

2011/2012 U15s Manager's Report

This season almost replicated the 2010/2011 season although thankfully there was no playoff required to avoid relegation.

During the close season we managed to recruit three new players including an out and out goal scorer which had been one of our weaknesses during the previous season where the vast majority of the goals had come from midfield. Our optimism was relatively high during pre-season training until we realised that this player had broken his collarbone playing rugby.

This last year has seen our performances range from the sublime to the ridiculous with more than our fair share of bad fortunate but then most teams will say this. We experienced outstanding team performances and games where we just didn't turn up.

Tom finally made his debut four games into the season scoring after only two minutes and grabbed a second to ensure a point in a tightly fought game against Leek Wootton, our first of the campaign. He went on to score fifteen times in nine matches including a memorable four against Christ the King. Tom is a talented hockey player and was unfortunately unavailable for majority of the games after the New Year as his County hockey games took precedence over our football matches. We will be without Tom next season as hockey has proven to be victorious over football.

Our first victory, and a comfortable one at that, came in November but this was followed by a lack lustre defeat against the same team the following week. The game that stands out for all the right reasons was the match away against Christ the King just before Christmas. Christ the King had won all their previous eight games and most by large margins in doing so had only conceded eight goals. 2:0 down after ten minutes and we feared the worst but the whole team just dug deep, rolled their sleeves up and played the way that we knew they could. 3:3 at half-time and the whole team were buzzing. The second half was just fantastic as Brinklow scored three unanswered goals and thoroughly deserved all the praise they received.

When you win like this you just want to repeat it the following week but unfortunately it would be four weeks before we played again and we lost four on the trot with two good performances and two appalling ones.

It was now approaching the end of February and there were four games to play and the situation was clear, we had to win at least three of them. Transfer deadline was on the 29th February and we had a new player to sign on, a player who hadn't played in the league before and I arrived with no photo, the player lived in Rugby, and well to cut a long story short an email photo arrived with the League less than ten minutes before the 9 o'clock cut off. This proved to be a fantastic signing and probably the turning point of the season. We went on to win the next three games scoring four in each. We did lose the last game 3:1 against third in the league but we played the entire game with ten players and conceded three deflected goals. We outplayed Coventrians and how we didn't get anything out of it I don't know. What team spirit, what a way to end the season – can't wait for it all to start again in September.

This has been a much more pleasurable season and the atmosphere amongst the parents has been much improved and the support that the players, manager and coach have received has been excellent. For those of you that have troublesome parents, guardians or even players and are undecided what to do then our advice is that you are better off without them.

Thanks once again to John Cross for his continued hard work preparing the Town Thorn's pitch and to the several parents that have acted as linesmen ensuring that we could stay focused on the team activities. A final thanks to Rotatech for their kind sponsorship during the season.