

CLUB STATEMENT

After 7 years of operation, it is with regret that I must announce the disbandment of Rockets Basketball Club.

This decision has been reached for a number of reasons, perhaps the most pertinent of which being significant disruption caused by the pandemic, unprecedented challenges in club management and changes in my personal life which make it impossible for me to dedicate the same time, energy and commitment to Rockets as I always have.

The Rockets journey has been a rollercoaster – the darker times were just that, but they taught me and members of the club invaluable life lessons. The highs, on the other hand, made for some truly incredible experiences, and I'm sure anyone that has ever been affiliated with the club will join me in recollecting some of those electric moments: the game-winning buzzer beaters; the palpable atmosphere at Eastwood Academy for a highly anticipated National League clash; the simple the joy of passionate young people being supported by passionate parents under the mentorship of passionate coaches.

I would like to extend my personal gratitude to everyone who has ever played a part in Rockets Basketball Club, from the early days of being 'Essex Rockets', the peak of the club's success as 'Southend Rockets' and the post-pandemic twilight phase of 'Southside Rockets'. A club is only as good as its people, and Rockets was graced by some truly incredible human beings, so many that I couldn't possibly begin to thank people individually.

Finally, to every player that ever put on a Rockets jersey and gave your blood, sweat and tears for the club, you didn't play for Rockets. You are Rockets. You will always be unified as alumni of the Black & Red and I pray you will stay in contact and reminisce about the experiences we all shared. Most importantly, I hope you were able to develop as a person through the club and take forward our teachings as a small part of who you are today.

As I turn my attention to a new basketball project, a business which will be called D2R (Dreams 2 Reality), I would like to thank each and every one of you from the bottom of my heart for the laughs, the lessons and the brotherhood.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Prentice". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Josh Prentice, 9th October 2022