

Lea Sports PSG Football Club



Mini-Soccer 7 vs.7 format Under Nine Tigers Reds	2023-2024
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Royston Crow Youth League

Manager:	Paul Clark
Colours	Shirts: Red & black stripes. Shorts: black.
Home Ground	The Recreation Ground, Pirton
Manager's Players	Hugo Bennett, Kyle Glass
Players' Player	Theo Clark
Most Improved Player	Geoge Rose
Top Goalscorer	Ralph Cracknell (41) (Mini Golden Boot Winner)

The Under 9 Tigers Reds found themselves in the Crow Cherry division, where they won more games than they lost, in a season which saw a gradual improvement in the team. This was marked by a six-match unbeaten run at the end of the season, culminating in a 10-2 win over Sandy Tigers on the final day.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	%
Cherry Division	26	13	3	10	68	61	55.8
Friendly	1	1	0	0	4	1	100.0
	27	14	3	10	72	62	57.4

Under 9 Tigers Reds Appearances and Goalscorers - 2023-24

	This Season		Club Total	
	Apps.	Goals	Apps.	Goals
Maximum	27	72		
Hugo Bennett	23	8	40	10
Theodore Clark	23	7	43	21
Ralph Cracknell	24	41	43	47
Walter Featherby	23	2	37	6
Kyle Glass	27	3	37	5
Monty Kennard	25	0	25	0
Charlie Kewell	2	2	46	31
Hector Laws Clarke	5	0	70	4
Bertie Nicoll	21	0	39	0
Elliott Osmond	2	0	22	8
Eddie Ransom	8	0	2	0
George Rose	22	0	22	0
Arthur Silvey	24	5	43	10
Kitty Simpson	9	1	17	1
Own Goals		3		
(14 Players)				

Under 9 Tigers Reds Season's Report - 2023-24

Well, what a difference a year makes. Looking back - as manager of this team - I genuinely couldn't be more proud of what we have achieved. On reflection of our previous season: a newly formed under 8s team, endeavouring to build a side, where most had never worn a football kit, let alone played a match...to being a competitive team in the division, and the progression through to under 9s has been unprecedented.

The development from 5 to 7 a side football was also a challenge, however the team embraced this head on. Moving into the new season we welcomed new players and sadly we saw some move on. Fortunately, we managed to keep the core of our side, and welcomed new signing George Rose, however we lost Kitty Simpon and Edward Ransom (as he was only able to commit to certain fixtures), so we had a squad of 9 players going into the new season.

We embarked on this new under 9s season with the appreciation that we had a full, character building, previous season under our belts, and could no longer consider ourselves as newbies in the league. We also had the added bonus this season of bolstering our management team, with Mark Bennett and Dean Cracknell, the latter of whom is a seasoned football professional himself, having had a glittering career with over 250 games and notably playing for teams such as Northampton Town, Stevenage Borough, St Albans City and Cambridge United to name a few. Buoyed by these additions to the management team we couldn't wait to get our season underway.

As we entered our first game of the season away at Bishops Stortford, we reminded the players that this was a new season, and that we actually had a team full of talent, and that as a collective, anything was possible. The players recognised this; they were no longer a shy, timid side, but actually a team that had good footballing foundations, and with the right mindset, were able to go toe-to-toe with any team in the division, and with that, we inevitably ended up winning our first game 3-0.

At this point, I want to highlight a key individual in our team that has enhanced his game tenfold from last year, and we couldn't be happier. This player last season played predominantly in defence, however, over the course of the summer, worked on his weaknesses, and came back to the new season a completely different player. He was no longer our Centre Back, but now our Centre Forward. Regardless of what level of football you play, for an individual to score 40+ goals in a season is remarkable, and he should be extremely proud of what he has achieved, not only for himself, but also for our team. Ralph Cracknell, congratulations on a wonderful season, and I am so proud of your achievements.

As highlighted previously, it really is amazing what can be achieved in a year. With the boys embracing our new team structure and encouragement to play football, we entered every match with limited fear of our opposition. They say that stats don't lie, and we won over 70% of our matches: an incredible turnaround from last season.

This season has really been enlightening of what can be achieved by hard work and dedication. The progression of individuals in our team is also very impressive. We are

blessed with bags of talent across the team, starting with our midfield duo of Kyle and Hugo; they are both relentless and complement each other's attributes. We also have our newcomer George, who has settled in brilliantly and has the ability to play in goal and defence. Bertie continues to improve his assets in goal, with remarkable last minute saves. Walter and Arthur are both wonderfully calm football players who bring a level of finesse when on the ball. Theo and Monty have both excelled this year, albeit at opposite ends of the field, but it's a pleasure to watch their confidence grow. And lastly, Ralph, fantastic to see such a transformation in such a short period of time. I look forward to seeing what next season brings.

The season ended on a high with a convincing 10-2 win over Sandy FC. It is great to watch the team playing as a strong unit, with the players knowing and understanding their positions that we ask of them. With our new management team keen to enforce the simple things like keeping structure, positive passing, applying pressure and looking at and utilising the space, we now want to move into next season knowing the boys are able to play football, starting from the back.

In summary, I have thoroughly enjoyed our second season together, and I am very proud of all the Tigers. We are in the fortunate position to have the broader support from our parents, families and friends whom we are very grateful for; the support and encouragement they all bring to every game is unparalleled. We hope for more of that next season too.

We move onto under 10s next season, with a cohesive team, good foundations, amazing footballing potential, and I look forward to seeing how we progress next season.

Thanks,

Paul Clark