



Lea Sports PSG Football Club

Under Fourteen Cougars Reds

2023-2024

Royston Crow Youth League

Managers:	Owen Williams, Matt Robbins
Colours	Shirts: Red & black stripes. Shorts: black.
Home Ground	The Recreation Ground, Pirton
Players' Player	Elijah Bean
Most Improved Player	Toby Easterbrook
Supporters' Player	Cameron Akram
Top Goalscorer	Rory Williams (16)

The Cougars Reds again played in the top division of the Royston Crow League, where they finished in a creditable 5th position of 11 teams. The first league match was a close 1-0 defeat to the team who ended up Champions, Broadhall Blues. This was followed by a 6-1 defeat against the team who would finish as runner-up, Watton Dragons. Despite this unlucky start, the team gave a good account of themselves and, apart from 2 heavy defeats in the return games against Broadhall and Watton, most defeats were narrow. Rory Williams top-scored for the sixth season in a row and now has scored 295 goals for the Club.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	%
League Division 1	19	11	1	7	58	48	60.5
Herts. County Cup	1	0	0	1	1	2	0.0
League Cup	3	2	0	1	17	3	66.7
Friendlies	1	0	0	1	4	7	0.0
	24	13	1	10	80	60	56.3

	Division 1	P.	W.	D.	L.	Pts.
1.	Broadhall Blue	20	19	0	1	57
2.	Watton Dragons	18	16	1	1	49
3.	Melbourn Dynamos Panthers	20	14	1	5	43
4.	Bedwell Rangers Real	19	11	1	7	34
5.	Lea Sports PSG Cougars Reds	20	11	1	8*	34
6.	Sandy Reds	20	11	1	8	34
7.	Manuden Wasps	20	4	2	14	14
8.	Codicote Dragons	19	3	5	11	14
9.	Hitchin Town Hornets	18	3	2	13	11
10.	Sawbridgeworth Town Eagles	20	3	2	15	11
11.	Stotfold Junior Blacks	20	3	2	15	11

*Includes 1 game conceded

Under 14 Cougars Reds Appearances and Goalscorers - 2023-24

	Reds This Season		Club Total	
	Apps.	Goals		
Maximum	24	80		
Cameron Akram	10 (9)	6	10 (9)	6
Freddie Baxter	22	0	154 (5)	15
Elijah Bean	22 (1)	2	250 (4)	34
Oli Cree	3 (5)	0	104 (7)	0
Finlay Davies	21 (3)	2	52 (9)	6
Toby Easterbrook	17 (5)	6	156 (9)	88
Alfie Eddon	20	0	163	33
Archie Haynes	19 (1)	12	89 (3)	17
George Pinfold	6 (3)	0	28 (5)	0
Sam Robbins	24	0	177 (2)	94
Ethan Smith	12 (5)	1	144 (12)	87
William Weatherall-Morris	6 (6)	8	42 (6)	26
Logan Westbrook	17 (3)	13	84	27
Marcus White	16 (4)	0	142 (12)	30
Rory Williams	18 (5)	16	185 (8)	295
Max Winfield	15 (7)	2	184 (14)	115
Eoin Winn	15 (5)	10	42 (11)	24
Own Goals		2		
(17 Players)				

(Appearances as substitute in brackets)

Under 14 Cougars Reds Season's Report - 2023-24

The Under 14 Cougars Reds had another good season, bouncing back after a difficult start to finish in the top half of Division 1. At the time we didn't realise how good a result our opening 1-0 defeat away to eventual champions Broadhall was, but we managed only a solitary win in the first two months of the season.

Eventually, in late October, things started to click as a hard-fought 3-2 home win against Bedwell turned our form on its head and we won six of eight with just a shorthanded 11-1 thrashing by Watton and a controversial draw against Sandy to spoil the run.

Matt had to referee the latter game, and it was his worst experience in eight seasons due to the disgraceful behaviour from the Sandy parents. Fortunately, he gained some satisfaction through awarding a penalty after their keeper brought down Logan in the last minute and we salvaged a bad-tempered point. In the meantime we had blown away the bottom half of the division, including restricting Hitchin without a shot in the second half of a 4-0 win.

By December we had managed to recruit some reinforcements – calling up Oli from the Blacks Saturday team, welcoming back George after half a season away and signing Wills back after half a decade away. Wills immediately scored a hat-trick to send us into the Royston Crow quarter-finals – however with a tough draw vs Watton. Logan gave us the lead against Watton and it looked like we might grind out a result, but after the visitors' spot-kick drew things level, the boys learned a tough lesson after their own penalty claim wasn't given and Watton took advantage of the loss of attention to race up the field for the winner. Given that we beat all the teams left in the semi-finals in our league matches, Cup glory remained a case of what-might-have-been...!

Whilst fixture-chaos made it hard for the team to gather momentum over the second half of the season, the Reds managed to beat everyone in the lower half of the table, including five very comfortable wins, and only slipped up when shorthanded again against Bedwell, Broadhall and a hard-fought penultimate game where we lost to Melbourn with the last kick of the match. Our reinforced back-four allowed us to make a dramatic position change and move Archie from centre-half to centre-forward with stunning success as he scored 11 in the last 7 games, including four (of 7) in our last match vs Manuden that secured us our 5th place finish. A successful season overall then - top half and only a close Cup quarter-final loss to the eventual winners.

After eight seasons of managing this age group at Lea Sports, four as the Leopards, and then after the merger with Tigers, four as the Cougars, Owen and Lee are stepping down from running the team next season. Matt intends to carry on the Cougar Reds into 2024/5 however, providing he gets some help!

Matt Robbins