will be much appreciated.



U11'S TEAM NEWS



John Cramp has now officially handed the coaching and managing of the Under 11s squad back. Many thanks to John and all who've helped him over the last few months; it's been very much appreciated. We're now looking for 'volunteers' to help run our Under 11s team(s) for the six-a-side season which starts in a few months time. We usually enter two or three tournaments each year and they

always prove to be good fun. Please let me know if you're interested.

The weather has been a little kinder since the last edition and the Under 11s have managed to play two games in subsequent weeks (this hasn't happened since November!!). The first game was played against a tenacious Dunlop Juniors side who competed for the full 60 minutes. But, Brinklow Under 11s, led by the ever fearless Kai Sud overcame their dogged resistance and ended the match winning 3 - 0 , with goals from Callum Day (1) and Anthony 'Ducksy' Donnell (2). It was a fantastic team performance and many names were mentioned as Man of the Match such as the level of commitment and effort by the whole team, but Jordan Thompson for a truly outstanding midfield performance, was awarded Man of the Match.

Rugby Town 2002 v Brinklow FC (Report by John Cramp)

The team's confidence was high following their fine win over Dunlop Juniors the week before. Three well taken early goals, one by Alex Cramp and two by Anthony 'Ducksy' Donnell added even more confidence. Rugby Town then dug in and attacked hard, scoring two goals before half time. This panicked Brinklow Under 11s, causing us to loose shape, especially in midfield. After half time, it became a more even, well fought struggle, with a break from their striker to score his hat-trick and bring both teams on to level terms. Kai and his team continued to battle against an increasingly confident Rugby Town team but held on, for a well deserved 3-3 draw. Lesson to learn: be first to the ball and not be afraid to head the ball.

Over the next month or so we have got some tough fixtures to look forward to. To prepare for these, there will be some extra outdoor training. Hopefully by the time you read this, everybody should have a schedule for March and be aware of the extra training sessions organised. Also, you will see from the schedule some matches are kicking off at 12:30/13:00. I know these kick-off times are very inconvenient, and I try to resist them whenever I can, but some teams (for a variety of reasons) just can't play at

Scorers		Man of Match	
Name	Goals	Name	
Chris Brennan	17	Chris Brennan	1
Alex Wood	4	Anthony Donnell	2
Alex Cramp	7	Jordan Thompson	2
Arron Steel	10	Milan Sud	1
Miles Wilcox	3	Alex Cramp	3
Anthony Donnell	17	Tom Rowell	1
Jordan Thompson	1	Kai Sud	2
Milan Sud	2	Tom F	1
Tom Rowell	2		
Tom Fountain	1		
Callum Day	2		

11:00 am. Apologies to everyone in advance.

As always, it's imperative I have as much notice as possible for player (un)availability. It doesn't matter how far in advance it's given, it all helps with the planning. Also, I'm on the look out for one or two new players. If you know somebody who might be interested and is of the standard required, then please let me know.

We still have approximately 15 games to play. To complete

these by the end of the season it may be necessary to play a match on a Saturday as well as the Sunday. I feel the boys are up to it and these dual match weekends will be limited and targeted, but if there are any concerns please let me know. Plenty of notice will be given.

Finally can I thank everyone connected to the Under 11s football team. To those who help run the team, those who set up and take down goals, ball collectors and everybody who helps in the many and varied ways they can, it is very much appreciated. Many thanks to all parents for their support and especially to the lads for all their hard work and commitment, they really do make it all worthwhile.

Peter Day

U13'S TEAM NEWS



So we need something good to put into **ON THE BRINK**, which means that this months results are not going to be any good. The football played however was very encouraging and the lads should try to focus on the way they play rather than the result. As a small village club we can sometimes be a little intimidated by the City teams, however in most

cases it's the frame of mind which loses them the game. This months results are a perfect example:

Coundon Cockerels 9 Brinklow 0

Earlier this season we played this team, didn't play so well and only lost 2 - 4. Brinklow started the stronger side, surprising Coundon with some great football (probably the best I have seen them play) and were unlucky not to get the first break. We were denied the first goal by the woodwork twice and a brilliant save by the Coundon keeper. At this point the match turned and with two mistakes by Brinklow Coundon went two up, this was followed by a well taken goal before half time. The lads had a right to feel disappointed at this point as they had played well and could have easily had seen a reverse score line.

Second half and despite efforts to lift the boys they had been intimidated out of the game and as they say the rest is history. A notable performance was Dan Gyselynck who filled in for Alex Payne who was off with ear trouble.

Man of the Match Dan Gyselynck

Brinklow 2 Rugby Town 6

Before the game the lads kept telling me how good the Rugby players were! The first 15 minutes told a different story and Brinklow gave Rugby a run for their money only to go behind to a soft goal followed by an own goal! At this point Rugby started to dominate and only good defending denied them of an addition to the score line.

Through the second half Brinklow battled on but with only half the players believing they could get a result it was difficult to see where the goals were going to come from. Following another goal from Rugby Brinklow broke through from midfield when a good through ball from Harley Steel found David Brannon who put the ball in the back of the net. Rugby came straight back and caught the defence ball-watching to go 1 - 4 up. Brinklow pushed on and managed to get another back with another good finish from David Brannon, but after this the game went away from Brinklow with too many mistakes and Rugby took a well deserved victory.

Man of the Match David Brannon

Rob Steel

Some years ago, a sultan who had six children, all girls, began to despair as he had no son and heir. Imagine his joy when one of his wives finally presented him with a son and heir. Just



before his son's sixth birthday, the Sultan took him to one side and said,

"Son, I am very proud of you. Anything you want, I shall get for you."

His son replied, "Daddy, I would like to have my own airplane."

Not wanting to do anything by halves, his father bought him American Airlines. Just

before his son's seventh birthday, the Sultan took him to one side. "Son, you

are my pride and joy. Anything you want, I shall get for you."

His son replied, "Daddy,

I would like a boat."

Not wanting to do anything halfway, his father bought him The Princess Cruise

Lines. Just before his son's eighth birthday, the Sultan took him to one side. "Son, you bring so much

happiness into my life. Anything you want, I shall get for you."

His son replied, "Daddy, I would like to be able to watch cartoons."

Not wanting to look a cheapskate, his father bought him Disney Studios

and their theatres, where he watched all his favourite cartoons.

Just before his son's ninth birthday, the Sultan took him to one side.

"Son, you are an inspiration to us all. Anything you want, I shall get for you."

His son, who was by now really into the Disney cartoons, replied,

"Daddy, I would like a Mickey Mouse outfit."

Not wanting to appear to be tight, his father bought him Bolton Wanderers!

