Season 2023/24





Meet James. Man Utd supporter, Lego enthusiast, Car fan. James also has a progressive muscle wasting condition which is life-limiting and currently incurable

Sadly, James' twin brothers, Joshua and Myles have also received the same diagnosis.

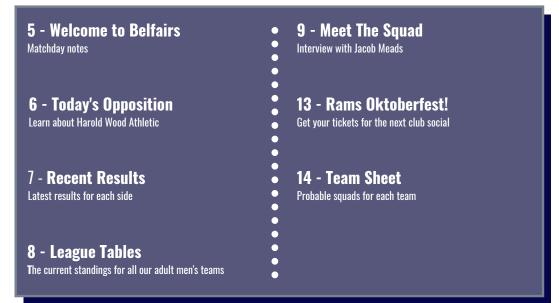
Alongside Corin Underwriting, The Rams are proud to support the I Fight for James campaign. We will be undertaking a number of fundraising activities throughout the course of the season – look out for further announcements!

The family would like to send a special note of thanks for all donations received so far and to all those taking part in the upcoming events.

Donate leighramblers.com/ifightforjames

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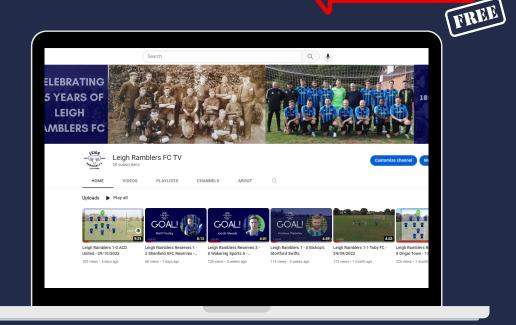


If you would like to advertise your local business within the pages of future editions, please speak to a member of the Committee or contact us via one of our social media channels.

CLUB DETAILS

CLUB OFFICIALS GROUND KITS **Belfairs Sports Ground** President: Paul Cannon Eastwood Road North **Chairman: Matthew Southgate** Leigh on Sea Vice Chairman: Justin Mountstephens Essex Secretary: Richard Ackery SS9 4LR **Treasurer: Taylor Stewart** HOMF AWAY 3RD @LeighRams Leigh Ramblers www.leighramblers.com @leigh_rams_1897 @leighramblersfctv

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WELCOME TO BELFAIRS PARK



Welcome back to Belfairs Park for the first time in this 2023/24 season. We extend a warm welcome to our opposition today, Harold Wood, and to all supporters and visitors that have made the trip to Belfairs for this opening home game.

Firstly we would like to send a thank you message to our partners, Eastwood Cricket Club, for their support in "handing over" the ground to us a week earlier than usual and allowing us to get up and running after four weeks on the road at the start of the season.

This is the first time that the two sides have faced off since the tail end of the 2021/22 season, where a great performance from the Rams saw them run out 6-0 winners at Harold Wood Park to essentially secure their Premier Division status, but unfortunately ending any hope of Wood securing their own. Both sides are much changed since then, and we look forward to a good competitive match today.

The Reserves seek their first points of the season as they travel across Southend to take on Wakering Sports Reserves at Cupids, whilst the A Team take on South Essex United at Fords, in a replay of last season's last fixture, the Walton Cup Final. Finally, the Vets travel to the Warren, to take on AS Rawreth Reserves in their final friendly before the season starts next week.

COME ON YOU RAMS!





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TODAY'S OPPOSITION

Harold Wood Athletic

Harold Wood Athletic Football Club was founded in 1908 and has always been based in Harold Wood Recreation Park.





Wood return to the Premier Division at the first time of asking, after sealing a second place finish in Division 1 last season. They finished three points behind last week's opponents Old Chelmsfordians and a point ahead of Manford Way.

They operate a total of 4 open-aged Saturday teams, and having finished 4th in Division Two last year, and with the 1st Team gaining promotion, their Reserves were placed in Division 1 after this year's reshuffle.

They also reinstated a B Team for the 2023/24 season, which joins their A Team in the Mid-Essex League. They also have both an Over 35s Veterans and Over 45s Veterans playing in the Premier Divisions of their respective sections of the Essex Veterans League. Meanwhile they operate two Sunday teams in the Brentwood Sunday League.



Join the Rams in supporting our chosen charity.

Donate now at leighramblers.com/ifightforjames



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LATEST RESULTS



RAMS Form (Last 4) - DWLL

02/09/2023 - EOFL Prem Old Chelmsfordians 3 - 1 **RAMS**

26/08/2023 - EOFL Prem Springfield 2 - 1 **RAMS**

19/08/2023 - EOFL Prem Shenfield AFC 1 - 2 **RAMS**

12/08/2023 - EOFL Prem Bishop's Stortford Swifts 3 - 3 **RAMS** HAROLD WOOD ATHLETIC Form (Last 4) - LLLD

02/09/2023 - EOFL Prem **WOOD** 2 - 2 Springfield

26/08/2023 - EOFL Prem Rayleigh Town 4 - 3 **WOOD**

19/08/2023 - EOFL Prem Toby 4 - 3 **WOOD**

12/08/2023 - EOFL Prem WOOD 2 - 3 Kelvedon Hatch

LAST WEEK			
Old Chelmsfordian	ıs 3-1	Rams N. Dewberry	G
Burnham Ramblers Reserve	es 7 - 0	Reserves	





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LEAGUE TABLES



ProKit UK Essex Olympian Football League - Premier Division

Pos	Team	Р	w	D	L	F	Α	GD	PTS
1	Rayleigh Town Saturday First	5	4	0	1	18	8	10	12
2	Catholic United Saturday First	5	4	0	1	11	4	7	12
3	Sungate Saturday First	4	3	1	0	14	4	10	10
4	Old Chelmsfordians First	4	3	0	1	13	9	4	9
5	Old Southendian First	4	3	0	1	9	5	4	9
6	Shenfield A First	4	2	1	1	9	7	2	7
7	Bishop's Stortford Swifts First	4	1	2	1	7	10	-3	5
8	Leigh Ramblers First	4	1	1	2	7	9	-2	4
9	Springfield First	4	1	1	2	7	9	-2	4
10	Toby First	4	1	0	3	6	10	-4	3
11	Runwell Sports Saturday First	4	1	0	3	4	12	-8	3
12	Kelvedon Hatch First	4	1	0	3	5	15	-10	3
13	Harold Wood Athletic First	4	0	1	3	10	13	-3	1
14	Canning Town First	4	0	1	3	6	11	-5	1

ProKit UK Essex Olympian Football League - Division 2

Pos	Team	Р	w	D	L	F	Α	GD	PTS
1	Burnham Ramblers Reserves	4	4	0	0	16	4	12	12
2	Hutton Reserves	4	3	1	0	14	8	6	10
3	Rayleigh Town Saturday Reserves	3	3	0	0	11	4	7	9
4	Catholic United Saturday Reserves	3	2	1	0	12	6	6	7
5	BKS Sports First	3	2	0	1	7	4	3	6
6	Leigh Town Saturday First	3	1	0	2	10	6	4	3
7	Basildon Town Reserves	2	1	0	1	8	9	-1	3
8	Wakering Sports Reserves	3	1	0	2	1	12	-11	3
9	Old Southendian Reserves	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1
10	Pitsea Athletic Saturday First	3	0	1	2	8	11	-3	1
11	Roydon First	2	0	0	2	4	6	-2	0
12	AS Rawreth First	3	0	0	3	2	9	-7	0
13	Leigh Ramblers Reserves	3	0	0	3	2	15	-13	0

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MEET THE SQUAD - JACOB MEADS

There are some new faces (and some old ones) in the squad for the 2023/24 season and so we'll introduce some of them within our programme each week. First up is midfielder, Jacob Meads.

Welcome Meady, could you tell us a little about how you came to play for The Rams?

"To begin with I was playing for Leigh Rockets, but lots of boys from my primary school were playing for The Rams, including Jamie Lovell. We had a league game - Rockets versus Ramblers and we got smashed 5-0. Afterwards the Rams' manager at the time spoke to my dad and asked if I'd be interested in coming over. So I switched allegiances and joined the Rams from the Under 10s onwards. The rest is history!"



Before joining the adult teams, you were part of the first group of Rams Youth teams to play EJA football. What was that like?

"That's right, our team was the first ever Leigh Ramblers EJA team under the guidance of Terry Johnson & Glen McCarthy. It was extremely difficult - we were put into a tough league and had a lot of adjusting to do. But it was a great experience and we had the opportunity to play over at Concord, Billericay and Bowers & Pitsea etc. which were great stadiums to play in."

Do you think that going into that tough EJA league ultimately helped you when it came to making the jump into adult football?

"Definitely - some of the players we were up against are now semi-professional so we played against some quality players. I had to improve myself as a player in order to compete. The EJA was also really physical, which you obviously have to be prepared for going into men's football."

So, your first season in men's football with the Reserves in Division 5 of the EOFL. The team (very unluckily) finishes second and gets promoted. You play 16 games and score 7 goals from midfield. Were you happy with your season?

"On a personal level no I wasn't happy, because I scored two hat-tricks and so actually only scored in three games. Which showed a lack of consistency that I'm trying to work on and improve. As a team though, I was delighted that we got promoted and it was a great team effort. I was gutted not to win the league title but I used that as motivation for the following season."





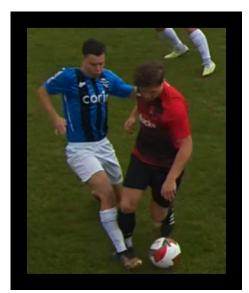
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You actually had a call up to the 1st team that year and featured in 6 games, managing to get on the scoresheet against today's opposition. Harold Wood, as well. How did vou find it playing in the 1st team?

"Scoring for the 1st team was a very proud moment for me, but I found it very difficult adapting to the first team level. I didn't really feel ready, either physically or mentally, that season."

So you had a another season in the Reserves last year and Terry made you his captain. Tell us about that.

"I think I have to thank Mick Coffey (the previous captain) for suggesting to Terry that he give the captaincy to one of the younger lads in the team. Before one of the games Terry handed me the armband and it became a regular occurrence throughout the season. That's the proudest moment of my football career so far. Having the opportunity to captain the Reserves at 19 years of age and winning the league title in the same season."

You made 22 appearances and scored 10 goals. Are you a bit happier with that on a personal level?

"Yes definitely, I was much happier. And I was also keeping a personal note for myself and I managed 14 assists too last season."

How good were the celebrations when you won the title?

"So fun!! We sprayed champagne in the changing rooms after the game and then all went out as a team in Old Leigh and had a great night. After losing out on the league title by such a narrow margin the previous year, it made the win even sweeter."

So you've started with the 1st Team this season and you didn't have to wait too long for your first goal, scoring midway through the first half in the season opener with Bishop's Stortford Swifts. Do you feel a bit more prepared now? What are your hopes for the season?

"I definitely feel more prepared now and a lot of that is down to the manager and the other players being so inclusive and supportive. I hope that we can grow, as a team and personally, I just want to keep working hard and keep my place in the squad."

" That's the proudest moment of my football career so far **77**



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Supporting diversity



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PERTICKET

BELFAIRS SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB SAT 30TH SEPT | 7PM TILL LATE

For tickets contact

Sally on 07963 846116 or Justin on 07368 401075 *Includes admission, a hotdog, a shot & Entertainment

FREE ENTRY FOR ANYONE WEARING A LEDERHOSEN OR DIRNDL



TEAMS



LEIGH RAMBLERS SHIRTS: BLUE/BLACK, SHORTS: BLACK, SOCKS: BLACK

EXACT MATCHDAY SQUAD & SHIRT NOS. TBC

1. Dylan SKINNER 2. Sam NAGLE 3. Patrick CANNON 4. Brad NUNN 5. Ryan LOWE 6. Jamie LOVELL 7. Curtis JOHN-CYRUS 8. Matt ALLUM 9. Matt BRINKLOW 10. Nathan DEWBERRY 11. Luis BRACCI 12. Jacob MEADS 13. George MOXON 14. James SPENCER 15. Teddy RUMSBY HAROLD WOOD ATHLETIC SHIRTS: CLARET, SHORTS: CLARET, SOCKS: CLARET

EXACT MATCHDAY SQUAD & SHIRT NOS. TBC

1. William ARROWSMITH 2. Rhian FOWLER 3. Zach HOLDING 4. Frankie IHEUKOR 5. Jack MOORE 6. Connor SHEEHAN 7. Freddy SHEPHERD 8. Max SHEPHERD 9. Thierry STEWART 10. Ben WILLIS 11. Ben WOOLVEN 12. Jack BAINES 13. Lerov GRIFFITHS 14. Lennie MILTON-WHITE 15. Daniel SPITTLE 16. Joe STEVENS

Manager: Terry JOHNSON

Manager: John FIELD

Referee: Christopher PARKINSON Assistant Referees: George POTTER & Guy PELL-ILDERTON



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