

# THE MERTON WAY

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-season-  
**2017-2018**





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# ABOUT US

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We are an amateur sports team that currently has 7 adult football teams and 6 youth teams. Founded in 1910, we have affiliations with the Southern Amateur League and the Amateur Football Association.

*As a budding young football club we welcome any new players at all levels to join our club.*

We Invite you to come down to our training sessions.

## ADULTS 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 five minute walk from the pitches with trains from Victoria, Clapham Junction and Balham.

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 signposted '*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.

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

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*Alternatively*  
Check out our website at:

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

Feel free to send enquiries and find more information about our club.



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## MERTON FC 3 West Wickham 0

**A**fter back to back wins in the league, hope was there that we were able to continue the good form that has taken us to joint top of the league. A win would leave us two points shy of our entire points tally from the previous season!

With availability limited we were required to call up Phil Truman from the 5s to slot into the back three alongside Adam and Joe. With no Dom due to work, it was down to the partnership of Michael Vogt and the young Matt Shreeve to provide the goals. Hopefully Aaron would be able to chip in from the number 10 role.

Having found a formation that works after a few seasons of trying, we were spraying the ball around the park with ease. The opposition were unable to get a foothold in the game and whenever they did, Adam was there to clear up at the back.

Having been a long week before writing this report, it is hard to remember the type of goals that were scored. All I know is that we are 2-0 up at the break Aaron bagging both of the goals.

The second half started in the same fashion as the first however we were only able to add one more to our tally. The scorer.....Aaron for back to back hat tricks. These goals are burning quite a large hole in his pocket!

The only negative to take out of the game was Sonny getting sin binned. This didn't seem to faze us though as this was the period when Aaron was able to grab his third goal.

Next week we host IBIS Eagles. Having drawn 2-2 back in September and with a win required to take us clear at the top, this game is a must win!

SCORER(S): Aaron Loftus (3)

MOTM: Adam Collings – Aaron was a close second but a solid display at the back from our 'striker' could not be overlooked.

DOTD: Frankie Kalogirou – Going down too easy and injuring his shoulder.

STARTING LINE-UP: Michael Gubby (GK), Joe Plumridge, Adam Collings, Phil Truman, Frankie Kalogirou (Daniel Ford), Edward Plaistow (Capt.), Sonny Kennedy, Akram Choudhury, Aaron Loftus, Michael Vogt, Matt Shreeve



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## MERTON FC 1 City of London

2 weeks on from our last outing – a sobering defeat to the very determined and organised 6's – we were focused on setting the record straight. This season has started poorly with 3 feats from 4 games, so this is a must win game to get our footing back in the league.

Shockingly most of the team were on time and looking sharp, although with white socks and flip flops Dwayne clearly still gets dressed in the dark. Soon enough Darren's filthy baselines blared out in the clubhouse as we were getting pumped for redemption on home turf.

Another week and another new defensive line, we looked set for another leaky sieve defence, however strong possession play and far more composure on the ball lead to dangerous moves on the other end of the field, Josh and Dwayne combining well only to find the square heads of Gibbo and Dulanie only coming close with their efforts.

Dogged displays in midfield and dominant defending lead to a complete shut out for City of London, who looked short of ideas to break us down and couldn't match us for strength or skill. Somehow through missed opportunities City made it to half time without dirtying their sheet, but Merton were knocking on the door enough to be confident a goal was imminent.

As the second half began it looked like City were going to try and take the game to Merton a little more, as they looked to transfer from defence to attack quicker, but any loose pass was easily mopped up and helped to open up the game for us, and our front three looked more and more likely to score, Aaron eventually popping up at the back post to nod home the inevitable opener, and from his celebration you could see what it meant to us.

The commotion of scoring distracted Sam in goal from his sudoku as he probably hadn't had to make a save for about half an hour, and since the goal through a series of sloppy play we somehow managed to keep Sam far busier, almost wasting the lead at the death.

The final whistle blew and we had done enough, more room for improvement but a clean sheet for the 5's is not something I expected today from yet another changed backline. On the day we made life hard enough for what was in truth a fairly poor opposition, and against stronger side we need to be far more clinical with our chances on goal if we are to challenge for promotion later in the season.





Pictured: 2S in action



# FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CHARTER STANDARD CLUB

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Merton Football Club is a Football Association Charter Standard Club.

A simple statement but what does it mean?

Well actually it means quite a lot. It means that we do things properly and the Football Association have scrutinised us, our procedures and our qualifications and we have passed their stringent tests both in respect of our adult section and the youth section.

They check that we have proper accounting procedures and banking arrangements. They ensure we have adopted and implement policies about a wide range of such things as equality, discrimination and disability.

They also need to be satisfied that we have the right number of qualified coaches and trained assistants. So in the youth section every team has to have a coach/manager with a minimum Level 1 coaching badge. With the safety and security of children paramount all managers/coaches have to be checked every three years for criminal records, attend a course on Child protection and one on Emergency Aid. In addition a club must have a qualified Child Welfare Officer who is accessible to all.

In the adult section there is no requirement for qualified coaches but each team has to have at least two members with the Emergency Aid certificate.

I am telling you this now because it will shortly be that time of year when the Football Association does the 'Annual Health Check' to review our status. This is a serious review of the club which we take very seriously.

So we will need some volunteers throughout the club to attend an Emergency Aid course we will be holding at the Hood one evening midweek in November. Your captains will be asking you about this but if you are interested please contact me.

The Charter Standard status in many ways apart from being an assurance to new members and parents that we do things properly. It also means that we are eligible for grants from the FA and that we pay discounted fees to the Southern Amateur League and with the Surrey Youth League all clubs have to achieve this status within a year or two after they join.

All these matters add considerably to the administrative burden in running the club and we are constantly seeking more people to help us run the club particularly in the youth section. So if you are interested in helping out contact me. ([max.herbert@btinternet.com](mailto:max.herbert@btinternet.com))





# 1S

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## MERTON FC 1 NUFC Oilers 1

It was yet another trip to North London on Saturday for the 1's as they looked to avenge the Horrors of the Hood from the week before.

Manager Clapperton faced further squad selection issues as availability and injury once again forced a number of regulars to miss the trip to one of the division's in-form sides. His mood only lightened by the realisation that his Freedom pass would enable him free travel to The Hive, home of Barnet FC and the NUFC Oilers.

Credit must go to each individual for arriving on-time and in the correct location, a rarity for any Merton team when playing anywhere outside of Wimbledon. A special mention to EJ who on arrival mistook the opposition for us and proceeded to shake each of their hands, leading them to believe he was clearly a ringer.

A changed line-up saw a return for Rat, Bearded Sam and a freshly trimmed Emilio. James G was selected at CB which surprised many, not least himself who displayed the type of reaction normally only seen when Mustard shows you some of his private photo collection.

The pre-match team talk and subsequent tactical plan was clear. NUFC would look to play and we would look to stay compact, frustrate them and be direct when in possession. The 1st half saw this plan perfectly executed.

In a half where there were few openings and clear cut chances, The Oilers were quickly becoming frustrated by the shape, commitment and cohesion shown by Merton. EJ was doing a fine job in holding the ball up and keeping possession whilst the midfield 3 of Will Low, Bearded Sam and Sam Harvey stuck to the task of frustrating the opponents. It was a relatively quiet half for Siri but he did react well when called into action at the end of the first half. At the other end, there were a few half chances but nothing worth writing about (i.e. I can't remember them).

The only slight aggravation for Merton was the high foul count which had led to free-kicks in dangerous positions. There were a number of offenders but Van was increasingly becoming well-known to the referee. The veteran winger's high foul count was seemingly a bi-product of his frustration at having to carry Mrs Gladkov's pink suitcase across London and onto Harpenden after the game.

The 2nd half started in the same vein, only this time Merton were looking far more dangerous on the counter-attack. The final pass was the only piece of the jigsaw missing as the men in blue, white & Pink probed for the 1st goal of the game. This eventually came when Van went racing away down the right hand side and squared for EJ. EJ then completed a few keepie-uppies, stopped for a drink, checked the time on his pocket watch and finally rolled the ball passed the on-rushing goalkeeper. The celebrations were well deserved as the final element of Clapperton's Master-Plan had just been completed. All that was left to do was to see the game out. Easy.





Or not. The Merton goal led to a couple of tactical changes from the opposition and this seemed to affect the cohesion of the Merton eleven. The next 5 minutes saw the opposition look increasingly dangerous and they equalised when a quick throw-in on the left hand side resulted in a fizzing shot beating Siri. Considering the hard work and yards put in to get the goal advantage it was a bitter disappointment to let in the goal however Merton reacted well and finished the game as they did the first half, showing excellent shape, organisation and indeed no shortage of courage.

In reflection the draw was probably a fair result however this was a very good performance that showed the strength in depth and versatility of the squad this season. The reaction of the opposition, of whom a number refused to shake hands after the 90 minutes was somewhat disappointing but this further evidence that the tactical plan had worked on this occasion. This was soon forgotten in the bar though as Jeff Stelling announced that Palace had beaten Chelsea. Again.

With a rare weekend off, Clapperton will be relieved that some of the injuries that have left the squad light on numbers can receive an extra week of Physio (or Brauner can see the Witch Doctor again) before some important league and cup games.

MOM: James G. Calm and composed performance alongside Clappers at CB.

DOD: Kearns. Seemingly too excited before the game and tripped over whilst Clappers was conducting the team talk. Also took a throw-in from the blue markings on the pitch that were 15 yards inside the correct white ones.

Team: Siri, Rat, James G, Clappers, Kearns, Bearded Sam with no beard, Sam Harvey, Will Lowe, Van, Emilio, EJ.

Subs: Kenneth



# 7S

## MERTON FC 5 Old Blues 6

'Friday 13th', is never a good start to a weekend, and with player's availability changing on a day to day basis during the week, it was tough task knowing who to select, let alone be turning up. After last week's demolition of OW8s, tails are up and eager to get back on the pitch.

Today we are in Ham for our second league game of the season against an unpredictable Old Blues 3rd team which has had mixed results of late. Warming up pitch side and watching the oppo run through there drills, the 7s seem confident of improving on the 3 points on the board

Kieran, in goal, Josh, Martin, Dan & Steve making up the back four, Midfield welcome back Jacob on the right, with Luke M stepping into the middle with David, Andrew on the left, leaving Billy & Ryan up top.

From the start, 7s looked off the pace, the centre midfield pairing seemed to be having trouble closing down the opposite numbers and not to long into the game, Kieran is in action to swat away a fierce shot. Not learning from this mistake, OB3s are running the show from the middle and it seems like OB3s have extra players on the pitch, 2 more close calls see the defence and goalie working hard to keep the oppo at bay.

It wasn't long before another miss placed pass is intercepted by the very quick and pacey OB3s midfield, who seemed to turn on the gas to get past the defence to unleash a neat shot that beats Kieran on the left. 1-0

Kick off and more of the same, the 7s are suffering from a complacency hangover after having such an easy ride the week before, once again the OB3s midfield boss the game and pass through balls to their forwards at will and again Kieran is unlucky to get beat after getting hands on a tough shot only to see the ball fall to the advancing striker, 2-0

Some last ditch tackles from Steve & Dan saves the 7s from going further behind and with not even 15 minutes played. Even worse, top scorer Billy seemed to have pulled up with a hamstring and hobbles off for some treatment. It just get worse!!

Vocally, only the captain can be heard trying to rally the players to up the game, Steve, Dan join in knowing that we can do better, slowly the 7s get a foot hold in the game and start to put some passes together and finally get rewarded with a few shots, and although not on target, it would seem they OB3s keeper is struggling!

Late in the first half and after an appeal for off side is waved away, the 7s finally test the keeper, it could be deemed an own goal as the shot is parred into the net. 2-1 down at the break and some tough words to be had

Finally Daban decides to turn up, and a quick shuffle sees him replace Luke in the centre and Billy recovers from the mild pull and is ready to come back on. Game starts more the same, David & Daban are making a better fist of it this time, but still doesn't stop the OB3s from going 3-1, Steve passing to David who loses out and can only watch as the player rounds the defence and finds the net. 3-1

Straight from Kick off sees Billy released with a long ball over the top, which finds him level with the centre backs who can only watch as he beats them to the ball (even after having 10 yards or so!) and with a single touch, lobs the advancing keeper form 20 yards, 3-2

A further changed sees Luke take over from Andrew on the left, who had run his heart out chassing there right winger, as well as getting up to support the forwards. Still, silly mistakes are getting made and now what seems a single OB3s player is tormenting the 7s defence, sees him once again skip through and curls a lovely shot beyond Kieran who can only watch as its bends in. 4-2.

From the kick off, the tackles are now flying in for both teams, the ref, who to be fair, 'wasn't' having the best day (and I have chosen not to make a point about this) had to pull the captions together before it got out of hand (or turned into a poor version of WWE!).

With Dabans energy in the middle and closing down the OB3s danger player, he robs the ball with a stern challenge, turns and takes off and leaves 2 more players in his wake, Billy sensing a foot race with the OB3s defence is struggling to stay on side and screams for the through ball which Daban obliges, at first, it seemed to be over hit, but with Billy's pace, his a clear 15 yards ahead of any player and 1v1 with the keeper, which he makes no mistake for 4-3.

However, once again, a bit of bad luck sees OB3s danger man get his 3rd as he manages to ride 3 challenges, 2 with a bit of luck sees the ball bounce off and land back in his path to unleash another shot which Kieran almost got a hand too, to make it 5-3 Back to the drawing board, Josh & Jacob begin to have more joy on the right, a long ball from the back once again sees the OB3s defence panic, Billy now playing of their shoulders and looking to pick up on any mistakes, is once again rewarded and calmly rounds the keeper to roll in his first hatrick for Merton.

The game is now toing and throwing between the 2 sides, a couple of shots from the 7s of target and a side netting from Billy straight from the corner frustrates the team, stronger tackles against the OB3s players sees them protest, this just spurs the 7s on. Still with 15 minutes to play, and tired of this OB3s player skipping around, his brought down with a heavy challenge around 20 yards out, Kieran lines the wall up, but is beat by a low shot to his left post for 6-4. Can't catch a f\*\*\*\*\* break !!!!!!!



Again, kick off, can't believe the 7s are still 2 down, the last 20 minutes has been all 7s, running, tackling, shooting. Another corner, Billy sprints from one side of the pitch to the other to take it, David, having his fair share of attention from the OB3s centre mid and centre back, take up man marking defence duties as he strolls in. You just knew that Billy was lining up for a shot after hitting the side netting at his previous attempt, and this time making no mistake, curls the corner directly into the near post for his 4th, and a score of 6-5.

Less than 10 minutes and a few more dubious decisions by the ref. Notably Daban fouled some 25 yards from the 7s goal, protest for a free kick are waved away, the ball is won back and cleared up field, once again Billy is free after clearly sprinting between the two centre backs but still 30 yards out, controls the ball.... And the whistle goes... the game has been pulled back for the foul on Daban !!!!!

Last minutes, the 7s having all the play, just can't seem to find a way through the 10 man wall. OB3s openly shut up shop and pull rank, Billy is now marked by 2 players, one which is a little keen and keeps pulling him back, which the ref turns a blind eye to (or doesn't see it!) that almost sees an exchange of blows as the older defender goads the young forward to strike him, not rising to it, he chooses to use a few colourful words instead

Full time and a hum-dinger of a game which is a hard loss to take. The slow start cost the 7s and the inability to change formation in the second half could have prevented a goal or two. It's all a learning curve which was discussed in length after the game (which is a positive). The 7s still missing key players know they dropped the points as opposed to losing them, which is something different from last year

With a week off due to the Vets Game, which sees a call up for the 7s management team of Martin, Steve & David, the 7s next outing is away to Old Sales 3rd on the 28th ... which was a horrific 7-1 loss in the SALC. Let's hope we can avenge the score and get back to winning ways

MOTM: Scoring 4 and still on the losing side, very unlucky to really only have 1 half against a defence that could not contain the young lad. Mention also to Daban who could have been the difference between a point or so, as to how much difference he made on the pitch when he arrived. And Josh... Mr Reliable.

DOTD: DABAN.... Turning up at half time.... What could have been if he turned up on time!

Team: Kieran, Josh, Dan, Martin, Steve, Jacob, Luke, David, Andrew, Billy, Ryan  
Daban.



## MERTON FC 2017-2018 EVENTS

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### INTERCLUB GAMES NIGHT - 11th November

- Please lock Saturday 11 November into your diaries.
- Clappers' lifelong dream of an inter-club games night has finally come to fruition. Darts, fozzball and pool - all at the Hood. Should be a good'un



### SATURDAY 2nd DECEMBER – THE MERTON CHRISTMAS JUMPER OFF

- 7pm – Midnight
- Kick-off silly season with your 1st Christmas party at the Hood!
- Drinks, food & Carol singing a plenty – with the now annual competition for the best Christmas Jumper on the night!



### New Years JANUARY 2018 – Annual Memorial Match day

- NYE Drink the bar dry challenge?
- Memorial Match for Nick Papanastasiou.





# 25

## MERTON FC 1 Old Owens 4

Merton has never been a club to put too much stock in omens. But when, as skipper, your referee for the day asks if you're wearing yellow while your entire team is standing around you, all of you resplendent in the very shade Merton has made famous in every corner of London, well... you have to wonder.

Especially when the man in black has then somehow managed to make a complete muddle of the coin toss. Long day ahead? You bet.

This is not the forum for complaint, however. You can draw your own conclusions as to just how wildly inconsistent the man in the middle's behaviour was during the game.

Instead, a few Merton highlights.

Dom Preece put in a hell of a shift in the middle of midfield. Outshining the energy of Craig Usher and Ryan Gresty is no small feat, but our man did exactly that.

Ahead of him, David Quinton led the line with Tom Benham admirably. Benham's goal – twisting the defence inside out after latching on to a precise Peter Quinton through-ball – was joyous. Having sat the defender down for what seemed like a third time, Tommy B rattled the ball high past the keeper with his left foot. From the look of determination on his face immediately afterwards, he drew no little satisfaction from doing so.

Sherbs in goal was as reliable as ever. He could do nothing about the penalty (the ref was possibly only sorry he couldn't take it himself), and made two or three excellent stops.

Dan Rist exudes a style and presence all of his own. Man of the match here, his delivery was pin-point from all over the pitch, and he even found himself on the edge of oppo area to force a fine save from a stinger of an effort. Also worthy of mention is his fondness for the over-elaborate dummy at centre-back. Gets 'em every time.

Special mention, though, for Peter Quinton. Off the bench after less than 10 minutes, Pete podiomed for Man Most Handsome from right wing-back. Affecting the game when you have the best player on the pitch to mark is one thing. Coming off the bench to show the rest of the lads how it's done is quite another. Well played.

There was something of a spiteful playground atmosphere about the whole affair, hardly helped by the coin toss cocker-upper. A long way to go for little reward. But this was a game, in the end, that was not without its lighter, brighter moments. In *yellow*.

Herbert (GK), Grew, Rist, Cook, Rayner, Willgoss (c), Preece, Usher, Gresty, D Quinton, Tom Benham. Sub: P Quinton



# Merton Statistics

## Golden Gloves

Name	Clean Sheets	Pen Saves	1 Goal Conceded	Points	Total Goals Conceded
Siraj Durrani	1	0	2	5	9
Mike Gubby	1	0	1	4	4
Darren Fitzgerald	1	0	1	4	7
Sam Singer-Ripley	1	0	1	4	11
Mark Swann	1	0	1	4	12
John Gridley	0	1	0	3	5
Kieran Lee	1	0	0	3	10
Alex Herbert	0	0	1	1	11
Frankie Kalogirou	0	0	0	0	6
Martin Quinlan	0	0	0	0	7
Dan Bridgeman	0	0	0	0	14



Pictured:

Keepers of the week, Sam Singer-Ripley (Right) & Mike Gubby (Centre) get their first clean sheets of the season. Siraj Durrani (Left) steps up into first place with by a point.



# Merton Statistics

## GOLDEN BOOT

Name	League Goals	Cup Goals	Total Goals
Tony Chaplin	10	0	10
Billy Golding	6	4	10
Aaron Loftus	8	0	8
Nick Englefield	5	0	5
Adam Collings	5	0	5
Dom Plumridge	3	2	5
Denys Zhurbiy	2	3	5
Own Goal	4	0	4
Ryan Burchell	4	0	4
Callum Fisher	4	0	4
Richard Gibbs	0	3	3
Tom Benham	2	1	3
Chaz-Lee Martin	0	3	3



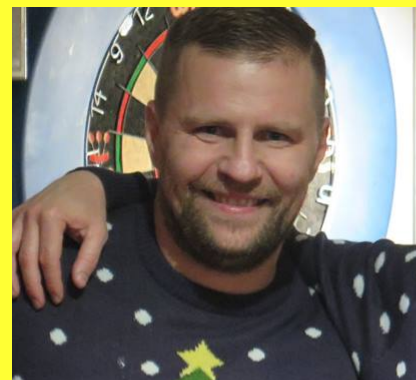
Pictured:  
Tied for top. Tony Chaplin (Right) & Billy Golding (Left) are the first to hit double figures for the season.



# Merton Statistics

## This Week's Goal Scorers

Team	Name	League Goals	Cup Goals	Total Goals
7's	Billy Golding	4	0	4
4's	Aaron Loftus	3	0	3
7's	Own Goal	1	0	1
3's	Denys Zhurbiy	1	0	1
1's	EJ Hypeson	1	0	1
5's	Aaron Byrne	1	0	1
2's	Tom Benham	1	0	1
6's	Callum Fisher	1	0	1
6's	Tony Chaplin	1	0	1



Pictured:

Aaron Byrne (Top Left) scores the only goal of the game. Aaron Loftus (Centre) with his 2<sup>nd</sup> hat-trick in a row. Denys Zhurbiy (Top Right) scores the 3's goal. Tom Benham (Bottom Right) gets his 3<sup>rd</sup> goal of the season. Callum Fisger (Bottom Left) nets his 4<sup>th</sup>.

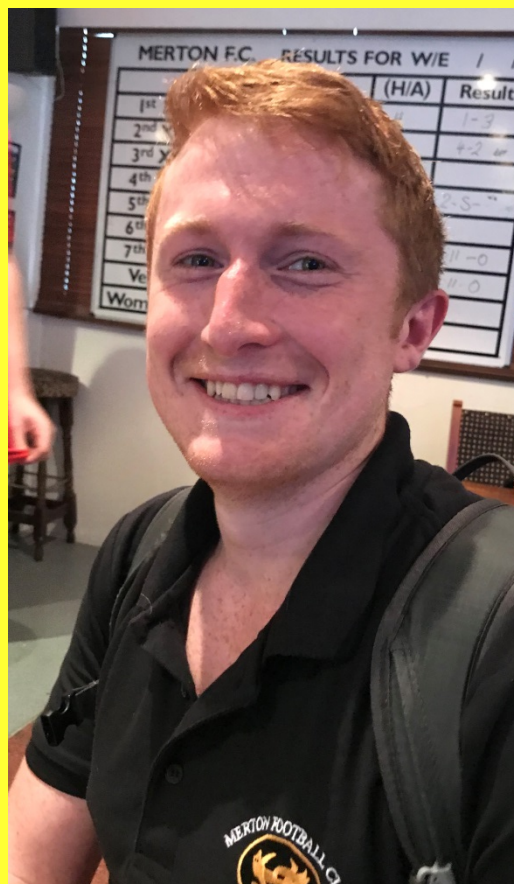




# Merton Statistics

## This Week's Heroes

Team	Name	Total MOTM Awards
1's	James Gray	1
2's	Dan Rist	1
3's	Neal Davison	1
4's	Adam Collings	2
5's	Chris Savory	1
6's	George Brobby	2
7's	Billy Golding	2



Pictured:  
 Dan Rist (Top Left), Neal Davison (Top Centre), Chris Savory (Right), George Brobby (Bottom Centre) & Adam Collings (Bottom Left).



## Landscaping the Hood

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### Your club needs you!

The committee has signed off on improving the patio area outside our beloved clubhouse.

This initiative has been very generously subsidised by the Papanastasiou family, in memory of Nick, who we sadly lost last year.

In order to do this, we need your help. Our man Peter Kemp is the brains behind the operation, has it all worked out, and will be directing us on the day. **But we could use another specialist or two**, and definitely need willing labourers to help with things like shifting dirt in wheelbarrows, laying slabs, digging etc etc.

Get in touch with Mike for more info.



**Coming  
Soon!  
Under  
Construction**

# NICK ENGLEFIELD



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

I'm a General Manager of a Leisure Centre in Merton so I spend most of my time in and around gyms, so I have to keep active, I workout every day and do the odd triathlon. When I have time I go fishing and would go a lot more if I could, in fact the thought of sitting by a lake for the rest of my life, getting fat on fried food and catching the odd fish sounds idyllic, but unfortunately that won't pay the bills and I'd probably be horrendous at football.

2. How did you end up at Merton FC?

I had all but retired from football, and ready to spend my weekends fishing when I was asked by Kev and Ty to come back down to Merton and play with the 6s and I'm glad I did. They are a great bunch of lads and we have started off the season on a high, I have a couple of goals under my belt and enjoying every minute of it.

3. What do you like most about Merton FC?

I like the size of the club and the fact that all the teams seem to really get on well with each other. You can always see a few of the lads from the other teams watching from the sidelines cheering each other on. Post match food is always good to.

4. If you could play for a professional team, which would be it and why?

Manchester United I guess, I think every lad would want to play for the team he supports.

5. Do you have any pre-match rituals or superstitions?

I always have a pre workout drink during the warm up, I don't think it's a ritual, more an attempt to make sure I have enough in the tank to try and keep up with the young lads sprinting up and down the wings every 10 seconds throughout the match.

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

I want to win the league and I want the 6s to have the top goal scorers this season (meaning me) but Tony Chaplin is well ahead at the moment. He will say that its not a competition, but he would, he's winning.

Favourite Player: Swanny, deceptively cat like.  
 Childhood Team: Manchester United / Kingstonian  
 Favourite team in the UK: Manchester United  
 Favourite team outside the UK: AC Milan  
 Childhood Hero: Eric Cantona  
 Favourite Food: Sausages  
 Favourite Drink: Beer  
 Favourite Band: Not sure, I'm a big fan of Smooth Radio

## RAPID FIRE



# U9s

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## MERTON FC 3 HAMPTON AND RICHMOND BORO YTH STAGS 4

We returned back at The Hood this week for a 10.30 kick off against Hampton and Richmond Stags. Following last week's win another before the half term break would be nice. Excitement was in the air as we received the message in the week that the new yellow kit was ready for the boys to wear and debuting on home soil. We were told to turn up early so the boys could change into it, all boys were there ready, even Faris. They changed on the side line and before it got dirty, posed in the goal for the team photo. The second message of the week received late Saturday from Roy, the referee had cried off due to injury and was looking for a willing volunteer; well let's just say Roy really knows how to silence a bunch of parents. No joy with a volunteer or replacement ref on the day, so Roy stepped up and took the whistle.

Starting line up this week was Max in goal, Ollie and Archie in defence, midfield of Lewis, Louis and Percy and Harry up top. On the bench were Joe, Faris and returning from his holiday, David. With the boys looking smart in their new kit we started where we left off having majority of the possession in the first 10-15 minutes but again just couldn't find the net. You could see that the training Tuesday nights were paying off as the boys were now playing as a team, talking and passing to each other. It fell to a defensive error, which led to the oppo who hadn't really threatened our half scoring the first goal, slotting the ball into the near post. We kicked off and continued to press the oppo. Three changes half way through first half, Archie, Ollie and Louis off for Faris, Joe and David. We equalised with a peach of a shot and goal from Lewis, left foot looping over the stretching keeper. 1 – 1 and back in the game. That's how it stayed until the half time whistle. It was looking like one of those games where we had most of the possession but not finding the goal.

Couple of changes made and the second half began, the oppo also making some changes which made them slightly stronger. Confusion is only what I can put it down to what should have been our second goal. What looked like a handball by the oppo and then the ball scrambling over the line? The shouts of hand ball and confirmation from the oppo manager led to the stand in ref giving Merton a penalty. Up stood Percy, unfortunately his shot was saved by their keeper. What I would say is that their goals were mostly due to defensive errors and not clearing the ball quick enough. Including one that could well have done with goal line technology. We did manage to get two more goals but it wasn't enough to level the match. Faris scoring bottom left near post from an assist from Archie and Percy slotting the ball bottom right corner of the goal. I do believe that this is a game we should have won, given that we had most of the possession and best chances. The boys are definitely improving game by game and were unlucky in this match.

MOM went to Percy who has shown consistency over the last couple of matches and managed to get on the score sheet as well, well deserved.

Observations this week: Stuart had a run in at Percy's Saturday game with a sunglasses wearing man (Terminator) who didn't like the decibels being shouted from the sideline or Stuart's jokes to lighten the situation!! and Roy's watch doesn't do Fergie time.

No game next week due to the international break (half term). Potential friendly on 29th against Wongas at 11.00 where there is a Merton club day for the youth section.





# U14s

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## MERTON FC 2 TWICKENHAM TIGERS 1

GK - Milo  
RB - Liam  
CB - Nikoy  
CB - Entri  
LB - McKenzie  
CM - Eddie  
CM - Daniel  
RW - Justin  
LW - Hugo  
CAM - Diego  
ST - Kieran

MOM: Liam

After several performances lacking energy a return to home comforts would provide the spark for a strong Merton performance. Playing on our home ground led to renewed levels of confidence and Merton started the game strongly, dominating from the off and creating a lot of chances. Our fullbacks were pushing forward well and Kieran was finding a lot of space in the middle to run onto, and midway through the first half a Merton player was swiped in the box and a penalty was awarded. Unfortunately Nikoy hit his penalty straight at the keeper and it remained 0-0. Nikoy quickly atoned for his missed penalty with a magnificent jumping goal-line clearance from a fierce free kick that seemed destined for the top corner. Just before half time the breakthrough came through our right back Liam whose shot was helped by the many bodies obstructing the goalkeepers view in the box as it hit the back of the net.

More of the same followed after half time with a great shot from the edge of the box by Theo that bounced off the top of the crossbar. Some sloppy play allowed Twickenham a way back into the game after a poor touch left Milo stranded and their forward slotted home into a virtually unguarded net. Merton pushed for the winner throughout the second half and anything less than 3 points would have been cruel as they worked tirelessly to find the killer finish. 2 minutes from time Kieran provided the winner that Merton deserved after his mazy run into the box was capped by a neat finish across his body that found the bottom corner. A fantastic match played in great spirit that ended in victory for Merton and we hope for more of the same next week.



# WHO'S WHERE AND WHEN

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## SATURDAY 21st October 2017

1s  
No Game

2s  
No Game

3s  
MERTON FC v Old Parkonians  
Home - 2pm

4s  
MERTON FC v Ibis Eagles  
Home - 2pm

5s  
Civil Service v MERTON FC  
Away - 2pm

6s  
HSBC v MERTON FC  
Away - 2pm

7s  
NO GAME

## SUNDAY 22nd OCTOBER 2017

U-9  
No Game

U-10  
No Game

U-12  
MERTON FC v Carshalton Athletic Yellow  
Home

U-13  
Raynes Park Vale Blues v MERTON FC  
Away

U-14  
Whitton Wanderers Eagles v MERTON FC  
Away

U-16  
MERTON FC v Whitton Wanderers Yth  
Home

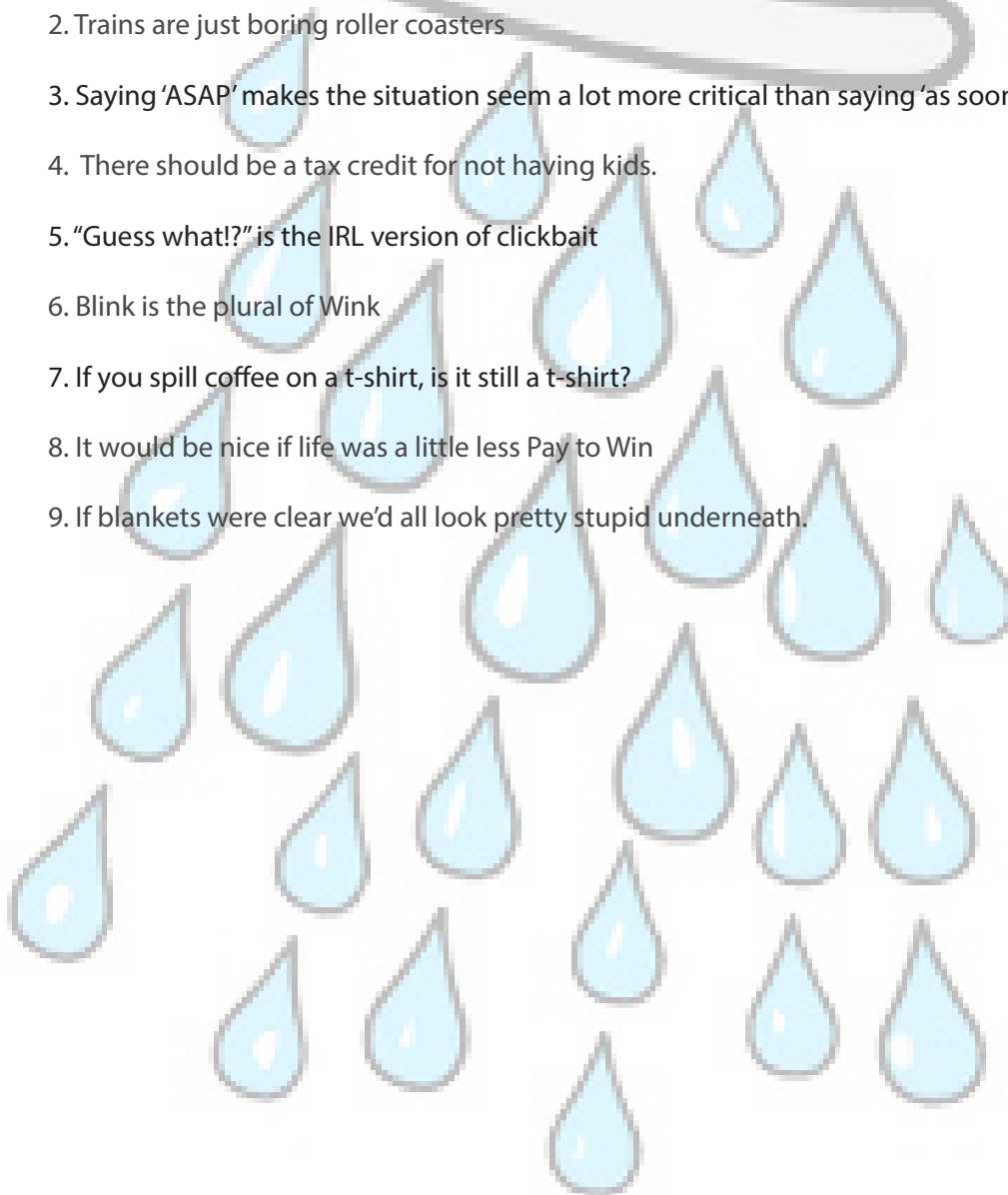


# SAM'S SHOWER THOUGHTS

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I'VE RECENTLY GONE DEEP IN MY MIND AND THOUGHT OF OBSCURE AND WONDERING IDEAS

1. Home is where the water tastes normal.
2. Trains are just boring roller coasters
3. Saying 'ASAP' makes the situation seem a lot more critical than saying 'as soon as possible'.
4. There should be a tax credit for not having kids.
5. "Guess what!?" is the IRL version of clickbait
6. Blink is the plural of Wink
7. If you spill coffee on a t-shirt, is it still a t-shirt?
8. It would be nice if life was a little less Pay to Win
9. If blankets were clear we'd all look pretty stupid underneath.





## MERTON FC CLUB SHOP

Due to slow and poor service we've decided to part company with the business who ran the shop. We're looking into an alternative solution.

MERTON  
FOOTBALL CLUB



