

THE MERTON WAY



COMPLETE THE SAL SURVEY.

The Southern Amateur League(SAL) is going through some difficult times. This is to be expected because 11 a-side football is struggling to maintain its position in football. There is less commitment to Saturday league football as a result teams are dropping out, failing to fulfil fixtures and corrupting the competitive integrity of the competition. The SAL is doing its very best to keep the show on the road and has taken some difficult and in some cases unpopular decisions in what it has allowed to happen. But there are no right answers to the problems faced and the League Management Committee is going to take some serious and possibly far reaching decisions at the end of the season. In order to inform those decisions, they are conducting a survey so please complete the survey on the SAL website and do it now. It covers such matters as travelling times, kick off times and preferred types of competition. So tell them what you think now.

<http://www.southernamateurleague.co.uk/survey.html>

Also as a club we have some hard decisions to take at the end of the season. Our battle against the weather always tips in favour of the elements at this time of the year and the vandalism at the Hood has made this an even more depressing time but it is great how many people have stepped forward to help. Particular thanks go to Peter Kemp and Steve Dewsbury for their efforts in providing extra fortifications. But this summer we will need to start discussions with the Council and their contractors about increased/continued maintenance and what we can do to help improve our facilities.

We will be canvassing your views on these issues and of course, as ever, if you are interested in helping please let me know.

One area where we **desperately** need urgent help is storage space for our equipment. Do you have a garage or shed that is secure where we could keep equipment. Please let me know as soon as you can.



Merton FC WORLD CUP!



Don't fancy a trip to Russia or Doha in the next six years? The good news is that this year, the World Cup is coming to you. That's right folks, Merton FC is staging its inaugural 5/6-a-side World Cup on Saturday 6th May at the Hood (assuming all league games are done by then – we may have to do it a week later!!!!).

Our plans at this stage are provisional depending on numbers, but the aim is to organise 8 senior teams, with squads of roughly 8 players each. Ideally, we will have seven pots, each containing names from the respective seven senior teams at the Club. We will then draw one name from each pot to compile each team, so that there is a good mix of strength from across the club. Goalkeepers will be kept separate and added in thereafter to make up the eighth member of the squad. The draw, should the enthusiasm warrant it, will be done on Facebook Live closer to the time, thus making for an enjoyable spectacle.

We will then separate the 8 teams into two pools of four, with the four teams in each section playing against each other in a round robin (ie: 3 matches). We will then have semi finals and a final, along with a plate section for those who don't make the playoffs.

Games will be 20 minutes' long, with three pitches marked out. That means there will be some opportunity for rest every third game as well. We'll also mark out a fourth pitch for the Youth section, so that they can stage a similar tournament. Would be great if we could include parents or coaches in their event as well – the more people we can get involved, the better.

We will decide if it is 5 or 6-a-side closer to the time, depending on numbers. Start time will likely be in the region of 1pm. Price is also TBC, although we will aim to keep it to £10 each, including food.

The aim is to make this a family-friendly occasion, with a barbecue afterwards (a big thank you to Darren Avey, who has kindly offered/been roped in to cook us burgers and sausages) and also other amenities like jumping castles and what not. There will also be Premier League football on too, which will be televised at the bar.

We'll be doing this properly too, with a trophy and prize giving. A pretty exciting concept, and could hopefully commence a fine new Merton tradition. The idea is in its embryonic phase at this stage, so all suggestions are welcome. We may even listen to them. Either way, it should be a wonderful day out for all of us.

ALL WE NEED FROM YOU AT THIS STAGE IS TO CONFIRM WHETHER YOU ARE KEEN TO PLAY!!!!

Please let Mike Todt, Neal Davison or Sherbs know. All are welcome to come along, so tell your family and friend. We will be creating an event on Facebook too. Many thanks in advance for your enthusiasm lads!

THINGS TO KNOW

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.

From this Saturday a dustbin will be provided out on the pitch and please put your empty bottles, tape and trash 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 with each match and certificated 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 also will be running an Emergency Aid training course in November 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!!

TRAINING

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

TIME: 8pm-9.30pm on Wednesday evenings.
(please arrive by 7.30pm to stretch and warm up)

SURFACE: Astro-turf: please wear appropriate footwear

Each 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.

SHOWERS

Teams that have an earlier kick off than other teams, can you please ensure you **TURN THE SHOWERS OFF** when leaving changing room.

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've seen 2 millennia, 2 centuries, 3 decades, and I'm only 19.
2. Adulthood basically comes down to a nightly decision: sleep or hobbies.
3. In 50 years there's probably going to be a bunch of vaping grandpas.
4. There's a fine line between crazy & free spirited and it's usually a prescription.
5. The first guy who heard a parrot talk was probably not ok for a few days.
6. Would farts be embarrassing if they smelled pleasant?
7. They should play loud music in public bathrooms so you dont hear peoples asses unleash hell.
8. The reason why it seems like the washer or dryer only eats one sock is because if it ate a whole pair, I would never notice.
9. I never think of my belt as dirty until I realize I've never washed it and it is also usually the first thing I touch after wiping my ass.
10. Continents begin with 'A' and end with 'A'. Except for Europe, which begins with 'E' and ends in 'E'.

TV OF THE WEEK:

OJ - Made in America - BBC 4

SONG OF THE WEEK:

Human - Rag'n'Bone Man

1s

MERTON FC 0
Bank of England 5

Merton had won its two previous meetings against the Bank of England away this season going into Saturday's match and was looking forward to making it a clean sweep for the season. The Captains of both teams moved the game from the Hood to BoE's pitch early in the week to ensure the game would be played given the weather and conditions. In the league standings BoE trailed Merton by only two points making this a must win for both teams.

Merton had their first real chance of the game when Van beat his man down the right side of the pitch and delivered an angled pass backward from the BoE goal line to a wide open Nick in BoE's box. Nick took a touch and shot but a BoE defender was there to block it. Not long after Merton had a breakdown on defense and BoE's center forward flicked on a pass to their wide open right winger, who slotted it past Siri from no more than 8 yards away. Siri had no chance.

Merton had another chance in the half when Vanny delivered a cross to streaking Johnny on the back post, however, Johnny's touch went straight to the keeper and Merton went into halftime down 1-0. Against probably the weakest BoE side Merton had seen this season, they looked sluggish and played poorly in the first half.

BoE's second goal came off of a free kick from just inside Merton's half. Siri caught the free kick inside Merton's box but was fouled by a BoE player on his way down, and subsequently spilled the ball out to a waiting BoE player, who scored. The ref did not call the foul on the play.

Following BoE's second goal, Merton played with a new spirit that created a few decent chances for Merton. Most notably, Johnny sailed a bouncing cross from Vanny over the bar from about 10 yards out. Merton's spirit did not last long and BoE's third goal followed not long after their second goal. After BoE's third goal Merton pushed Clappers forward to try to muster some offense and salvage any last dignity remaining, however, this led to a couple of BoE breakaways and meaningless goals four and five for BoE. Saturday was a disappointing effort for Merton.

Playing in front of his father for the first time this season, Ivan's dominance of BoE's left back and numerous crosses to Johnny earned him man of the match, while Kearnsey's unprecedented three foul throw-ins earned him nearly unanimous dick-of-the-day honors

With the loss Merton fell to fourth, one point behind BoE and five points behind Acton, who have a game in hand.

Starters: Siri, Clappers, Brauner, Rat, Kearnsey, Nick, Sam, Tilley, Johnny, Ivan, Tom Row

Substitutions: Milo, James

MoM: Ivan Gladkow

DoD: Will Kearns

2s

MERTON FC 0 South Bank 1

We lost 1-0. The goal was an absolute bag o'shite, being as it was scored from a corner ballooned up into the air and poked in during the resultant in-box melee with all the grace of Jason Thomas trying to reach down and touch his aging toes during warm-up. Talking of JT, he didn't last the match, winning a 50/50 battle after an hour but sadly losing the injury war.

Such battles were a feature of a game that took place on a pitch more sticky than Jordan's y-fronts after a night with one of his 'Scouse princesses'. Incidentally, Holder Ross, who was involved in many a midfield ding-dong, has a new princess of his own who he revealed was acquired in no small part thanks to liquid lubrication provided by Messrs Quinton and Willgoss on a surprise meeting in Brixton a few weekends ago. AHR formed a midfield three with Big Dave Scott and the unlikely but happy-to-run choice of the aforementioned Quinton. In truth, the best player on the pitch was none of the three but, in fact, the opposition's number 15, who gave them the runaround most of the day.

Up top JT was flanked by Tom Benham and Dan Kelly, and the attacking trio provided a threat similar to that which a pint of beer causes Man of the Match Conor Murphy: it looks and should be dangerous but the ease with which he destroys it renders it somewhat effete. Murphy played with Pearcey, Alex Welch, and Jordan in-front of Sherbs. None of the back five ever looked in trouble aside from set pieces which a) South Bank were pretty good at and b) we looked altogether wobbly.

Shots on target? We had maybe two, one a 15-yard shot on the run from DQ saved by the 'keeper's legs, and the second a Cruyffed flick by Benham that resulted in another smartish save. Towards the end of the match when subs required the formation move back to a 4-4-2 we perhaps looked a little more threatening, but Storm Doris probably caused more damage in the south east this week.

Not brilliant, then, but it were a lovely day out, and that's key. The most lovely aspect was watching our usually calm, considered and upstanding goalie raise his hands towards the goalscorer's face after he 'over-celebrated' (claiming he'd been fouled in the build-up to his goal). Sherbs raised himself to his full 5 feet 3 inches and gave the shaggy-haired pillock a little palm to the face. A yellow and DotD ensued. It should've been a red. Sherbs had a Predator instead, with none of the swiftness of Conor Murphy, but I'm sure just as much enjoyment.



3s

MERTON FC 2 Old Parkonians 3

A beautiful spring afternoon presented itself to Merton's 3's at the Hood. After the sheer stupidity of the vandals earlier in the week, Merton wanted to bring back some pride to the fortress that was the Hood.

Old Skool Rhythm and Blues was playlist of choice, and the music came flowing out of the (pointlessly smashed) dressing room windows.

Merton were in good spirits following the successful 2 wins on the bounce, unheard of this season!

The opposition was a much changed team of Old Parkonians with only 1 or 2 familiar faces from the team we played previously. Also the average size of these players was a little concern, but this didn't put off Merton, who were focused on getting the all important 3points needed, to keep their fears of relegation at bay.

Pleasantries exchanged, the game kicked off. Old Parkonians had the better first 10min, but then Merton found their stride. A lovely interchange between Darcy and Glen saw Fitz clean through. 1-0 and Merton hadn't even broken a sweat.

Merton continued to dominate for the rest of the half, with countless chances created and some even captured on film by the eagle eyed Mr Noble. However, Merton were unable to convert any, which has been the story of the season. On the positive though, as the great 'Wayne Shaw' once said, (whilst eating a pie) "Shooting off target is the start of something great... once you know your off target, you are half way there to shooting on target, which is a real game changer".

Not much else happened in the first half of note, Mustard decided to take a throw in from the wrong pitch and wondered why he could only throw 2m in distance. Mr Happy continued to shout words of encouragement to the rest of his team mates and Ricki's dog watched on from the sidelines, basking in the sunshine, dreaming of hotdogs.

Half time came and went with all the classic cliches that you have all read a million times before! Big push in the first 10min, Next goal is vital etc.

The 2nd half started much like the first, with Old Parkonians starting stronger and Dan making a number of good saves. Merton finally found their passing boots again and began to knock the ball around nicely. A few more missed opportunities came and went, before Fitz was maliciously brought down by the oppo keeper. Clear pen.

After much debate, the clubs leading penalty taker set the ball down. A whistle went, boom... goal.... cue celebration. However, it was a whistle from the other game. The ref made Darcy take the penalty again.... BOOM.

...goal.... cue celebration. However, it was a whistle from the other game. The ref made Darcy take the penalty again.... boom. Goal. Neatly slotted into the same corner as the previous penalty. “Nerves of steal”, some were heard saying on the side line.

Meton now had a 2-0 advantage and it stayed this way until the 83min.

As mentioned, the Old Parkonians had a significant height advantage, with every player being 6’2” plus. On the other hand, Merton’s tallest player was probably Glen or Neal who are an impressive 5’7” at best. I’m not sure why it took the oppo so long to work this out, but when they did, Merton were in trouble.

After 8 consecutive corners, with Merton unable to clear their lines, an oppo player broke free and whipped in another cross, which was nodded into the goal. 2-1.

Oppo now had the wind in their sails... 88min went past, 89, 90min and another set of 4 corners came Merton’s way. An exact replica of the first goal made it 2-2.

Heart break for the boars who’s defence had been solid until the 83min.

The game was restated with only seconds left on the clock... tick tock... 5mins later, oppo broke down the left, crossed the ball into the back post, which was promptly put back into the mixer for the striker to score another header. 2-3.

Merton looked by far the better team for 83mins, however like the majority of the other games this season, they found a way to mess it up and lose it.

Some harsh, but fair, words were exchanged in the dressing room, which left each player looking at his own commitment and fitness levels for next season.

Everyone returned to the bar for a beverage and to let off some steam.

Last game of the season Sat... Can Merton 3’s turn over a new leaf this side of Spring?

Goals: Fitz and Darcy

Man Of The Match: Dan

Dick Of The Day: Darcy

4s

MERTON FC 2
POLYTECHNIC 0

Maybe it was just the warmth and sunshine. After all, it would seem ridiculous on the face of it that a team who've lost five games on the bounce - especially with the latest being a 6-0 reverse at Polytechnic - should have reason to feel confident. But then again, this was a team who'd started to play some really good football recently, and therein lay the main reason for them feeling confident as they set foot in their hallowed turf at the sadly-vandalised Hood for this clash against mid-table Bank of England.

Even a teensy snafu with the kit being locked inside the clubhouse - thus ruling out any chance of a meaningful warm-up - could dent the good feeling and mirth as the Merton 4s embraced each other. Eventually, the key arrived, the AC Milan-style kit was quickly donned, and the lads took to the field under clear skies and warm temperatures.

The game kicked off, and was almost breathless right from the off. End-to-end stuff, with both teams showing plenty of endeavour. BOE certainly had the better of the exchanges in the first 15 minutes, with a right-footed shot that went wide of the left post, and another from range which Kieran tipped wide. They might have done better from a free header at a corner later on too.

But to focus on that would be an injustice to Merton, who were not only far steadier at the back, but offered plenty going forward too. The midfield engine, spearheaded by Sonny and Will, provided a good base, and when the ball was played out wide, the home side looked particularly dangerous. They got themselves into good positions too, but, as has been the case over the last few weeks, their finishing wasn't clinical.

In the last 10 minutes of the half, two crucial things happened though. At one end, Kieran made an outstanding reflex save when their striker looked sure to score. And then at the other end, in the dying minutes before the break, Mike Vogt sent a superb cross-field ball to Aaron. He nudged the ball down, it fell kindly, and he lashed it home with that deadly left boot from 10 yards out to make it 1-0.

Delirium for Merton, and what a way to go into the interval. Nothing but positive vibes were shared, but there was a determination in them to make it count. In the reverse fixture against these opponents, Merton had enjoyed the same half-time score, but shot themselves in the foot by going on the defensive.

This time though, they took the game to the oppo as soon as the whistle sounded for the resumption. Aaron was running riot on the right wing, and Merton enjoyed plenty of possession. And it stemmed almost entirely from Sonny, who was nothing short of outstanding at the heart of the midfield. His work

rate was relentless, and Bank of England could hardly get a kick. Merton delivered wave after wave of attacks, and should have really scored earlier than they did.

In fact, they should have been given what was a stonewall penalty as well, but the ref - who it must be said was otherwise superb - seemed to bottle it on a foul that would surely have been called anywhere else on the pitch. Nevertheless, Merton were not to be denied, and eventually, after many goalmouth scrambles and missed opportunities, the second goal arrived. Aaron's delivery was meekly parried by their keeper, and the ball bobbed around and eventually landed on the head of Dom. He had the simple task of nodding it over what was left of the defence, and the ball nestled gloriously in the net.

2-0. Merton had their crucial second, and Dom his first of 2017. May the floodgates now open.

More importantly, he'd now set Merton firmly on course for victory. He might have had another a few minutes later, as a delightful through ball had him one on one with the keeper. It wasn't to be though, as the keeper thwarted his effort with a good block.

On the flip side, Bank of England did have one dangerous attack, which came from a Merton error. However, Kieran timed his charge off his line to perfection, and the combination of his presence and Will cleaning up meant that the visitors had been snuffed out.

Indeed, the final 10 minutes were a masterclass in game management, as Merton maintained their grip on their opponents to see out what turned into a relatively comfortable win. But it was comfortable only because the lads had worked their socks off, chasing everything down for the cause, and pulling in the same direction for each other. All 13 players who set foot on the field had played their part, and, even if long overdue, had finally patched it all together to put on a display of which we've known we're capable all along.

Let's use it now and finish the season strong. There's plenty more good things to come from this team. Saturday was the proof of the pudding.

Team: Kieran Lee (GK), Ed Plaistow, Mike Todt, Joe Plumridge, John Gridley, Will Harrison, Michael Vogt, Chris Outred, Sonny Kennedy, Aaron Loftus, Dom Plumridge

Subs: Dan Gridley, Frankie Kaligorou

Goals: Loftus and D Plumridge

Man Of The Match : Sonny Kennedy

5s

MERTON FC 1 Kew Associate 2

Arriving in the sunny capital, I was pleased to hear that our game this weekend was away to Kew. Kew have lottery-funded pitches to suit our Barcelona-esque style of play, and a good clubhouse to complement our Gazza-esque drinking habits. However, with 2 days before the big KO, the seeds of doubt were planted as the “availability” of their pitches fell into question – a perfectly logical situation considering they have 3 pitches and 3 teams. It so transpires that the raucous group of bowles players occupying the pitches at Kew refused to leave, so the game came to the bumpy, unreliable Wimbledon Common.

Despite some confusion caused by the change, outrage at the decision to arrive 2 hours before kick-off, and the referee declaring a zero tolerance to swearing which left everyone concerned for Lenner's, we actually started the game pretty well. The opening exchanges were a little cagey; however the 5s were winning the ball well, passing it around and making the best chances of the first period. There were some good passages of play between the front 3 of Dwayne, Aaron and Gibbo that led to some half decent chances. The pick of them was a through ball to Gibbo, which left him one on one with the keeper. As the keeper backpeddled, Gibbo attempted the chip. The power wasn't there, and the ball fell harmlessly into the goalkeeper's hands. The half probably wasn't the spectacle their fans had hoped for [there were 4 of them], but from our perspective we looked the most likely.

Some shocking decisions seemed to go against us, however, and with Dulanjie absent the job fell to Dwayne to always be offside. There were 2 or 3 instances where Dwayne was judged to be offside by the referee yet started from 2 yards the right side of the defender. There were some fouls that were given for virtually nothing, and blatant offsides not called. Fearing he was going to talk himself into the book [and perhaps even get himself sent off], Lenner's decided to come off. His eloquent use of language towards the referee did continue from the sidelines, but it's much more difficult to get sent off from there – and after all, it wouldn't be a game of football if Lenner's wasn't shouting through it.

The second half started, and our changes hadn't settled into the game before we were 1 – 0 down. Something as simple as a ball over the top caught us out, and their striker raced onto it to chip Sam to give them the lead. They played with a renewed confidence after that, and truthfully could have gone 2 up had it not been for the brilliant Sam in goal. With one 1v1 save and a stop from a good shot from outside the box, we seemed to have weathered a bit of a storm and started coming back into the match.

As we were getting back into the game, an injury crisis hit. Delman was the first to go after a fine first half – the theory goes that he and Dwayne were playing kiss chase into the early hours & it had taken its toll. Then went Tiago, who claimed cramp as the reason yet was squealing as if he was the victim of Lenner's Naked shower time whilst simultaneously being eaten by a dingo. Their replacements, Steve and Pete, took to the game like a duck to water however, and we were soon to draw level.

Pete threatened immediately, with a through ball finding him around 20 yards out. With the keeper off his line, he tried the chip however the ball narrowly sailed over the bar. Not long after, the move was almost identical, however the outcome was different. With the ball bouncing, Pete took it first time to lob the keeper with a fine finish to make it 1-1. Cue an exciting finale.

Towards the end of the game, both teams seem discontent with a point

It was Merton, however, that was evidently tiring and that showed in the last 5 minutes. In a good passage of play by the oppo, coupled with some laboured closing down from a tired Merton, their player found a little bit of space to put the ball into the box. Their striker, about 2 yards offside, was on hand to stick the ball past Sam from around 8 yards to give Kew the points. The striker expectantly looked towards the referee, and our defence seemed miffed, but the whistle did not come and the goal stood. The complaints were not as vigorous as they could have been, owing to the fact that our players were knackered and perhaps not altogether surprised considering the decisions of the ref throughout the game. Lenner's could still be heard in the distance making the case in a calm and measured manner as always, but the ref's mind wasn't to be changed and the game ended 1-2.

The effort put in was superb from our lot and with some extra fitness that comes with a run of games or with a couple of goals in the first half, we could have won this game. Despite the spell around their first goal, our defence and midfield were very strong, winning 50/50s and managing to play the ball around despite the tricky conditions. Dwayne, Aaron and Gibbo were a constant threat as an attacking trio – the final ball/finish just wasn't quite there but on another day, they could each have scored. And off the bench Steve slotted very comfortably into an unfamiliar right back position, Darren offered steel in the midfield that Tiago had been adding in the first half and their defence couldn't deal with Pete's pace, as his goal suggests.

The drink up that ensued afterwards was good fun, with this reporter's storytelling getting him into the post-match venue without ID, in a conversation that ended with "duck the pom pom", or words to that affect [this is a family-friendly report, afterall]. Since the lovely gentleman was letting me in, I didn't have the heart to tell him that I actually think the "pom pom" is doing a great job despite their ever-dwinking resources, so I went along with it.

It was great to see everyone again and I will keep following the 5s on their mighty run up the football league.

Man Of The Match - Pete

6s

MERTON FC 7
Old Wilsonians 1

Today was going to be a good day, I could feel it.

Maybe my aura was the good colour or because Kev's face had that beautiful 'day after kebab' glow it often does, but the sun was shining and we were ready to bounce back after our dressing down at Carshalton.

Kitted up, stretched and raring to go, we lined up to gain a valuable 3 points against bottom of the league, which I have only noticed since the game have yet to register any points in the table, and averaging 0.5 goals per game, ouch. First outing of the season lining up in a 4-3-3 formation (courtesy of yours truly) as we showed intent to press from the top and play free-flowing attacking football.

Understandably it wasn't long before we took the lead, Matt whipping in a cross to absolutely nobody as their centre back - unfortunately for him - pocketed the ball in his own net in an attempted clearance. Things carried on in similar fashion as our front three of Trey, Paul and Callum ran rings around their defence, linking up well with pace and confidence to bag our second goal of the game, and third, and so on...

I couldn't write this report without a mention of two world class goals, Paul from the p-spot smashing home a waist-high volley cross from the right, and myself with a belter from outside the box even Frank Lampard couldn't muster, I'm pretty sure the bar is still shaking. 6-0 up at half time we had well and truly put the game to bed, which was fortunate considering I couldn't stop my legs from cramping (admittedly a long cycle before the game wasn't my best idea).

Chappel, as he often does, played with confidence and was willing to assert his authority, although attempting yet another injury on our own team with Matt this time the victim does present the case for a more channelled approach to his aggression. Ty had his most lazy-Fabregas performance to date, pinging 40 yard passes for fun, which unfortunately Matt would often clear out for a goal-kick their end for good measure.

Considering our outstanding link-up play in the first half, man of the match could have gone to a number of people; Callum and Ty for great link up play, myself for naughty tekkers and that wondergoal, or Paul for putting yet another good shift in up top and a Zlatan-worthy strike, but Trey had a game to remember, causing all sorts of problems up top with his movement in behind and netting a brace to top it off.

There are a few contenders for dick of the day; Chappel's self-destructive aggression, Ty's booking for not winding his f*cking neck in, or even Matt forgetting he isn't Steven Gerrard and doesn't 'score for fun' from 40 yards... however this week has got to go to our very cocky keeper Swanny, who for some reason thought he would try and take on their centre forward and losing the ball in front of goal, which really should have been punished if their striker had more composure.

But, of course as he will remind me "the sun was in my eyes", which I would argue is less the reason to take a chance!

Man Of The Match: Trey
Dick Of The Day: Swanny

7s

MERTON FC 0
Alleyn Old Boys 9

A poor day at the office. Alleyn's with a much changed squad namely they had 14 players available at the start rather than the 9 in the reverse fixture and they were looking for revenge. We lined with a changed side and few changes of position which didn't help as Alleyn's started strongly and were knocking the ball around well which had us under pressure and we couldn't create anything up front. We did manage to withstand the early pressure however after about 30 minutes Alleyn's find scored and after that we struggled badly and were 4-0 by half time and apart from one wayward shot had never really troubled Alleyn's keeper.

The second half was as much about damage limitation as trying to win. Our cause wasn't help by a deflected 5th goal early in the second half. Whilst we did create a few more half chance with Billy charging up the left wing, we rarely looked like scoring. Alleyn's were to some extent scoring at will. The final score was 9-0.

Some positives from the game in which the team didn't gel, we did kept on trying to play football and didn't argue with each other.

Some strong performance from Dave in the captains roll as centre midfield ably assisted by Adam with Andrew doing a lot running on the right wing. Tom and Jon T. both who came on as substitutes in the second half. As the write I am not mentions the keepers and I do like chips!

Team:

Martin, Scott, Dan John K, Josh, Andrew, Dave, Adam, Billy, Malcolm and Dylan.

Subs: Tom and Jon T.

Man Of The Match – Tom with a couple of votes.

Dick Of The Day – There were no really mistakes on the pitch so it goes to Tom for forgetting his shit pads and having to go a buy a new pair.

Name: Dan Ally
TEAM: 7s/manager.
POSITION: Defender/manager.
BIRTH DATE: 04/03/94.
BIRTH PLACE: Kingston.
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Riegate prioy, Kingswood fc.

DAN ALLY



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

I'm an all round builder but my speciality is bricklaying, patios and driveways. I always make sure iv got time for playing football, going fishing, playing guitar, going to gigs/festivals and going out. I'm very laid back and just goes with the flow.

2. How did you end up at Merton FC?

I Searched for local football teams In my area on the Internet and found merton fc and now I'm here.

3. What was your best moment in your MFC career till now?

Becoming the 7s manager.

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

LA Galaxy, because it's in los Angeles lets face it who wouldn't wanna live there?

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

Listening to Taylor Swift in the car driving to home and away games always gets me in the mood before a match, but I do have a habbit of always forgetting the kit.

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

To Continue playing strong and focused in every game, the aim is to finish at least in the top four this season.

Player of the season (at Merton, or in professional football): Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

Childhood Team: Liverpool fc.

Favourite team in the UK: Liverpool fc.

Favourite team outside the UK: Real Madrid

Childhood Hero: Ronaldo(Brazilian Ronaldo)

Favourite Food: Fried Chicken and Chips

Favourite Drink: Southern Comfort & lemonade.

Favourite Band: Red Hot Chili Peppers.

RAPID FIRE

NAME: MICHAEL GUBBY
TEAM: VARIOUS
POSITION: GK (WITH THE ODD CAMEO ON FIELD)
BIRTH DATE: 10TH MAY 1993
BIRTH PLACE: BASINGSTOKE
PREVIOUS CLUBS: VARIOUS TEAMS CLOSER TO HOME

MICHAEL GUBBY



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

I'm a product manager for BT, managing the process of changing prices that our customer's pay. Outside of that im a lot less boring...

Love listening to music and going to gigs of various genres and watching and playing a variety of sports. Oh and getting drunk quite often with friends

2. How did you end up at Merton FC?

Through a few friends who work at BT with me and play for Merton

3. What was your best moment in your MFC career till now?

Picking up MOTM and DOTD on debut (for the 3s)

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

I would play for Man United. Been a fan since my dad made me a fan as a young kid

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

Always put my gloves on last...

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

I would love a clean sheet or a point at all on the goalkeepers Golden Glove table.

Player of the season (at Merton, or in professional football):

Zlatan!

Childhood Team: Man United

Favourite team in the UK: Man United

Favourite team outside the UK: The Burkina Faso national team

Childhood Hero: Peter Schmeichel

Favourite Food: Nachos

Favourite Drink: Cherry Coke

Favourite Band: Foals

RAPID FIRE

U9s

MERTON FC 1 Wandgas Youth Fc 4

On a much milder Sunday away in Worcester Park, Merton took on the under 9s from Wandgas, who were known to be a strong side having recently played in the division above.

This week Merton showed some excellent defensive work with Joshua winning man-of-the-match award for his fantastic tackling in defense. Doo Ho also provided another master class in goal repelling multiple shots on target. In attack, Presley scored another wonder goal and we had 2 more fabulous goals disallowed by the referee which was the game changer. Notwithstanding this, Merton are now finding their level, playing against some strong and decent opposition, which in the long run should be positive for the team as they develop.

In the end, it was probably fair to say that the ultimate scoreline did not adequately represent the period of play, with Merton coming back and attacking particularly well in the second half.

Best wishes to the team going forward, and a big thank you to all the parents who came along to support.

U11s

MERTON FC

NO GAME

U13s

MERTON FC 5
G4G FC 2

NO MATCH REPORT SUBMITTED

U14s

MERTON FC 2

AC Fulham 2

NO MATCH REPORT SUBMITTED

U15s

MERTON FC 4
Wallington Wonderers 5

NO MATCH REPORT SUBMITTED

WHO'S WHERE AND WHEN

SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2017

1s
MERTON FC v Weirside Rangers
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 14:00

2s
Old Blues v MERTON FC
Old Blues Sports Ground – 14:30

3s
MERTON FC v Nottsborough
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 14:30

4s
LLoyds Warren v MERTON FC
LLoyds Warren Sports Ground – 14:30

5s
South Bank Cuaco MERTON FC
South Bank Sports Group - 14:30

6s
MERTON FC v Old Wilsonians
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground– 14:30

7s
MERTON FC v Old Wilsonians
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground– 14:30

SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2017

U9s
Spelthorne Sports Sky v MERTON FC
Away

U11s
Roehampton Rangers v MERTON FC
Away

U13s
MERTON FC v Epsom Town Youth
Away

U14s
MERTON FC v Mitcham Park Stripes
Home

U15s
MERTON FC v Croygas Lions
Home

MERTON FOOTBALL CLUB

Joseph Hood Pavilion, Joseph Hood Recreation Ground, Martin Way, Merton, London SW20 9BU