

Hello to all the coaches at the club and welcome to the new section on our website "Coaching Corner".

I've taken on the role of Head Coach at the club, so I wanted to share with you my thoughts on what this role means and how we can make the most of the coaching skills we have at the club. We currently have around 50 qualified coaches at the club ranging from Level 1 to Level 3, as well as some additional bespoke qualifications including futsal and goalkeeping. In addition to the qualifications, we know we have coaches who have played football at varying standards and learned a great deal over the years.

That's a whole lot of experience and knowledge we have within the club, and it would be crazy not to utilise this fully to improve the standard of coaching throughout our age groups.

I myself am level 3 qualified. I have been coaching for around 20 years and have coached at many clubs and age groups including seniors in the Toolstation Western League, right down to U5's. I am currently coaching our U7's. However, the one thing I have learned over the years is that coaches learn from coaches, and we all have our favourite drills and our own style and approach on how football should be coached.

I see my role as coordinating the coaching structure at the club and enabling improvement for all the age groups to give our kids the greatest chance of becoming better players. To do this, I need your help...I have already observed several sessions through the ages, and I hope to be able to attend many more over the coming weeks and months. From this, I want to offer any help I can to any coaches looking for advice or assistance, and also I would love to take your drills and share these with our other coaches to expand the knowledge throughout the club.

Over time, hopefully the more knowledge we share, the better our coaching will be throughout the age groups, so if you have any drills you enjoy using and would like to share them amongst our team, please let me know either by email, F2F or phone. I can draw them up on PDF and share them in our coaching section.

As the summer is not far away, I also think it would be great to run some master classes for coaches to share their ideas and drills. If there is enough interest, I will arrange these where coaches can come along with their favourite drills and we can all learn from each other to improve the coaching we offer at the club.

To kick things off, we have created some coaching sections, and I have included some drills already. Over time, I will continue to add new drills, so please look out for new ones all the time. I would love to include some of yours, so please email me on nigelwhittle@sky.com if you have any drills you would like to share.

I hope to provide a monthly coaching update too, so if you have anything you would like to share with your fellow coaches such as exciting drills, team achievements, gained qualifications etc please let me know and I will include this in my update.

That's it for now, the success of this section is down to all of us, so let's see how far we can take it and look to raise the standard of the coaching for everyone associated at Longwell Green.

Regards

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