

BRINKLOW 6-A-SIDE

“ON THE BRINK”

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EDITORIAL



Blimey Charley! I've just got into my stride and the football seasons just finished! As they say on the radio, we've got a magazine chock full with quality items! I've been reading through the reports submitted to me by all the managers, and what a good season it's been. Sure, we've had some ups and downs, but that's the nature of the game. The general opinion though, is that all the players have had a lot of enjoyment out of the games they've played, and the parents and spectators have shared in that enjoyment. You can't ask for more than that.

Without wanting to sound like an Oscars ceremony, a few thank you's are in order. First of all I want to say a big thank you on behalf of Brinklow FC to all the people and businesses that have supported us, and this magazine, by way of sponsorship and advertising. A big thank you to all the people involved with the club who give up a lot of their free time to coach and manage the players, and a big thank you to Alun and Heather Yeend who do a lot to raise money for us. Finally, thanks for the support of the parents in all weathers to encourage the children who play for this great little club, and make it all worthwhile.

Further on in this last issue of "On The Brink" are a few dates when some events are taking place locally over the close season. Added to that, on Saturday May 13th we have a visit from Whitestone U9's football team, and on Sunday May 14th we have a visit from the Devon lads, Whimple FC. On Saturday 20th of May on the big screen TV at the White Lion, Brinklow, is the FA Cup Final between Chelsea and some other team (O.K! I know it's Aston Villa!) which will be followed by a Kareoke, and on Monday 29th of May, again at the White Lion, there will be a Family Barbeque. Plenty to keep you occupied then.

Mick Holt has given me a list of birthdays that I didn't have space for on the U11's page. They are: Joe Shore, on the 9th May, Daniel Carter, on the 14th June, Rainard Stocks, on the 17th June, Brett Ford, on the 14th July, and Dale Huddlestone on the 31st August. Mick would like to wish you all a very happy Birthday!

On the subject of Birthday's it will be Heather's at the White Lion on Sunday 7th May. A happy Birthday to you!

Well, that's about it for now, folks. I hope you've enjoyed your football this past season, and reading "On The Brink" has kept you informed about Brinklow FC, both on and off the pitch. Good luck to all the lads playing in the tournament, see you next season

MALC.

THE MAN IN BLACK

With Referee Darren Clarke

The last question in "On The Brink" was: what are the two different types of free kicks?

Answer:

Direct free kick and indirect free kick.

The signal which the referee will give for the direct free kick is:

The arm will be stretched forward to indicate the direction of the kick.

The signal for the indirect kick is:

The arm will be held above the head until the kick has been taken and held until the ball has been played, touched by another player or goes out of play.

I was hoping to have the new amendments to the Laws of the Game for the new season but they will not be issued until June. When I have them, I will type them out and give them to Mick Holt.

However, I have been able to get my hands on the International FA Amendments to the Laws of the Game which will come into force on 1st July 2000.

- ◆ There was insufficient evidence that the 10 yard advancement should be introduced globally.
- ◆ There will be further experiments abroad involving two referees
- ◆ The Goalkeepers Four-step law was removed; they will be allowed up to 6 seconds to release the ball.
- ◆ The 4th Official will inform the Referee of any violent conduct.
- ◆ Sending-off offences will read: use of offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures.
- ◆ There will be no limit to the number of substitutes allowed for friendly international matches.

Darren Clarke.

U7'S TEAM NEWS

Well, the season is almost at a close for the under 7's and I have to look back over the last eight months or so with real pride. It's a cliché I know, but it's not just the results that count. The lads have really come a long way this season, and it's great to see them enjoy their football so much. Even nicer is the fact that we have been paid a lot of compliments by other managers and spectators for the way that we play football. All in all a very promising season.

WYKEN 0 BRINKLOW 3

Although the grass on the pitch was ankle deep, Brinklow still managed to turn in another solid performance. The defence kept Wyken out for most of the game and managed to work the ball forward to the midfield really well, and on the day the midfield made the most of this service, creating several good chances on goal. Brandon Hodder struck first for Brinklow with an absolute screamer of a goal, and this was followed by several more close efforts before Tommy Glasscoe got the second and Zack Bevins the third. Sam Skerratt was rarely troubled in the Brinklow goal, and this turned out to be a comfortable away victory for Brinklow.

I have to thank all the Dads who turned up for the traditional Easter Dads vs Dads match. The first half was evenly matched and I thought that we might be good for a draw. However, in the second half 15 years of alcohol abuse, staying in bed, watching telly, eating chips, and drooling over Ulrika on Gladiators finally took its toll, and we were stuffed seven - nil!

Such is life. I suppose as a life long Cov City fan I'm used to such disappointments - even if Rob did bring in a couple of ringers. Not that I'm bitter or twisted of course.....Well, twisted maybe? It was definitely not a spectator sport, I'm sure.

So, although the matches for this season are nearly over, we still have one more home game to go and loads to look forward to! I hope to see all the parents turn out to cheer all the lads on for their last game, and on the playing side we still have the six a side tournament to look forward to. I am planning on training until the end of May before taking a bit of a break. With some help from parents I hope to organise some evening training during the summer holidays and we are also trying to get some sort of day trip organised for the lads, and an evening out for the parents themselves. I'll be writing a newsletter with details of all this lot very shortly.

See ya soon, Tony Glasscoe, Manager U7's and Neil Huddleston, Assistant Manager U7's.

U13's TEAM NEWS

RESULTS:

BRINKLOW 1-2 FINHAM
BRINKLOW 0-4 SPORTING COVENTRY
BRINKLOW 3-2 EARLSDON EAGLES
BRINKLOW 3-4 RUGBY TOWN

Looking at the results above, you might think that the U13's had a bad end of season, only winning one and losing three. In fact the last four games saw Brinklow battle and fight more than they have all year, the reason for this is that in three of the games we started with only ten players, and in one game, only nine.

I'm sure that if we had started the above games with a full compliment of players we would have been more favourable. Apart from that, the U13's have had a very good year, finishing in the top half of the league, and for the first time since we started, winning more games than we have lost, which is quite an achievement considering the size of the squad.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the players and supporters for their help during the season, without your commitment it would not have been possible to run a football team.

Next season may seem a long way off, but as most parents know, it comes around all too quickly, but we need a break, so after the 6-a-side on the 3rd and 4th of June we will be taking our break until Sunday August 4th. (But don't forget the presentation night on Friday 16th of June)

This report was written before the U13's went on their summer tour to Cleethorpes so hopefully the next headlines in "On The Brink" will read "**Under 13's win both their games, and parents stay sober for all four days!**"

I'll leave it up to you to decide which one of the two headlines will come true!

SEASON 1999-2000 TOP GOALSCORERS

George Ashwell	9	Steven Stanley, Gareth Yeend	8
Ryan Byrne	6	Tom Aspinal	5
Rajan Patel	1	Sam Lunt, Matty Farey	4

See you all soon, all the best.....KEITH

New players needed for next season. Ask them to contact me.

U9's TEAM NEWS

MATCH REPORT:

WHITESTONE 1-2 BRINKLOW

Brinklow started the match badly and it got worse straight away when an attempted clearance rebounded into the Brinklow net off a Whitestone forward. Heads went down and Whitestone started to play better football, with Brinklow always second to the ball. However, neither side really dominated and Brinklow started to pick up, with James Royle almost snatching an equaliser just before half time.

In the second half Brinklow came out a different team and were clearly fired up. A persistent run by Sammy Shore gave a great chance to James Royle, who made no mistake from just inside the area. Brinklow continued to pressurise, and the Whitestone keeper made a great save from a Thomas Crane corner, however James Royle was on hand to stab the ball into the roof of the net for the winner. Whitestone pressed for an equaliser and looked to have succeeded but a great goal line clearance from Thomas Crane kept Brinklow ahead in this closely contested match. Man of the Match was **Sammy Shore** for a totally committed non-stop second half.

The season as a whole has been quite good for the U9's. With players leaving or moving age groups we were a bit short on numbers at the start, but we have added a couple of players through the season, and even being a couple of players short did not stop them from giving a good account of themselves.

We started off with a bad defeat at Bedworth, but in the return game later in the season we achieved a well deserved draw to underline the improvement of the team. With Alex established in goal (keep practising those kicks) and Joe, Thomas, and Sam W working well together in defence, we have the basis of quite a solid side. Progress was made with almost every game, resulting in only a couple more defeats in the year. With Sam Shore (will he ever stop running?) and Daniel and James proving themselves good players who have also improved a lot, we produced some very good football. Excellent games and results were achieved against Stretton (twice) and Rugby Town probably being the best in terms of results and the way the games were played. I must also mention Andrew who has been very unlucky in not quite being able to force his way into the side on a regular basis, but I am sure that with continued hard work and effort he will be soon.

Finally, a special thank you to Dave Fisher for all his help and assistance throughout the season. Thank you to everyone for turning up every week, and keep up the hard work.

Let's look forward to a happy and successful next season

All the best, BRIAN.

U10's TEAM NEWS

RESULTS:

BRINKLOW	1	DUNLOP	4
ATHLETIC UTD	1	BRINKLOW	4
BRINKLOW	4	RUGBY TOWN	3
WHITLEY JNRS	1	BRINKLOW	0
MOUNT NOD	2	BRINKLOW	1

MATCH REPORT:

FINHAM PARK	2	BRINKLOW	6
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The game became interesting in the first minute when a Finham player picked up the ball in his own area after thinking the ball had gone out of play, luckily for him his keeper pulled off a great save from a James Mercer thundering shot. The game continued with end to end football with both teams coming close before Brinklow opened the scoring from a corner which James Mercer put away, this time leaving the keeper no chance. It took Finham nearly 10 minutes to get a deserved equaliser to make it 1-1 at half time.

Brinklow came out for the second half looking like a team that was past its bed time, and Finham made the most of it by scoring and taking the lead. At this point with a bit of vocal support from the side line, Brinklow seemed to wake up, playing tighter in the middle they soon became too strong for Finham, equalising through Rory Higgins and the starting the flood. This was shortly followed by a great goal from James Mercer to put Brinklow ahead. The last 15 minutes brought out some of the best football that the parents had seen all season, with great performances from all the players. A further three goals were all scored by Rory Higgins, to make it four on the day, but none of these would have been possible without the rest of the team. It was a pleasure to watch. Man of the Match – **The Team!**

I would personally like to thank John Harman and Declan Higgins for their support in coaching the boys, and I would like to wish John well in his new role as manager of next years U7's. I would also like to thank the parents for supporting the boys come rain or shine, and particularly Lesley and Sandra for the coffee.

ROB STEEL.

U11's TEAM NEWS

RESULTS:

COUNDON COCKERELS	7	BRINKLOW	0
BRINKLOW	1	MOUNT NOD	1

Brinklow once again settled well into the game, after a big defeat from Coundon the previous week. A well balanced game with neither side giving in, it was nil-nil at half time and the three points could go either way. Second half, and still neither side were taking control, until a goal mouth scramble saw **Joe Shore** pass the ball into the net. This made the game even more difficult for both sides, and in the last minute Mount Nod scored to level the game. Well done to both sides for a great morning's football. Man of the Match was **Dale Huddleston**

PRESS RELEASE EXCLUSIVE.

The chances of Brinklow supremo Bolty still being at Barr Lane next season are in doubt, due to the increasing interest of a number of Premiership clubs, the front runners being Wimbledon, now managerless after the sacking of Egil Olsen who want Bolty as a player/manager after being watched by scouts in the Easter Monday game. Judging by his movement, skill, and fleet of foot, Bolty would surely enhance any Premier club. Also being watched on the day were Dave "Rhino" Shore, by Bradford Bulls, Keith "Hawkeye" Byrne, by Anne Byrne, Barry "Cue ball" Wilkinson by Looney Tunes, and Rob Steel by the cow in the next field.

SPECIAL EXCLUSIVE REPORT BY LAWRENCE LAMB, AT THE BARR LANE BUGLE.

Well, didn't that go quick! This is the last "On The Brink" of the season already. This seemed to be a bit of an up and down season, with for me, the downs being losing to Rugby Town and away to Coundon Cockerels, and our performance in the semi-final against Oakwood. The ups being our results against Whitley (League champions) a 2-3 loss at home and a great come-back away from home being 3-0 down to draw 3-3, and scoring 23 goals in our great cup run. However, for me the highlight being our away win at London Road 5-1, by far the best football we have ever played. In my opinion we have found our second season in the league difficult. I think that after last season we thought it was going to be easy, but there is a lot of good potential in the team and with a bit of hard work and a lot of listening from the players (and perhaps a bit more discipline from myself) we will have a team to challenge for the title next season.

Our last game was on the 30th April. From then on we will be training for the Brinklow 6-a-side. This will be on Sundays only from 11.00 till 12.30. We may do another couple of 6-a-sides, but this depends on the availability of players. We will stop training after the Brinklow 6-a-sides on the 4th of June, and pre-season training starts on the 6th of August. This gives the players, and especially the parents, a 9 week break. However, see the events page because there is a lot going on in the close season.

Finally I would like to say a few thank you's. To John and Dale Draper at John Draper and Sons for their continued support and sponsorship of the team, to Martin for his help at training, for Richard for running the line and his help as Medical officer, to Karl for helping me prepare the pitch, to Richard Allen for superbly refereeing at a lot of our home games, to Darren Clarke for his help on match days and training, but most of all to the parents for all their support throughout the season.

CHEERS, MICK HOLT.

U 9'S TEAM NEWS

This being the last issue of "On The Brink" for the season, it seems a good time to reflect and review the season just gone.

On a personal note, it has been a pleasure to see the lads' commitment and obvious enjoyment in playing football. Each and every week they turn up come rain or shine. Everyone without exception has improved, in terms of skills, attitude, and team spirit.

We now have a great bunch of lads, which will provide a foundation for successful and enjoyable seasons ahead. We have welcomed new players throughout the course of the season, who have now become valuable additions to the squad. We have also welcomed Ged Wood and Gary Wilcox to the management team, which has enabled us to divide the squad into two, benefiting everyone concerned, players and managers alike.

I have occasionally been accused of being too soft with the lads, saying "please and thank you" and not shouting and bellowing enough. It's probably true, but the aim has been to allow greater enjoyment, instill confidence and gain respect from the lads and more importantly for them to see the game as fun. I am quite capable of being "tough and vocal" (ask Callum Day!) but this can wait till next season when expectations will be higher. Be warned!

On the technical side, training has been focused on passing and positional play. It has taken the lads a while to see the benefit of this and has been a little frustrating for them to play two or three touch matches, but it will stand them in good stead for future years. I had deliberately arranged matches against some very good sides and to the lads' credit, they have attained some very good results, with good play, putting the training ground disciplines into match use.

All that remains to be said is a large thank you to John Cramp, my right-hand man, and to Ged Wood and Gary Wilcox for their support and assistance with the "B" team. Also thanks to Wolston Plumbing Services and Oscars Pet Foods, our team sponsors.

On a personal note, can I thank Malc Coombs who's idea resulted in "On The Brink" and for all the dedication and effort put into it's production.

Most of all: **WELL DONE LADS!** Keep up the good work.....Peter

U16'S TEAM NEWS

Well here I am writing my last "On The Brink" report of the season, and I find it hard to believe that another year has flown by. To say it has been a difficult one would be putting it mildly, but when I look back to the start, I can gain some satisfaction from the fact that the U16's team has made great progress. In all we have used 20 players over the year, the squad never being really settled, with people leaving and new ones coming in. Hopefully, for the new season when we will be playing at U17's, we will be able to retain the nucleus of our present side, adding some quality to that we undoubtedly already have.

As is the way in football there will always be highs and lows, and we've probably suffered a too many lows. However, considering a poor start to the year when some of the squad were lacking the required commitment the lads can be proud of themselves for the way in which they've swung things around. Towards the end of the season we were definitely a better side, having become a lot more difficult to beat, whilst demanding respect when going forward. I feel that with a little more self-belief the lads could have advanced their game a stage further.

Having said that, some of the football the team has played has been superb. If you read my last report you will know that for the coming season I shall be looking to bring in some new players, and hopefully some new assistants, as it is impossible to cope single-handedly with all that is required. On the training field it would be nice to have other coaches so that more time could be dedicated to developing different sections of the side and also different styles of play. On match days we have always played better when I have been able to concentrate solely on the game. So, if anyone fancies keeping fit and helping out then don't hesitate to get in touch.

On the Easter weekend I enjoyed participating in the Dads vs Dads challenge match at Barr Lane; it was really good to see a bunch of mainly veterans taking to the field and playing the game in such good spirit. It makes one remember that football is, after all, only a game, which is there for everyone's enjoyment. It was also good to see so many "mickey taking" youngsters on the touchline, and it would be nice to think that in thirty years time these lads might be getting together for a similar game having many years previous been set on the road by Brinklow FC.

I would like to finish by saying thank you to the people who have helped me out in any way this year, particularly where transport has been concerned. I would also like to thank my players for their commitment to Brinklow FC, and I must add that I have enjoyed their sense of humour almost as much as some of the football that they have played. Finally, I would also like to say thank you to everyone involved with Brinklow FC for giving me the opportunity of being involved with the management of one of their sides. Already looking forward to next season, yours in football,

BARRY

U6'S TEAM NEWS

STRETTON 1 BRINKLOW 4

Our first match against players of the same age! On a cold, wet, and miserable morning, this team had a great start. They began the match really well with Matthew Pine working hard going forward. Stuart Day scored the first goal breaking through from midfield. Lee Huddlestone was working hard in midfield and came close to scoring twice. Then that player did it again! Stuart Day got free from midfield and scored another well placed goal with his left foot. Going in at half time, the score was Stretton 0 Brinklow 2.

Matthew Pine went in goal and Teague Galvin came out. The conditions made it difficult to play. However, Brinklow still went forward on several occasions with Lee and Teague coming close to scoring. Then, halfway through the second period Lee picked up the ball, broke clear and scored a good goal putting the shot right in the corner of the net. Stretton pushed Brinklow back and for their reward scored a goal. The Brinklow players worked well as a team moving forward and back together. George Harman scored a nice goal, shooting from one side of the goal and putting the ball diagonally across into the other corner of the net. Man of the Match went to **Stuart Day** for his overall hard working performance. Well done, Stu.

BRINKLOW 1 LONDON ROAD 1

The conditions were certainly a lot better for this game. Both teams started the game in a lively fashion. Matthew Pine and Stuart Day carried the game forward against this well organised and busy London Road team. Midway through the first half London Road took the lead, but the boys did not get down-hearted and reacted well to go in 0-1 down at half time. The Brinklow boys made a good start to the second half pushing London Road back and attacking together as a team. Lee Huddlestone was having a particularly good game turning up in defence when needed and moving forward into midfield, making a number of good tackles. Brinklow pressure paid off when Lee scored the equaliser, breaking through from midfield and placing the ball in the corner of the net.

What pleased me most about this game was the way the team kept going towards the end when London Road were coming forward looking for the winner. Well done boys, it was a good team effort!

Man of the Match was **Lee Huddlestone** (A goal a game! Not bad, eh?)

Myself and Richard are looking forward to next season when we will have a full season in front of us. The boys have made a good start and with some new players to add to the team, the future looks positive for Brinklow's youngest side.

We hope that everybody had a good Easter and May Bank holiday.

John Harman, U6's Manager
Richard Jenkins, U6's Assistant Manager.

Social Diary and Forthcoming Events.

WITH SUMMER SOON TO BE UPON US, AND THE FOOTBALL SEASON OVER, IT'S TIME TO LOOK TO OTHER WAYS OF HAVING A GOOD TIME. WITH THIS IN MIND, THERE WILL BE A

TREASURE HUNT

TAKING PLACE AROUND THE VILLAGE ON THE

LAST SUNDAY IN

JULY

ALSO, STILL IN JULY, THERE IS TO BE A

CRICKET MATCH

THE DATE FOR THIS IS STILL TO BE CONFIRMED

THERE WILL BE A

SPORTS DAY

TAKING PLACE ON THE

AUGUST BANK

HOLIDAY

LOTS OF GAMES AND LOADS OF FUN TO BE HAD BY EVERYONE. FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED CLOSER TO THE DATES.