

Client: Brentford Football Club Yellow News
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Yellow News...

CHAMPIONSHIP

Gimme a break

THOMAS KEEN TO KEEP HIS PLAN BEE

THOMAS FRANK wants the Premier League and EFL to introduce timeouts.

The Brentford boss took the newly introduced drinks breaks to another level on Tuesday during their 2-1 win over Charlton at Griffin Park.

He brought out a whiteboard to help talk his players through tactics as they huddled near the touchline while hydrating themselves.

Managers like Jurgen Klopp and Frank Lampard have welcomed the chance to speak to their teams during these short intervals halfway through each half as part of the summer-playing protocols.

But the Bees boss wants it to be made permanent.

Dane Frank, 46, said: "From a coaching point of view, it's great as we now have two timeouts, one in each half where we can adjust things, reinforce things.

"That's why I took the chance to bring out the whiteboard and show my players what we wanted them to do.

"We were losing 1-0 and chasing the game, so I wanted to make changes.

"I definitely would vote for timeouts. I don't understand why we can't do it permanently and, from a commercial point of view, they'd love it.

"Like in American sport, imagine how much money they could make by having an ad break in a 1½-minute slot on prime time TV.

"Timeouts work in volleyball,

EXCLUSIVE by JUSTIN ALLEN

basketball and handball, so why not in football?"

Frank has never been shy to offer his views and always talks openly, articulately and in detail.

He laughed and said: "That's who I am and how I describe things.

"Sometimes I go into too much detail but that's because I'm so passionate about football."

And his passion, communication and people skills, knowledge and tactical nous have helped Brentford enjoy a shot at getting promoted to the Premier League.

They have won their last six matches to put real pressure on top two Leeds and West Brom.

And thanks to their league-leading goal difference, a play-off spot is as good as in the bag with just four games left to play, starting at Derby today.

While everyone raves about their BMW frontline of Said Benrahma, Bryan Mbeumo and Ollie Watkins, it often goes unnoticed that Brentford have the Championship's joint-best defensive record.

The Bees are the division's top scorers with 75 goals but conceded a miserly 34 in 42 matches.

Frank, this week named the Sky Bet Championship Manager of the Month for June, said: "That's been the biggest thing I wanted to improve when I took over from Dean Smith last season.

"We focused on the tactical bits, as a team and individually, plus the

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structure. I wanted to have the ability to press forward and improve the culture of the desire to defend as a team.

"We wanted everyone to put their bodies on the line and feel some pride in keeping clean sheets.

"And the final bit was to get some key players in.

"So we bought in the two centre-halves, Ethan Pinnock and Pontus Jansson, plus Christian Norgaard as the No6 and our goalkeeper David Raya.

"So that has transformed us from an average defensive side to a top one."

And with that sorted, the BMW is in cruise control – firing in a staggering 53 goals so far.

Frank added: "They're magnificent. They're the best front three in the league by miles.

"Each one offers different skills, which make them more dangerous together.

"Said gives us more match actions, passes and scores goals.

"Ollie is a complete striker who has a bright future.

"And Bryan is lightning quick, a deep runner and fantastic to sniff a goal in the box."

Frank is emerging as one of the game's brightest coaches and has had an interesting career path.

He had a short-lived playing career as a midfielder in lower-

league Danish football before deciding to focus on coaching at the age of 22.

After gradually working his way up as a youth coach for various Danish clubs and the national team, he landed the Brøndby job.

Frank took a team that had just beaten relegation to fourth- and third-placed finishes, before resigning after his chairman, Jan Bøch Andersen, bizarrely criticised him on a web fans forum under a pseudonym.

He joined Brentford four years ago as a first-team coach before taking over as head coach when

Smith left for Aston Villa in October 2018.

Frank said: "I had never planned to become a head coach or move abroad when I first started but gradually you get more experienced and start to believe in yourself.

"I love the English game. I love the history, the passion and how a family will support a team through the generations from father to son.

"Professional football has been here for way over a century and I love how it's not just the Premier League and Championship people love.

"You have it all the way down to the National League and almost every person supports a club. It's brilliant."

Tweet @justinallen1976

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