

THE MERTON WAY

"THE MIGHTY BOARS"





ABOUT US

We are an amateur sports team that currently has 7 adult football teams and 5 youth teams (U9, U11, U13, U14 and U15s).

Founded in 1910, we have affiliations with the Southern Amateur League and the Amateur Football Association.

Our home ground is Joseph Hood Recreation Ground, Martin Way, Merton, SW20 9BU.

As we are still a budding young football club, we welcome any new players at all levels to join our club. So please put the word out to friends, family, work colleagues, people you meet at the park, at the bus stop, in the school playground or in the fruit & veg aisle of your supermarket!

We invite you to come down to our training sessions, games on a Saturday, or on a Sunday morning to see our youth teams in action.

TRAINING

LOCATION:

St Mark's Academy School, Acacia Road, Mitcham CR4 1SF

TIME:

8pm-9.30pm on Wednesday evenings (please arrive by 7.45pm to stretch and warm up)

SURFACE:

Astro-turf - please wear appropriate footwear

Each player is responsible for their own physical fitness. Attendance at training is encouraged and preferable but not yet compulsory. However, training is likely to affect team selection and there may be occasions when attendance is required.

HOW TO GET THERE:

TRAIN:

Mitcham Eastfields train station is a one-minute walk from the pitches, and has trains from Victoria, Clapham Junction and Balham.

When you exit the station, walk up Grove Road with the school on your right. Just after the new building, there is a path on your right, sign-posted 'Entrance to Adventure Playground', which brings you to the pitches.

CAR:

Acacia Road is off Tamworth Lane. Drive all the way to the end of Acacia Road, with the school on your left, follow the road around to the left and you reach the entrance to the pitches.

Alternatively, check out our website at:

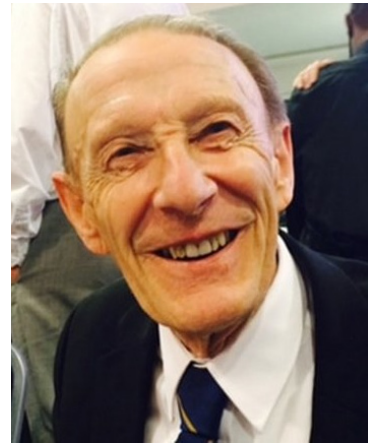
<http://www.mertonfc.co.uk/>

where you can send enquiries and find more out about our club



JOHN KEANE and DEL SAUNDERS

“You will be sadly missed”



Polytechnic is a great amateur football club and it is a great pleasure to play there with its wonderful facilities and hospitality. And what has made it so good is the people who have built the club which was founded in 1875. One of their Poly legends, John Keane has died recently. When I joined Merton in 1999 he was the face of Poly. If you were playing at Poly he welcomed you, organised you, teased you and treated you. That was on match days and I can only imagine how much he did behind the scenes. They say that when he retired five people had to take over his various roles.

And of course it is people like him that build great clubs and such clubs are invaluable to the enjoyment of our football and it is not just for Poly members but all of us. It did not seem that way when we took our 1s over there for a mid week game in 2007 and got thumped 7 or 8 – 1. But John's view of hospitality was that you were a guest of Poly and you should have as good a time as you can without winning and in our case that was definitely without winning.

He will be long remembered for his contribution and we need many more like him in Amateur football to maintain the tradition of Sportsmanship and hospitality.

Another sad loss is Del Saunders who helped run the AFA for many years as the disciplinary officer. I was always touched by the fact that he sometimes made what was for him the long journey to the Hood to see how we were doing. He always came in the bar and chatted. He was interested and interesting.

What is special about amateur football and what does it stand for.

I was watching a television documentary the other night about Maya Anjelou. This lady was a real super star who had done just about everything; a singer, dancer, actress, civil rights activist and had written songs and books. Her publisher described her as an 'amateur' writer and went on to explain what he meant by calling her an amateur. 'I don't mean she's not very good at it' he explained. 'Far from it, I mean she writes for the love of it'.

And that got me to thinking about amateur football and us.

What differentiates us from professional football? Well, of course compared to Premier League there is a considerable skill and fitness gap but at local semi pro level there is not. Our best SAL sides are now winning the Surrey County Senior competitions. The old days of 'shamateurism' and boot money have disappeared and we now have truly amateur football in which we pay to play and that means we do it because we love it.

Both these Gentlemen, John Keane and Del Saunders loved what they did and that is why they were so good at it. Both of them will be sadly missed but remembered by many for their contribution.



MERTON FC – 2017 EVENTS MARCH - JUNE

PS. we now show live premier league games in the bar after football on Saturday's



FRIDAY 14th APRIL -

THE LONG GOOD FRIDAY - JOSEPH HOOD –
11AM START (PROMPT)

The annual Long Good Friday Event returns at Merton, VETS GAME with the legends from Old West Citz, Merton X1 friendlies, YOUTH GAMES and SENIOR FRIENDLIES much more. Hot food + hot cross buns in the bar – with a good old drink and catch up to celebrate the start of Easter. Not one to miss!!



SATURDAY 13th MAY

1PM to 10PM, Joseph Hood

Merton FC is staging its inaugural 5/6-a-side World Cup splitting all the members & teams up equally & fairly! There will be two pools, involving a group stage, semi-finals & final & a PLATE competition.

FOLLOWED by a BBQ & BEER!

ALL are welcome – please join the event page on Facebook to state your interest!



SATURDAY 27th MAY,

AWARDS DAY & NIGHT AT MERTON FC
- JOSEPH HOOD -
2PM START (PROMPT).

Inter club friendly, fish n chips, the fa cup final in the bar & awards.

Everybody welcome!



MATCH DAYS

TURN UP ON TIME

If a meet time is agreed then please turn up on time or face starting on the bench. If you are going to be late kindly let your manager know with a quick text.

RUBBISH

It is important we remember that our home ground is a public park and we need to be careful with our language and also our rubbish.

A dustbin will be provided out on the pitch, so please put your empty bottles, tape and trash into it at the end of the game.

FIRST AID

We take the safety of our members very seriously and as a Charter Standard club we have to ensure that proper first aid kits are present at each match, with certified first aiders in each team.

- we need the Manager/Captain to check the first aid kit and ensure it has adequate contents
- any player with any health issues such as allergies/asthma/epilepsy/heart issues should disclose these to the captain before the game (inhalers are important for asthma)
- We will also be running an Emergency Aid training course at the Hood and we need volunteers to sign up for that

VALUABLES

Please DO NOT leave any valuables in the changing rooms, and if a key is not available, take all belongings out to pitch side in your own kit bag or a team valuables bag.

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!!

SHOWERS

Teams who have an earlier kick off than other teams must please ensure they TURN THE SHOWERS OFF when leaving the changing room.

DISCIPLINE

Poor behaviour means the club incurs additional penalties and costs, especially we exceed different tiers of penalty points (costly to club). We urge every player to think about how they behave and how they speak to referees. Can you improve? Do you think your behaviour is acceptable? Can you be an ambassador for the club and support Merton FC?

Most importantly: ENJOY YOUR FOOTBALL.

MATCH REPORTS

Please send all match reports to Mertonwebsite@virginmedia.com. **NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY EVENING** to be put into the Merton Way. (Please include the score, the team lineup, the report and any photos taken.)



SAM'S SHOWER THOUGHTS

I'VE RECENTLY GONE DEEP IN MY MIND AND THOUGHT OF SOME OBSCURE THINGS, HERE ARE A FEW THAT HAVE ROLLED AROUND IN MY HEAD:

1. I'm more inclined to watch four 30-minute episodes of a TV show than a 120-minute movie.
2. Mammals both produce milk and have hair. Ergo, a coconut is a mammal.
3. Your future self could be watching you right now through memories.
4. If the population of Earth were only 100 people and one guy tried to hoard 99% of the money. The other 99 people would simply just kill that guy and take their money back.
5. In Japan, radiation creates monsters (Godzilla) and in America radiation creates superheroes
6. Netflix and Chill is one D away from Netflix and Child
7. Scooby-Doo taught us that there are no monsters, all of the bad guys are just people.
8. When someone dies on a TV show, we are basically watching them get fired
9. Volleyball is just a really intense game of Don't Let the Balloon Touch the Ground
10. Birth Certificates are just receipts for human beings.

TV OF THE WEEK:

Rio Ferdinand: Being Mum and Dad

SONG OF THE WEEK:

Ciao Adios - Anne- Marie



1s

MERTON FC 0 Actonian Association 1

It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold; when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade. In other words, for the second week running it was blowing a gale down at the not-so-fortress Hood.

Brilliant drying conditions for clothes, and indeed football pitches. As a result, the mini-mud peaks and bunkers of the upper pitch had turned into crusty mud divets, the pitch had turned ultra-bobbly. The chances of playing decent football anywhere near the middle of the pitch had evaporated - I would love to see Iniesta and Xavi play their tunes on this particular instrument.

But then the winds and waves are always on the side of the ablest navigator, so one should not complain.

Everyone was largely on time, so well done for that. And congrats to Kearnsy who had celebrated his birthday the night before. A good excuse for turning up bleary eyed, but it is difficult to tell with Kearnsy due to his permanent extra-enthusiastic American exterior. Less so with Charlie, who turned up looking a light shade of green.

Meanwhile, on the fashion front, Vanny had decided to finally put his winter denim Bon Jovi outfit into the closet, but had obviously got a bit confused and accidentally pulled out his camp-rodeo cowboy outfit. Unfortunately for him, he was the only person to turn up in fancy dress.

You might tell by this stage that I don't really want to talk about the actual football match. The 1s are heading towards mid-table mediocrity, where the points don't matter that much. We are not used to this - in the 10+ seasons I have been at the club, we have only been in this position once before. And we don't seem to be reacting to it well.

But it does allow some room for succession planning. So Clappers started on the side line for the first time in my memory, with Sam taking over the captain's arm band. His first coin toss for the club resulted in us playing into the wind (which was going diagonally across the pitch) in the first half.

The football was pretty horrific to watch. We struggled to pass our way forwards on this pitch, and high balls were blown back by the wind, so our best avenue out seemed to be low-ish long balls into the corners, where Johnny in particular looked like he might have the better of his man. But then (as Rat insisted on shouting at least 5 times) horrific football was fine by us as long as we went in nil-nil at half time as we would be playing with the elements in the second half. For 44 minutes and 55 seconds that is exactly what we achieved. The new Chaz-Browner centre back partnership was mopping up everything that made it through the midfield line of Wilgo, Van and Sam, which was not much.

Just one more long throw to defend and it would be mission accomplished. But the Chaz-Browner partnership fell apart for a crucial 5 seconds. Chaz called for it, the wind took it, it flicked off his head, hit Browner on the shin and nestled firmly into the far corner. The first goal a Merton player had managed from open play in over 200 minutes. The half time whistle came 10 seconds later. Wind (and Browner) 1 - Merton 0.

Playing with the wind in the second half, we duly dominated in terms of territory, but in truth we failed to adapt to the conditions. Charlie was holding it up well, but then lacked decent options to then pass it off to. A few times we got in crossing positions, but crosses were overhit with the wind, and underhit against it, and we simply don't have much pace to open up teams over the top.

The only real opportunity came from a corner. Rat whipped in an excellent delivery (probably the only such one of the day), and Chaz steamed onto it. He met it beautifully from about 7 yards. Anywhere but at the keeper and it was in, but it of course then went straight at him, and he palmed it over well. I struggle to remember another shot we had on goal. I struggle to remember another shot they had on goal. So either it was a terrible match or my

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We had one final chance. With 10 seconds to the final whistle, we had a free kick inside their half. Rat had had enough of seeing more junior players overhit the free kicks straight out. These youngsters just don't have the experience to adapt to the windy conditions. So he marched over to the free kick, shouted everyone away, stepped back, strolled up, and duly overhit it with the wind straight out. Wind 1, Rat 0. Summed things up nicely - we were certainly not the ablest navigators in these conditions.

And the showers were cold, so a pretty rubbish effort all round. The possible exception was the 5000-miles-away Tilley whose post-match photos from Vegas were far more entertaining than the match. Apologies to Snooks, Max, and whoever else turned up to watch on the side lines for this dross. But apparently the 6s match on the next pitch was a lot more eventful. So now you have wasted your time reading about this non-event, I suggest you turn to their report.

Someone other than Browner needs to locate their scoring boots for the season defining semi-final of the cup next week.

MoM: Chaz - almost no one left with much credit, but he formed a solid (apart from 10 seconds) partnership at the back, and was decisive throughout. Including when his attempted 35 yard back pass in the second half went out for a throw on next to the corner flag, thus providing a small amount of entertainment.

DoD: Browner - one OG and one nil means there is one obvious candidate for dick of the day. And the rest of the team lacked the imagination to vote for anyone else. I complained bitterly at the injustice, but at least (for almost certainly the first time) both MoM and DoD penalty pints went down in one. Centre backs may not be cool, but at least they can drink.



2s

MERTON FC

NO GAME



3s

MERTON FC

END OF SEASON



4s

MERTON FC 2 West Wickham 4

The last day of winter was also the first of the Merton 4s' Spring Cup campaign. It's been a disappointing season which has sadly ended in a second relegation in a row. But results haven't always reflected performances, and here was a good opportunity to put that right, and get some momentum going in order to finish on a high.

"High" being an interesting choice of word, as it may or may not have accounted for two absentees on the day - one of whom was good enough to call in "sick" 2 hours before kickoff, the other entirely uncontactable. We won't mention names, except to say that, surprisingly, Kieran wasn't one of them!

Anyway, onto the football, and a decent squad of 12, including some firepower in the form of Denys and wily cunning from the old warhorse Conor Murphy, took to the pitch and electing to go into the wind first up. The theory was that with a bit of grind and damage limitation, the Yellows could set themselves up nicely for a second-half assault.

And that's pretty much how it went. This was actually decent stuff from the home side, despite adverse conditions and a poor pitch. Don't get me wrong, free flowing football was at a premium, and this surely would have made for a woeful spectacle for any onlookers. But Merton were working hard, communicating well, and even looking very dangerous on the break occasionally.

Understandably, West Wickham with the wind at their backs enjoyed the better of territory and possession. Yet Kieran didn't have a save to make. Which is why the opener, on about the half hour mark, was a bit disappointing to concede. In truth, Merton were a bit sluggish in closing down on the left, the ball bobbed about on the fringes of the box, and a very useful left-footed finish was applied into the top-left corner. 1-0 WW.

Although it was hardly cause for panic. A 1-goal deficit into that wind was about par if Merton could hold it to the break. Yet they went one better (it seemed). With minutes remaining in the half, a superb ball from Aaron fed Dom. He still had plenty to do, but beat a defender and slotted it under the keeper with aplomb to make it 1-1.

Celebrations, but with parity at the break now imminent, Merton shot themselves in the foot. A header was lost in the air, and the ball fell to their striker, who was in oodles of space. Kieran darted out to thwart the danger, but there was nothing he could do. 2-1, and the half time whistle went.

A disappointing blow, no doubt. But this was still a very respectable score line, and Merton should have been able to kick on from there with the wind now at their backs.

But, quite frankly, they never got going in the first 15 minutes of the second half, and, but for a decent early chance for Dom, Wickham were much the better side. The third goal was a tad unfortunate - a cross/shot that wickedly got caught up in the wind, and Kieran's parry couldn't keep it out. Kieran was perhaps a bit more accountable for the fourth goal, as he was unable to claim a loose ball that he'd come off his line to take.

That said, given the mediocrity of the all round second-half team performance, being 4-1 down was probably not much worse than Merton deserved. In fairness, the lads began to play much better for the final quarter of the game thereafter, and put a lot of pressure on the visitors. There were countless half chances upfront and plenty of goalmouth action, but the ball just wasn't quite falling for them. Eventually they got one back, with a blatant pull in the box, which, for some reason the Wickham players saw fit to argue about.

Anyway, once all that died down, Dom stepped up and tucked his penalty away, perhaps slightly fortuitously, under the keeper. 4-2, and 10 minutes to go.

Merton kept up the pressure, and half chances continued to come thick and fast. But this seemed destined to be another one of those days. Another game that got away - one where, for the majority, Merton had played more than decently, but, due to silly errors, had left them departing the pitch shaking their heads in defeat. Still, plenty to build on, and hopefully with a full squad, a win lies in wait at Wokingians next week.

Goals: D Plumridge (2)

Team: Kieran Lee (GK), Ed Plaistow, Joe Plumridge, Mike Todt, Conor Murphy, Will Harrison, Mikey Elgar, Frankie Kalogirou, Aaron Loftus, Denys Zhurbiy, Dom Plumridge

Sub: Akram Choudhary

MOTM: Conor Murphy

DOTD: the two men mentioned in paragraph 1





5s

MERTON FC 1 Kew Associate 5

Merton 5s' season looks set to wind down to a disappointing close after losing the promotion clash against Kew Associations. It marks a bad second-half of the season for the 5s having won only 3 out of their 9 matches after Christmas. However, despite going from hip to boing so quickly, it should be seen as a successful season in parts for the 5s.

That's mostly due to the fine stewardship of manager Clive Corrigan who on the pitch, is a terrier-like ball-winning midfielder, and off the pitch, can be described as somewhat like a less corrupt version of Sepp Blatter (except for when he forces Anam to pay half the fee for playing less than 20 minutes a game). Because he's single-handedly improved the racial quota of Merton Football Club, whilst also fostering a team spirit akin to the Crazy Gang - and they've played some good football in the process too.

Having said that, he's been ably assisted by Andy Bitmead, who also coaches some of the players on Wednesdays, and Darren Avery, a centre-back bruiser by day, and, by day as well, is also the unofficial team administrator. There's a great sense of collective accountability and that's summed up by Clive designating a different captain on each match. On Saturday, that responsibility fell into the hands of, or rather, was wrapped around the biceps of Tiago Carvalho (no, not that one). He wore the captain's armband with the kind of glee and misguided pride that only an Aussie can have. He led this ragtag rabble of misfits and castoffs, a convict (Lenners), and whateverthehell Andy is doing here (because he's clearly too good for the 5s), onto Kew Associations reserve pitch.

It was a tad small and that probably contributed to a slow start for Merton 5s because they couldn't get the strikers to run in behind. Clive opted once again to stick with the 3-5-2 albeit with some personnel changes. He played at centre-back alongside New Mike (borrowed from the 2s) and Steve Burchell. Delman and Chris Outred started at wing-back, whilst Ackers, Aaron B and Tiago made the midfield three. Dulaine and Rich Gibbo completed the line-up as strikers.

Unfortunately, 5s were behind quickly when a corner-kick was allowed to bounce its way across the six-yard box and was converted by a non-descript Kew player. They later made it 2-0 when a shot from another non-descript Kew seemed to be heading into the safe hands of Sam. But as he dived for the ball, he seemed to freeze for a split-second, and the ball squirmed agonisingly under his body. Whatever went through his mind - flat-chested girls, or failing to swipe left last night, or the sudden realisation that maybe the pyramids were not mysteriously crafted five-thousand years ago by generations and generations of men who died in order to perfect it, but by aliens thousands of years before as transporting devices that teleported them to other worlds - it was soft goal to concede, and a cruel blow to 5s title changing aspirations.

Chasing the game, they were then stuck with that age-old dilemma of whether to press high up and force their opponents into making a mistake; or consolidate, though run the risk of inviting more pressure on them. In the end they did neither, with Steve and Clive being forced to make some hasty clearances at the back, but even so, the team was still unlucky to remain without a goal. Aaron B had one good effort when he curled wide with his left foot, whilst Rich Gibbo went excruciatingly close to connecting to a couple of passes from Dulaine.



In the end, the team was just a bit below par, especially in midfield where Kew looked just the more comfortable. Tiago couldn't inspire the team in the same way that he usually does. Nevertheless, it's been a great 6 months for him since being introduced to the team, monopolising the Man-of-the-Match awards like Rupert Murdoch. He has reinvented himself as a sweeper in front of the defence, always alert to clean up any loose passes like an expat bar staff, with a strange aversion to the forward pass. Aaron Byrne has also been remodeled, playing now as a free-spirited midfield wanderer, having dropped the bombshell to Clive that he doesn't want to play on the wing. It's like Kieron Dyer and Bobby Robson all over again.

In the second-half, Merton changed the formation to a 4-4-2 which was more a 4-2-4 anyway, with Dwayne coming on on the right, Andy replacing Ackers in the centre and Aaron B moving back wide to the left. If there was an improvement, it an wasn't obvious one because 5s were just unable to settle. Tiago went off for cramp for Anam midway through the half and that's where the game really fell apart. After some good early touches, his next one was suicidal as he poked the ball back towards his own goal, and New Mike, chasing the non-descript Kew striker, bundled him to the ground. Penalty and 3-0 to Kew. It soon became 4-0 when the right-back was able to skip through the centre of the field unmarked due to bad defensive work from the forward players and chip the ball over he defence.

Merton did get a consolation five minutes from time when Dulaine, as he did against Poly 8s, leaped majestically above his marker like a silverbacked salmon to head in at the far post. The goal was in stark contrast to his other contributions in the game, which was namely to crouch near the centre circle panting, which is frankly, a waste of his considerable talents. It might be perverse to say the team could expect more from him even despite relying heavily on his goals this season.

When the final whistle blew, it might have been considered something of a mercy, but believe me, the team desperately wanted to remain on the pitch for longer to put things to right. That's how much the regret of a promising season gone to shit stung. There is one more game left this campaign, against champions Poly 9s, the chance maybe for some sweet justice.

Man of the Match: I don't believe there was a vote, instead the time spent deciding was felt best roasting each other in the club bar and eating sub-par macaroni and cheese. So I think I (Anam) will chose Clive for leading with example and playing with the passion of a jilted lover. Dulaine should get special mention for his goal, it was awesome, and Delman, generally for the season he had.





6s

FIRST GAME

MERTON FC 0
Civil Service 4

SECOND GAME

MERTON FC 4
CIVIL SERVICE 1

This was defiantly a game of two matches, both teams walking away with 3 points.

We had 15 players, so George H took one for the team first game and sat out, team lined up: Swanny, Kevin, Mark, Beans, Matt, Chris, Neil, George B, Callum, Pete, Dan P, Subs: Alan, Ram, Trey

Lining up with a 4-4-2 formation, the first game started well for the first 10 minutes. That was until Beans tripped over his own laces leaving Chappell to defend their on coming forward. I little late challenge caused the forward to go down, disputes as to whether it was in the box or not between Chappell and Ref, but penalty was awarded, 1 – 0. They had a couple of quick forward players, one of which Kevin took out on the side line in the first half, he was getting a bit hot headed. Could be the reason he sat out the next game to have a cool down. We had chances but just couldn't find the net and majority of their 4 goals came from hitting us on the break. The game ended 4 – 0, we gathered our self on the side line for the next match and knew that this had to be a win otherwise Civil would go above us in the league and be 2nd.

Kevin, along with discussions with Manager for the day Ty, changed the formation. We needed to have bit more help in defence and so opted for two holding midfielders. Lined up 4-2-3-1, again we needed to have a drop out so Beans stepped forward and took one for the team in the second game. Team for second game was Swanny, Matt, Alan, Mark, Ram, Neil, Chris, George B, Trey, Callum, Pete. Subs: George H, Kevin, Dan P

This gave the 3 youngest freedom to roam up top with Pete helping to hold things up for hopefully them to get the goals. And this certainly worked as the goals starting to go in for us. George B with the first with a peach of a through ball from Matt, well weighted for George to run on to and slot past their keeper, 1 – 0. Callum got himself on the score sheet along with another goal from George. They managed to claw one back, but with help from the two midfielders the defence stayed strong. Another assist came from Matt, crossing deep toward the keeper, who fumbled it in the wind, for Pete to latch onto and put into the net.

The second game was a much better performance, and 6s deserving the win. There was a little bit of agro in the second half from a slightly bad tackle by George, which caused both teams to flare up (Kevin storming on to protect George) with each other, although to be honest it wasn't that type of match.

Game ended 4 – 1, the win that the 6s needed to keep them 3 point clear of Civil, although they do have two games in hand. It is all to play for now for the 6s and their last 4 games. Results need to go their way for them to still be within a chance of promotion.

MOM went to Matt for finding his new position at full back and having a solid game in both matches, plus setting up two goals which I may have mentioned.

Few other mentions go to Chris who finds himself in more positions on the pitch that the Karma Sutra, Chappell for giving away penalty, Beans for tripping over a divot or his laces and tumbling which lead to the penalty. Ram for thinking he had only 20 minutes for whole of both matches but pretty sure he got longer than that. Kevin for losing head and taking out their winger whilst worrying whether the oppo had any ringers!!!



7s

Match one

MERTON FC 1

Bank Of England 0

A trip to Bank of England on a sunny Saturday can never be a bad thing, and throw in another double header to make 3 in a row, these 7s are getting use to long game days with the aid of some Merton legends, this week's turn was Paul 'Welchy' Welch (17 years' service for the club and still looks fit as a flea) and Stevie who steps in at late notice. We also welcome back Gubby in goal after a long absence through injury.

What a day, for once the squad arrived early (almost all, but won't mention Malcolm till later), and was changed and on the worse pitch BOE had left available, this flat, freshly cut grass, almost carpet like pitch was unacceptable, no diverts, rolls or ankle snags to be seen... no excused for poor passing or under hit balls... although, there was a strong wind to contend with.

Prior to the game, and being out a full 40 minutes before kick-off, 7's normal warm would be jog around and ping balls at each other whilst Dan & Martin organise a team and a formation... For some reason, 'welchy' took it upon himself to be 'coach' for the afternoon and got everyone lined up for a gently jog... and without warning, managed to turn this gently jog into a full blown pre-season training session with shuttle runs, passing (what's that!!), Skins V Shirts.... The fear could be seen in the 7s, red faced and blowing hard (that's just the 7s captain) and all before 2 hours of football, what was he thinking!!!!!!!!!!!!

Game 1 kicks off with 7s playing with a strong wind behind them (NOT the 7s captain this time!), and this soon became a 12th man for the team, with BOE taking the first 5-10 minutes or so of play, never really threatening the back four of Josh, Dan, Paul and Tom J until a deep cross from BOE left winger had Gubby scrabbling across goal for a well punched clearance, only for Dan to be tracking the balls flight and then place his nose in direct contact with Gubbys glove, resulting in getting red sauce everywhere!

Finishing with a whimper and a crumbled heap on the floor, this didn't look good for the 7s player managers, having to leave the pitch for treatment, some clapped at the improvement the collusion made on the centre backs rearranged bugle.

Martin stepping in for Dan but steps in at left back, with Tom J join Paul at centre back, this still didn't seem to rattle the back 4, marshalled by Paul, and with Gubby voice being heard clearly from the back, the team now had more than just the captains voice spurring them on, still soaking up the pressure, Noor on the left seem to be getting better with each game that passes and started to pull some strings, taking the ball in his stride and with his back to goal on the by-line, BOE right back closed him down, only for Noor to turn, drop the shoulder and 'MEG-NUTS' the approaching player (made even better as it was in front of our own bench) and sprint on to his own through ball for a decent shot at goal which was well saved. This was just one of many times Noor took the game to them and once again didn't go unnoticed amongst the squad

With the 7s now gaining more possession, and 10 minutes or so remaining (MALCOLM TURNS UP!!), A goal kick from Gubby finds Scott deep in the oppositions half, and with a good ball control, slots Adam in on the overlap who finishes low and well, 1-0 the 7s.

This stuns BOE back into action and straight from Kick off advance well into the 7s territory, only to once again to be face with Paul & Tom who break up play and calmly sweep the ball around and back up the field.

Halftime and a few changes, with Adam coming off for Denzel, the game soon started, and with the wind now in the 7s faces, it soon became the Alamo. BOE was relentless in the attack and wave after wave was beaten back by the whole squad, determined to hold onto the slim 1-0 lead. What seemed like an age, a few hero saves from Gubby and last ditch challenges from 'everyone', it was the shift we all put in that resulted in a deserved win.

MOTM: 2 players this week, Legend Paul Welch, great influence on the pitch and calm when needed, and once again, this strange fellow that keeps turning up and calling himself Noor (is that really you??)

DOTD: Wouldn't have been Malcolm if he had turned up on time!



7s

Match two

MERTON FC 3

Bank of England 1

As the squad walked off on a high, it was notable that everyone was still up for the next game, the difference of having double headers for the past 3 weeks seem to be paying off, as well as the warm up induced by 'Welchy' (there's even talk of a warm up before every game and being the way forwarded!)

Standing (not sitting) and finally being joined by Malcolm halfway thought the first game, the team was eager to get the next on the go, with Malcom and Scott starting as the attack force and Stevie on for Martin, it was a fresh start for the 7s.

BOE looking to get revenge started once again playing into the wind, and again starting on the front foot with an attack form kick off, the passing seemed more fluent and the 7's re-guard needed to be alert, the midfield of David & Tom, the hard tackling due was still managing to contain the opposite numbers, be it with the aid of the defence, was starting to look a bit tired

Halfway through he half and a fine move from back to front, Scott picks the ball up just inside the oppositions half, holding play up well, manged to find David pushing forward from the centre, taking the ball in his stride, runs at the BOE defence, making the centre back commit to closing him down, neatly slots Andrew 'DOBBY' Dobson in on the left and clear on goal, only the keeper to beat, strokes the ball past with his deadly left foot (not only for standing on!) and reels away in celebration.

With the lead and BOE broken, 7's started to have more of the ball, Adam E out muscling the BOEs midfield, controlled the ball and rasped a shoot form 20 yards, only to see the power and spin, pull the ball on to the post with the keeper flat footed, it was now swinging in Merton's direction

The first half plays out with the 7's knocking back anything thrown at them, seeing this, Dan and his rather larger hooter, makes some timely changes to kill the game off, David coming off for the fresher legs of Adam, Noor on for Dobby who had a great for half, it didn't take long before the 7's took the game over.

Even playing into the wind, Noor was up to his normal tricks of skipping around the BOE right winger and tormenting the right back, with a few good shots and neat passing play between the team, Noor found himself able to cut in on the left and move more centre...

Dropping the old shoulder and unleashing a shot from 25 yards or more, it had the keeper groping thin air as the ball smashed off the crossbar, straight in the path of Scott who was happy to bundle the ball over for the second BOE making a few changes and visibly tiring, the 7s however seemed to be going from strength to strength...

Once again on the attack, it was the turn of Malcom, not to be out done by Scott, somehow manged to wiggle his way through on goal and calmly poke the ball past the advance keeper for number 3-0, and with 10 minutes to go, it would seem it was all but wrapped up

The talk on the side line was how great the team played, from back to front, everyone put a shift in, everyone having fun and Dan could not help but say it was great to get 2 clean sheets.... This, still with 10minutes of play left... I don't think we got to say 'don't talk to soon' as we kicked off after conceding a soft goal which we think was an own goal or a deflection or just switching off for a minute, either way 3-1 was the score and suddenly, BOE got there second wind and was pressing high up the pitch, the attacks was not being closed down and Gubby was now being called upon a little too often. With BOE appealing every decisions and feeling hard done by, the frustration boiled over with their influential midfielder swearing directly at the ref who had no hesitation in branding the red card and pointing to the dugout. Down to 10 men, both teams still manging to carve out a few half chances as the game clock ticked down and finishing 3-1.

A great rewarding day out and now 4 in a row un beaten for the 7s, which pushes them into the dizzy heights of 4th in the league, although playing a game more than some, still a good achievement for the 'Rag Tags' who look to continue the fine run at home (anyone remember that place!) next week v OW 8's.

MOTM: Across both games, vey consistent and composed – Gubby

DOTD: NONE chosen. (Although Malcolm should never be allowed near a free kick again!)

Team : Gubby, Josh, Dan, Tom J, Adam E, Tom R, David ©, Noor, Scott, Adam, Martin, Stevie, Denzel, Andrew and we think Malcolm turned up at some point!



NAME: TOM ROWE
 TEAM: 15
 POSITION: STRIKER
 BIRTH DATE: 24/09/91
 BIRTH PLACE: WIMBLEDON
 PREVIOUS CLUBS: ROSSLYN PARK RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB ;)

TOM ROWE



1. Tell us who you are outside of the club. What do you do, how would you describe yourself?

Refreshingly laid back for a man with such responsibility.

2. What was most memorable moment in your MFC career till now?

Probably one of the several 30 yarders I've scored over the years. Surprisingly and much to my team mates annoyance, I've missed more from those efforts than I've scored.

3. What is your favourite quote?

There goes Tom Rowe, I must remember to thank him..

4. Tell us something about yourself that most of us at the club probably aren't aware of...

I have done some acting – got type cast with all the Hugh Grant roles

5. Ask a friend for a reference and post their response:

Tom is probably the best employee I've ever had. In fact I will give him that bonus I promised him. 'Line Manager'

6. Lastly, share with us your goals/expectations for the season...

I think it would be great to make a cup final. I couldn't make the last one, think we lost narrowly... the two aren't linked but winning this time would be great, especially for all of the Dads.

Player of the season): Siraj. He's been angry for a lot of season, but I think he's been a fantastic addition to the squad and his performances must have made up at least 5/6 points for us. We've had a lot of new comers this season which has been great and a bit overdue. I'm hoping they stay or at least remember us when they're all famous

Favourite team in the UK: Man Utd

Childhood hero: Eric Cantona

Favourite word: n/a (Gladkow 2017)

Favourite band: would like to see Oasis live

Favourite food: contrary to popular belief of late (and rightly so),

Something healthy

Dream job: being Woody's boss

RAPID FIRE



NAME: DANIEL RIST
 TEAM: MERTON 3'S
 POSITION: RIGHT BACK
 BIRTH DATE: 30TH SEPTEMBER
 BIRTH PLACE: ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA
 PREVIOUS CLUBS: RACING CLUB WARWICK, SOUTHAM

DANIEL RIST



1. Tell us who you are outside of the club. What do you do, how would you describe yourself?

Away from Merton, I work in an Investment Bank for Societe Generale as a Recruiter...it's really as boring as it sounds!

Away from work, I'll either be making use of my 50% discount at Dominos, getting drunk after two pints or watching some type of sport.

2. What was most memorable moment in your MFC career till now?

- Scoring from the half way line, bar and in....can I still talk about this? The game at this point was pretty much over, so I closed my eyes and took a shot/cross, next thing I knew I had Big Mike jumping on me.
- Falling asleep in my car while putting my football bag away after the Christmas Party. Waking up at 4.00am after being sick....flipping EG rules!
- Other than that, it would either be watching Neil Davidson playing centre half (not pretty...) or seeing Vinny getting done for pace and then pretending to be injured.

3. What is your favourite quote?

It's a tossup between Michael Scott (US Office fans will understand), "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take.", or from Merton's very own Frankie, possibly the angriest man in football! Who on about 6 occasions has shouted, "Get the F**K out the way Ref", truly unforgettable!

4. Tell us something about yourself that most of us at the club probably aren't aware of...

I'm Dan Rist and I play for the Merton 3's

5. Ask a friend for a reference and post their response of you - can be a family member, friend or teammate (E.G: "He's a lovely boy" - Mom)

"He's pretty much perfect in every way, looks, football, on the pull, everything. He's my role model; I just wish that one day I grow up exactly like him!" - Glenn Pitmann after a few WKD's.

6. Lastly, share with us your goals/expectations for the season...

As the season is over we turn our focus to the SAL Spring/Summer Cup. It would be brilliant to get some revenge against some of the teams we lost too. We ended the season on a couple of wins so a continuation of that would be lovely! Love a good cup final....too much to ask for?

Player of the season (at Merton): Dan B - the guy is a beast in the sticks.

Favourite team in the UK: Man UTD

Favourite team outside the UK: Dortmund

Childhood hero: David Beckham

Favourite word: F**k - Sums up every emotion.

Favourite band: Oasis

Favourite food: Anything that's bad for you. Dominos

Dream job: Karl Pilkington's best mate.

RAPID FIRE

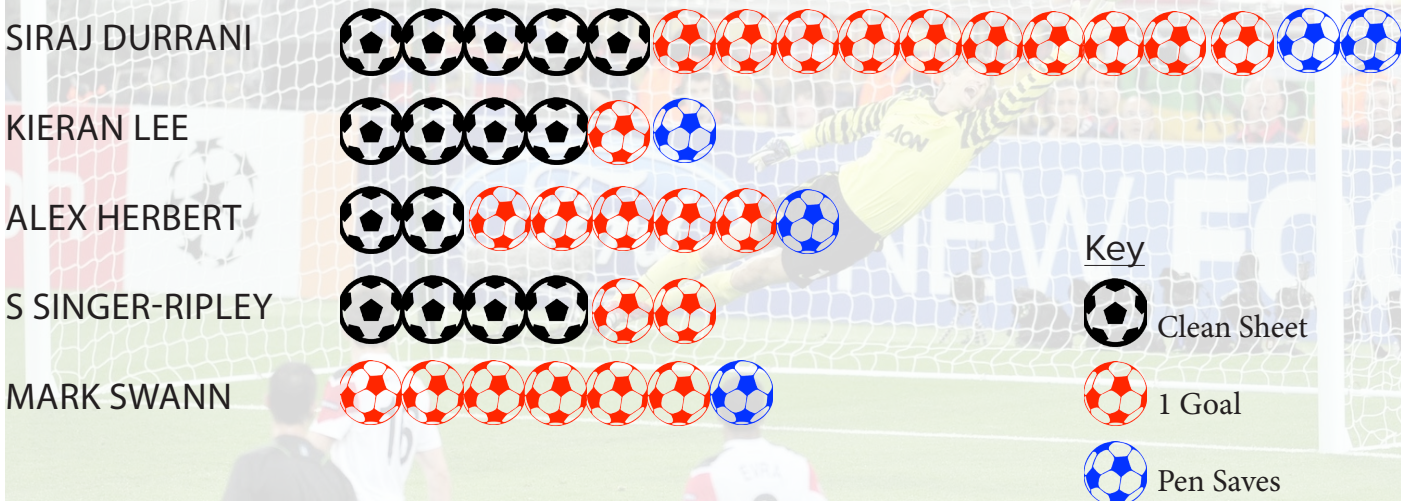


Its nearing the end of the season. Lets see how the table for top goalscorer and top goalkeepers are looking... AS OF - 31/3/17.

TOP GOALSCORERS



GOLDEN GLOVE





U9s

MERTON FC 4
NPL Youth Bulls 3

On a beautiful sunny Mother's Day away in Teddington Merton took on under 9's NPL youth, with 7 player's Merton played a great game but it was a challenging match, NPL had some great pass techniques but Merton didn't let that phase them, they kept up the pressure. Great team work all round, Presley and Tommy winning joint man of the match, both scoring 2 goals each with Presley playing on field second half after being in goal for the first half, Jack took the second half in goal making some brilliant saves and powerful long goal kicks.

Great defence work and some brilliant corner's crossed in giving some goal scoring opportunities.

A great team effort well done Merton FC.

Claire
(Tommy's mum)



U11s

MERTON FC 3
ESHER COLTS YELLOWS 8

NO REPORT SUBMITTED



U13s

MERTON FC 2
Rocks Lane United 2

NO REPORT SUBMITTED



U14s

MERTON FC 0
Old Isleworthians Yth Reds 14

No report Submitted



U15s

MERTON FC 1

Whitton Wanderers Youth 3

NO REPORT SUBMITTED



WHO'S WHERE AND WHEN

SATURDAY APRIL 1st 2017

1s
MERTON FC v Crouch End Vampires
Away – 15:00

2s
MERTON FC
NO GAME

3s
MERTON FC v Carshalton
Home - 15:00

4s
MERTON FC v Old Wokingians
Home - 14.30

5s
MERTON FC
No Game

6s
South Bank Cuaco v MERTON FC
Away - 14:00

7s
MERTON FC v Old Wilsonians
Away – 15:00

SUNDAY APRIL 2nd 2017

U9s
Barnes Eagles v MERTON FC
Away

U11s
MERTON FC
No Game

U13s
MERTON FC v Hampton Rangers Juniors
Home

U14s
Esher Lions v MERTON FC
Away

U15s
MERTON FC MET Police Yth Red
Home



MERTON'S BIG FAT QUIZ

1. Which Atletico Madrid player missed the decisive penalty in the shootout to decide the 2016 Champions League final?
2. Who was the last Premier League manager to be sacked in 2016?
3. How many days was Sam Allardyce in charge of England?
4. Who scored the first goal of Euro 2016?
5. Who scored the last ever goal at Upton Park?
6. Who won the golden boot in 2015/16?
7. AFC Wimbledon were promoted to League One with a 2-0 play-off final win over Plymouth in 2016, but how many years after they were formed?
8. How many games did Argentina play between Lionel Messi retiring from international football, and then reversing his decision?
9. How many yellow cards were shown during the Battle of the Bridge (Chelsea vs Spurs) in May 2016?
10. How many years had Manchester United gone without winning the FA Cup before triumphing against Crystal Palace in 2016?

LEAGUE TABLE

QUIZ 1: WINNER - Luke Newman, who got 2 out of 10.

QUIZ 2: ???

If you'd like to partake in our trivia challenge league, please email, Facebook PM, whatsapp, text, or carrier pigeon your answers to the above questions to Mike Todt. No Googling allowed!




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