Hello again, and welcome to the summer..ish edition of “Coaches Corner” for 2015. As we approach our first game of the season, I felt it was the right time to share my thoughts with you. I’m sure you’re all excited and feel ready after all those summer pre-season sessions! My last update in May, followed the presentation day when we shared our club coaching philosophy. I hope coaches and managers have been using this in your summer discussions with parents and players to embed this as we move forward. I know from those I have spoken to, this is definitely happening.

**WHAT’S BEEN HAPPENING**

At the end of May, we held our latest “Coach’s Session” at Coronation Park. We had another great response with c20 coaches attending. The session focussed on the basics of a good session including, arrival activities, warm up’s and specific drills created by the coaches on the night.

In my last update, I promised our dedicated goalkeeping training would start, and I’m pleased to say this happened. We started in June and carried on throughout July for all players to join in. In total we had over 35 players join in and try their hand at goalkeeping. This was a fantastic response and every session saw a minimum of 25 players take part. This demonstrated to me that we have great commitment from both parents and players at our club. We’re now holding sessions bi-weekly for 1st and 2nd choice GK’s only to ensure we focus more time with them ahead of the new season. Our next session is Monday 7th September at Shellards Rd at 6.30pm. Get your GK along...

I also wanted to mention a training day arranged by Chris Pugh for the U16’s boys on the 22nd August. Chris asked for my support and arranged a whole day for his boys to build a stronger bond and try some new things. It was a real success and over 6 long hours, we managed to squeeze in, a warm up, passing drill, fitness session, head/volley tennis, lunch, a football quiz, sets plays, passing combinations and an individual challenge. All in all, it was a great day and the boys enjoyed it. Well Done Chris and the Under 16 Boys.

**WHAT’S COMING UP**

Our next “Coaches Session” will be slightly different to previous versions. I am keen to try something different and I’m looking for your support as always. My plan is to share knowledge and good drills. Firstly, I want as many coaches there as possible, however I want 6 coaches (I’ll be the first volunteer) to bring 1 session to demonstrate with the boys we will have on the night. This session is all about sharing, learning and building our knowledge bank. The session will be on Monday 14th September – 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm at Shellards Rd, Longwell Green. I say we should go for a beer afterwards too if anyone fancies it!

Please, can I encourage you to come along, I’m looking for 5 others to volunteer to take a session (you won’t be judged and there’s no test at the end of it!), and as many others to come and watch. Please e-mail or text me to confirm your attendance asap (details below).

**COACHING CPD**

We now have a new FA Mentor for this season, Steve has moved on in the FA and has taken on a new role within the region but I still keep in regular contact with him. Our new FA Mentor is Paul Spencer-White, a few of us know Paul as he took our Youth Module course earlier this year.

Hopefully you saw my e-mail regarding this opportunity in November, we’ve already had 2 coaches sign up for this course which is great, but if you fancy taking your youth module (after all we all coach youths not adults) let me know and we’ll get you on the course. It’s really relevant to what we do and I really enjoyed the course when I did it.

That’s it for me, don’t forget we have myself and 3 mentors who are there to help and support you this season. If you would like any of the mentors to come along and work with you at any of your sessions, please let me know and I will fix this up. I am available to come along and watch, take part or help you if you would like, just let me know.

Regards

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