

THE MERTON WAY



BUILDING ON HARD WORK

It should be a good weekend at the Hood. Festivities start early with Old Westminster Citizens (OWC) Vets playing our Vets at 1pm (see below pics of our last encounter at Christmas 2015). Then there will be our home games and then onto watch England on TV in the bar. As we know, OWC folded as a club last season when they lost their ground which, albeit slightly run down

clubhouse had four good grass pitches and I guess will be developed for housing and football will be lost to it. No wonder football is in decline, hardly anything is being done to provide new state of the art facilities and very little to help those that try. That is why we need to look after the Hood and what we have got and if we can't get anything better then work to improve The Hood as a home ground for an expanding Merton Football Club.



Merton FC & Old Westminster Citizens Vets: before their encounter in 2015

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.

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.

HOW TO GET THERE:

TRAIN: Mitcham Eastfields train station is a five minute walk from the pitches and 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 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.

GUESS WHO?

PICTURES FROM PAST

The 3s celebrate in 2011



Merton FC 3s: not too sure what they're celebrating

RAM'S HEADS UP

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. How can something be 'new' and 'improved'? If it's new, what was it improving on?
2. When two men get married to each other, do they both go to the same stag do?
3. When people see you laying down with your eyes closed, they still ask you... "Are you asleep?"
I normally reply 'No, I'm training to die'
4. Do you ever go out and while you're out, you think "this is exactly why I don't go out!"
5. I wonder if in Africa they have 'Lynx England' that smells of beer and cigarettes.
6. What if you are in hell and you're mad at someone... where do you tell them to go?
7. My new Thai girlfriend said, "A small penis shouldn't be a problem in a loving relationship."
I still wish she didn't have one.
8. Relationships are like fat people. Most of them don't work out.
9. Sarcasm... I sprinkle that shit on everything!

TV OF THE WEEK:

The Night of – Sky Atlantic

SONG OF THE WEEK:

Say You Won't Let Go – James Arthur

1s

MERTON FC 4 IBIS EAGLES 3

Last season's game saw us dominate with no reward, so to come out winners of this seven goal thriller was even more satisfying. We started well, defending strongly, winning the ball in midfield and getting in behind the IBIS's full-backs. It was this combination that led to us taking the lead.

Sam brought a defensive clearance down, turned his man, and played a great ball over the top of their left-back for Vanny to run on to. He took the ball in his stride, ran into the box and finished low and hard at the near post to make it 1-0 to the men in yellow.

Whether it was over confidence or just sloppiness, all of a sudden our defenders became their best attacking threat. We managed to play in their centre forward twice when a simple pass to a man in yellow was on. The first two times he let us off, but it was third time unlucky for us. Chaz didn't get enough on a back header to me, I then only managed to head the ball against the on rushing centre forward and he broke forward. There was still a chance to recover, but with Siri narrowing the angle and me getting back on the cover, Chaz decided the best option was to scythe him down. IBIS got back on terms from the resulting penalty. Only a very good smother from Siri, late in the half, kept it all square at half-time.

IBIS began the second half on the front foot, but it was us who struck next. Woody sent in a deep free-kick, which I headed down to an unmarked Chaz. He controlled and turned in his debut goal to make it 2-1. This should have been the signal for us to take control but again we opted for the complete opposite and pressed the self-destruct button as hard as we could.

Firstly, we conceded our second penalty. We were slow to pick up the IBIS centre-back and then let him run 20 yards with the ball. A ricochet just outside our box saw him break through and now it was my turn to bring their man down. Again they scored from the penalty spot to draw back level at 2-2, more good work wasted.

Five minutes later and my finger was still hard down on the aforementioned button. An innocuous pass was played to me midway into our half. I controlled the ball, looked up, and... slipped over! Their centre forward picked up the loose ball and gleefully ran through to score. 3-2, with a very buoyant IBIS and a red faced me.

Thankfully our new look team is full of characters with real strength in depth. Sam, Woody and Tills took control of midfield, whilst Charlie and Jonny, both fresh off the bench, harassed and ran at the IBIS backline. One burst from Charlie



Merton 1s: Charlie, the hero!

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saw him brought down in the left channel. Woody delivered a good ball to the back post where an IBIS defender kindly headed into his own net to make it 3-3 and our tails were now up, but time was against us.

With ten minutes left on the clock, the game was won with the best goal of the game, by far. Chaz had the ball deep in our half and knocked a great ball over their left back. Tilley flicked it onto Charlie at the corner of the 18 yard box. As the ball dropped over his shoulder, he unleashed a dipping volley which sailed over the rooted keeper and nestled in the far bottom corner. We managed to finally see out the rest of the game to end up 4-3 winners. A great finish to an entertaining game!

We headed off on our night out in high spirits and Vanny dressed as Jon Bon Jovi.

TEAM: Siri, Will Low, Chaz, Clappers, Kearnsy, Sam, Woody, Tilley, Vanny (Jonny 65), Tom (Charlie 70), Milo (Nick 80)

SUBS: Jonny, Charlie, Nick

MAN OF THE MATCH: Charlie (with mention to Kearnsy and Sam)

DICK OF THE DAY: Clappers (not the best week for me to bring this in)

2s

MERTON FC 1

OLD OWENS 1

(OLD OWENS WON 6-5 ON PENALTIES)

Merton suffered a heartbreaking penalty shootout loss against an Old Owens side several divisions above them, denying them a famous win/cupset/insert giant killing metaphor here.

With twelve brave players making the trip outside(!) the M25 to Potters Bar for this fixture, Merton immediately made use of their relative unfamiliarity by taking the unusual step of not warming up with a football. No pre game intelligence (or a football) at all...until the referee gave us a ball with 5 minutes before kick-off. The best laid plans...

Despite (or because) of this Owens started the stronger, moving the ball well and threatening from wide positions and set pieces. Sherbs had already plucked a couple of dangerous crosses from the heads of opposing players before another whipped cross just failed to be turned in at the near post.

After weathering this initial pressure, Merton began to grow into the game and slowly began to force Owens back. Jason started to get some joy holding up the ball in his lone forward role and the midfield began to get on the ball as a result. Mike, Andy and Darcy in the middle began to find Joe and Alex on the wings. As Merton grew into the game, the chances began to come. First a great channel ball from fullback Clowsy brought a throw in near the corner flag and neatly worked to pick out Alex at the back post. Despite a great leap the ball just went over the crossbar.

More half-chances at both ends came as the half continued, with Mike Stone volleying wide from the edge of the area after great work from Alex and Darcy. A brilliant crossfield diagonal from Alex almost saw Dan K in behind on the opposite wing before being cut back to Darcy but Merton couldn't quite find the finish. At the other end the back four of clowsy cookie pearcy and connor was soaking up everything Owens could throw at them.

Then, just before half time Merton took the lead. Great work down the left saw the ball worked into the area and to Alex's feet. As time seemed to stand still suddenly Darcy's voice could be heard saying "hit it, son", and Alex duly delivered, striking the ball inside the keeper's near post. 1-0. Darcy claimed all the credit for his prophetic advice.

Merton survived until half time without any serious alarms and at the half time team talk Merton felt the game was there for the taking.

The second half saw Old Owens start fast, determined to reassert themselves against their upstart visitors. With Merton struggling again to get out of their half, chances began to flow for the home team, with the post coming first to the rescue and then a series of last ditch tackles. However, just as Merton seemed to have weathered the storm an equaliser came. Andy helped a clearance on the edge of the area and as more Merton players closed down the shot from the edge of the area a scuffed, sliced effort dribbled through towards Sherbs. Merton fatally relaxed as the spin on the ball took it away from goal and an Owens player benefited from a lucky ricochet as Sherbs just beat him to the loose ball, walking the ball over the line for 1-1... gutting!!

Worse almost followed as Owens hit the crossbar from close range following a cut back from the right, and

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then Sherbs pulled off a blinding save, tipping a shot at full stretch round the post.

Merton rallied, and with just a few minutes to play they almost snatched the winner. Dan closed down the opposing fullback, and his block found Joe Grew running in on goal twenty yards out with just the onrushing keeper to beat. Said Keeper did well to block Joe's attempted lob and force the ball wide, but the chance was still alive with 2 Merton players screaming for a cross. The cross came in; Darcy got the faintest of touches from his head, forcing Dan to readjust and the ball then fell to Andy who stabbed wide from 12 yards. Merton saw out the rest of the game without alarm and the decision was made to go straight to pens.

It all started so well. Sherbs saved the first penalty of the shootout and very nearly the third. Merton converted penalties 1 to 4, and had their fifth kick to win the tie. Jason stepped up as the rest of the team looked on, only for his penalty to be saved by the keeper to his right. Three more successful penalties followed leaving Dan K having to score to take the shootout to an eighth penalty. He did not, blazing over with a poor effort, and that was it.

So a great team effort (everyone played well and worked their socks off) but in the end there was nothing to show for it. We go again next week.

MAN OF THE MATCH: Cookie (marshalled the defence superbly and slotted his pen)

DICK OF THE DAY: Jason edged Dan to the award for the missed pen

4s

MERTON FC 0 OLD WOKINGIANS 8

A pair of 4-1 defeats had marked the start of a thus-far disappointing season for the 4s, but the AFA Cup presented a welcome distraction, and a good opportunity to turn things around against Old Wokingians 4s.

Perfect conditions at the Hood, with barely a breath of wind, the occasional drizzle to slick the surface and nice mild temperatures. Sadly, the ground staff had seen fit to hollow tine the pitch during the week, so it was hardly at its smoothest.

Nevertheless, Merton were in a good frame of mind as the game kicked off, opting for a 4-2-3-1 formation which had a good feel about it. Yet it was Wokingians who dominated possession upfront, and pinged the ball around with a bit too much ease. That said, Merton were working hard, and seemed to have the measure of their opponents.

It made the opening goal slightly galling to concede. Kieran had done the right thing coming off his line, but the scuffed shot from their striker from outside the box just beat his fingertips, and the ball agonisingly nestled in the side of the net. 1-0, and pretty tough on Merton really.

Not so the second and third goals though. After not conceding from a single corner in 2015/16, the shocker conceded three weeks ago was followed by a calamitous Mike own goal here. Having initially lost his man for the corner, he recovered to get in front of him again. However, with his body facing the wrong way, he was faced with the choice of leaving it for their big ogre-like captain to tap in, or do the job himself. Courtesy of a high, ugly shin, Mike opted for the latter, and smashed it into the back of the net.

Will, who was one of the players of the day, might have done better with the third goal though. Having done well to get on the end of their corner, he wasn't able to clear his lines, and just like that, it was 3-0.

It was pretty grim at that point - the scoreline more a reflection of three completely avoidable goals rather than any Wokingians' dominance. Merton showed real character though, and produced a stirring 15 minutes where they closed their opponents down, and even looked a threat. The voices were becoming louder, and there was hope of nicking one back before the break.

Alas, when it rains it pours, and Wokingians scored twice more in the closing minutes of the half - the first a result of some good interplay and a great run from their little striker, and the second a thumping first time volley.

With the score 5-0 at half-time, what do you say? Impressively though, the talk was constructive at the break. There was still pride to play for, and the plan was to adopt a high line, and play some football in the opponents' half for a change and for 20 minutes, it really worked a treat.

Wokingians were being snuffed out, and Merton had some chances of their own. A teasing free kick from Dan lacked the finish from Mike in the box. Dom then found himself with a free header after a fine corner from Carl, but alas his powerful effort just went over the crossbar. Then Scholesy found himself on the receiving end of a long ball, and almost through on goal. However, his first touch just got slightly away from him, and the keeper did well to snuff out the chance.

Unfortunately things didn't finish well either. Wokingians 'beat' the offside line a couple more times, and the score escalated to 6, then 7, and then at the death an 8th goal to add insult to injury. Grizzly stuff indeed, and a sad way to end.

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But all 14 boys gathered in the change room afterwards and engaged in what was a proper heart-to-heart. After three weeks with no improvement, something has to be done, and everyone to a man voiced their opinions about how to sort things out. Everyone walked out of the changing room feeling better than when they went in, and credit to the manager and every player for that.

Of course, it is actions on the pitch, rather than talk, which is needed to turn things around. But this is a team who know they can do the business when their tails are up. All it needs is a result to go their way. Hopefully that will come against Polytechnic at the Hood on Saturday.

TEAM: Kieran Lee (GK), Ed Plaistow, Mike Todt, Will Harrison, Ryan Burchell, Chris Outred, Joe Plumridge, Dan Gridley, Chris Dodd, Sonny Kennedy, Dom Plumridge

SUBS: John Gridley, Carl Kewley, Noor Emad

BOOKED: Dan Gridley

MAN OF THE MATCH: Dan Gridley

5s

MERTON FC 2 CIVIL SERVICE 0

I recently attended a Match Report Writers Association gathering, of which they all offered their condolences. “How do you remember all those missed chances?” they ask me, fully understanding that misses are harder to remember than goals. In truth, it is impossible – there are just so many! However, I will yet again try my best, but when you are sitting down for supper on a Saturday night, spare a thought for the poor match report writer, scratching his head with one hand and holding a pen in the other, struggling to recall the misses of the day and which ones to include in the report.

We started the match positively, opening the scoring within the first 3 or 4 minutes – a situation that we found ourselves at the tail end of last year far too many times. The ball was played to Dulanjie, who turned with it on the half way line and made like Usain & bolted. Breaking free of the defence, Dulanjie found himself one-on-one, a situation that he has found himself a couple of times this season. This time, however, he confidently and firmly stroked the ball into the far corner of the net to put the mighty 5s 1-0 up. It must be pointed out that Dulanjie is now on a 3 in 3 record – a very commendable one for a striker. Could this be the day where we run away with a game? Could it be an easier match report to write? Of course not.

In truth, a sure-fire sign that this was going to be a strange game was when I found myself uncharacteristically with the ball at my feet in a one-on-one in the box. I had already wrote the glorious finish into the match report in my head by the time I realised I had gently passed the ball harmlessly out for a goal kick. As if this situation was not strange enough, a free kick flicked on by Clive found its way to Lenners in the 6 yard box. He took it down superbly and the first thought was “surely not”. Sensing that this couldn’t be happening, the referee blew for offside, however it is worth noting that the keeper pulled off a brilliant save anyway.

Then came the strong penalty shouts. Like a tiger, Dwayne pounced onto the loose ball in the area. Sensing the onrushing defender, Dwayne put his body in the way, enticing the rather foolish contact from the Actonian’s defender. Despite a slight tap, Dwayne ended up spread-eagled on the deck, ready to receive as if it were naked Lee time. Dwayne smashed the penalty down the middle, with the keeper kindly moving out the way to make it 2-0. Followed was an even stronger shout. Aaron Byrne beat the defender in the box and short of a metal chair to the face, this could have been a wrestling move. Aaron was wrestled to the floor when he would have been 1 on 1, but the shout was no penalty. The half ended with us two up.

A particular positive from the half, which would be continued in the second half, was how comfortable our defence was – not something that we could say often last year! The back five [keeper included] of Sam in goal, Josh, Darren, Lenners and Delman were equal to anything that they threw at us. Apart from one chance towards the end of the game where they missed a header from just a few yards out, they did not create many meaningful chances at all. This was to be the first time that I have seen the 5s hold out for a clean sheet – a marvellous defensive effort for the team.

It would be easy to be consumed by the misses at the other end of the pitch, however it is worth remembering that we are creating a lot of chances per game – it would not be an over exaggeration to say that we could easily have at least +15 goal difference from our first three games. If this goes on for much longer, however, Disney could probably make a film of our woes called Merton 5s and the Curse of the 2

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Goals; such is our aversion to scoring more than 2 despite the chances that come our way. Latching on to through balls, Dulanjie manufactured more one-on-one situations, yet their goalkeeper made a few good saves. However the film would mainly be starring our Chuckle Brothers Aaron & Dwayne on this occasion; admittedly there was much more of the “to me” as the “to you”. Dwayne cut in beautifully from the left, attracting their full back on the far side over. A simple ball across would leave Aaron with an empty net, however on the stretch Dwayne hit the ball out the park for a home run. Aaron then returned the favour, cutting in from the right and attracting their defence over, leaving space for Dwayne on the far side. Aaron’s shot was powerful, but at the keeper. Both players aghast that the other didn’t pass, I think we’ll call it even on this occasion – but the way the chances were created is a very encouraging factor.

We threatened to open the floodgates, but then remembered that the pitches at Merton probably would be unlikely to hold, so left it at 2-0 for the remainder of the game. And we were not short of man of the match contenders this week. Dwayne scored his first for the season, Dulanjie increased his tally to 3 in 3, Aaron B tore their left back to shreds and Ackers deputised for Andy Bitmead in an attacking role expertly, using the ball well throughout the game. However it seemed inevitable that in our first clean sheet that the award would go to one of our defensive players. Delman and Josh were faster, wiser and stronger than their counterparts, not allowing anything to come down the wings. Lenners was strong in every tackle he went for and did not get sent off despite us having a ref partial to a red card for dissent [very much worth a mention]. However, the Man of this Match was Darren Avey, who was completely dominant at the back, winning everything in the air and alleviating so much pressure when they were throwing the kitchen sink at us. He was denied the taking of the penalty despite being the best taker at the club, but played a big part in our clean sheet and is a deserving winner.

6s

MERTON FC 2 SOUTH BANK CUACO 2

At last... a positive match report to write! After the disappointment of the week before it was time to re-group and go again. Things got off to a good start as almost everyone turned up on time, but there is always one late and this week it was Chris!

Anyway, back to the game, after last week's disaster it was safe to say we started the game much brighter and were at least trying to move the ball quicker this week. In the early stages of the game we created some great chances with Scott missing a guilt edge chance when one on one and Dave hitting the post, to which I have never seen a ball hit the inside of a square post and go off for a throw in!

After making a few subs during the first half the momentum slightly shifted with South Bank coming back into the game but they failed to create any chances. At half time the game was still 0-0.

After the half-time team talk, we again started brightly and the first 15 minutes flew by – so much so that the ref didn't know how minutes had gone (he was an entertaining chap!). mid-way through the half, Merton's breakthrough finally came. A mix up in the South Bank defence and with a bit of pin ball around the box, Scott swept home for his first of the season.

After we scored South Bank came back into the game and had a couple of half chances. As we entered the latter stages of the game, South Bank equalised. It was disappointing as we had a throw in near their corner flag, but failed to capitalise and they broke quick. Some of the squad say it was the left-back's fault as he was upfield and failed to get back, the left-back says it was a poor throw in and the centre-half and keeper should have done better! Anyways, after they equalised with us being on top for most of the game, our heads slightly dropped and then the unthinkable happened. A long ball over the top and with Chappell thinking he was on rugby pitch, brought down the striker on then edge of the area. Luckily, he wasn't last man and to be fair Chappell did slip, so it was only a booking. From the resulting free-kick, the striker bent the ball into the top corner (of the keeper's side – sorry Swanny!) and they went 2-1 up. We were all thinking the worse was going to happen and especially after we dominated the vast majority of the game.

With time ticking away, the lads re-focused and after a superb 40 yard pinpoint pass, the gaffer found Paul who outmuscled the defender to smash the ball high into the net for a deserved equaliser! The game finished 2-2 and we move onto next week!

Special mention to the South Bank lads who played the game in a good, but competitive sprit and it was great to see them in the bar afterwards to discuss a few talking points.

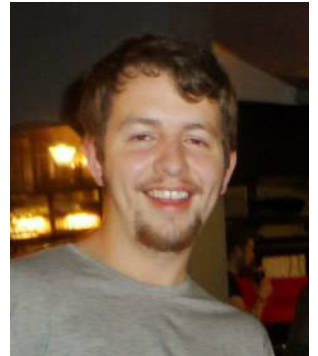
TEAM: Swanny, Kev, Chappell, Beans, Martin, Ty, Paul, Matt, Scott, Pete, Dave

SUBS: Ram, Malcolm, Chris.

MAN OF THE MATCH: To be fair this was a difficult decision as everyone had a good game. After counting the votes Beans, Chappell and Paul got nominations but this week it goes to Dave who had the majority of votes and had a great game up top and held the ball up well!

DOG OF THE DAY: Again a difficult decision – votes were received for Gaffer (who apparently went missing for the equaliser and wasn't happy with the throwing!), Pete (for booting the ball away when upset with a decision, and was lucky not to get booked) and for Scott (for missing a sitter!). Unanimous decision this week though was for a player on competitive debut – step up Chris! (this was for being slightly late, then forgetting shinpads were part of the footballers attire!)

LUKE NEWMAN



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

I work with councillors at Surrey County Council, and enjoy my work, which probably makes me a little dull. I play football 4 times a week now, as to try and avoid a social life; however I do always seem to end up going out on a Friday somehow.

2. How did you end up at Merton FC?

My old club, OWC folded. Merton is my local club, therefore an obvious choice. I came initially to try it out; after a few games with Merton 5s I felt very comfortable and haven't looked back since!

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

Minus pre-season, I still have not scored for Merton, so it can't be that. The double header victory of last season, and our only 2 wins of last season, stands out as the best moment. I look forward to more of those this season.

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

Definitely Fulham. In the next 10 years I hope we will get promoted, to experience that with the team I support would be great.

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

As a deep lie-in midfielder, I find getting there on time is usually a good omen.

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

Promotion with the 5s. More goals than own goals this season, or at the very least, equal on 0. Stop Darren from shaving any hair off my body.

Player of the season (so far): Not started yet!

Childhood Team: Wimbledon FC

Favourite team in the UK: Fulham

Favourite team outside the UK: FC Copenhagen

Childhood Hero: Can't think of any

Favourite Food: Pizza

Favourite Drink: Hobgoblin

Favourite Band: Steel Panther

RAPID FIRE

RYAN GRETTY



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

I'm a Mechanical Engineer for TfL. So if you want to know some mildly interesting tube facts or just have a moan about the service, I'm your man. I'm also a big traveler; always keen on a trip away particularly if it involves riding a motorbike or watching England play cricket. Have I ever told you about the time I ended up on a huge piss up with half the England team after winning the Melbourne test in 2010?

2. How did you end up at Merton FC?

I used to hate playing against Merton when I was a north Londoner, especially when we (Finchley 3s) lost the league by a point to your lot in 2010/11. Once I moved south of the river I decided if you can't beat em, join em and am delighted that I did.

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

Scoring the winner in the 2s' pulsating 4-3 victory over Ally Park last season. Left footed... aimed for the bottom left corner....ball went top right. Then they went straight up the other end and we needed a Sherbs wonder save to seal the victory. I got very drunk that night!

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

The Detroit Red Wings NHL team. I used to play a bit of ice hockey, still watch plenty of it, and have been to a handful of Red Wings games over the years. When I got into hockey in the early 2000s they were perennial winners but these days they're a bit crap so maybe I could get in the side if I dusted off my skates.

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

I listen to the Al Pacino speech from Any Given Sunday on the way to a game (and have been known to recite the whole thing on special occasions). Also the Gladiator sound track. Strength and honour!

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

Simple: winning the league with the 2s. It's about time I brought in some silverware for Merton FC.

Player of the season (so far): At Merton, Wilgo

Childhood Team: Manchester United

Favourite team in the UK: Heart of Midlothian

Favourite team outside the UK: Anyone who are playing England at football or rugby (sorry – Scottish heritage!)

Childhood Hero: Roy Keane

Favourite Food: Blueberry pancakes

Favourite Drink: Tea, strong, no sugar and loads of milk please

Favourite Band: Manic Street Preachers

RAPID FIRE

U9s

MERTON FC 15 CORINTHIAN CASUALS 0

At home on a lovely sunny autumn morning we continued our winning streak with a conclusive 15-0 victory over Corinthian Casuals. Full of confidence we started the game like a hurricane which just did not blow out.

This was not a total walkover as the scoreline suggests, Credit to the Corinthians who had some good strong players, fought hard and fair all the way to the final whistle and won individual battles across the pitch In a game played in great spirit and atmosphere with very good parental support from both teams. However as a team our performance was just too strong for the Corinthians to handle.

We shuffled positions during the match using 3 different keepers 5 different strikers, and many other changes and had 7 boys on the scoresheet.

Man of the match was a tough one for kalyan's dad, in truth we had 10 men of the match but the award went to Tom for a good solid performance in only his 4th ever game and 1st start.

Special mention and thanks to our referee today James Laughton, by far the best referee I have seen in the surrey youth league, cool and calm, spot on with everything, handled the game with ease. 100% rating.

After the match Corinthians coach called the Merton team superstars and said they gave a polished, inspirational performance and are a credit to our club.

Another good day, well done.

Gary



Merton FC U9s: controlling the game from the start



Merton FC U9s: both sides showing good sportsmanship

U11S

MERTON FC 4 AFC WALCOUNTAIANS 4

- We turned up on a beautiful sunny morning...pitch looked great right up there with Wembley.
- Away team took lead as we switched off and cost us.
- Then start of a magnificent display of passing and moving from midfield to striker Zion who banged in 4 goals yes I repeat 4 goals.
- Zion speed like a bullet from a gun scared defence everytime.
- He scored a top right goal into roof of net from penalty spot..... well done on a great performance.
- Steven Gumble was like colossus today and provided strength and accurate passing whole game.
- Thomas in goal pulled off some world saves and we were very grateful.
- In fairness we dug deep and never gave up.
- Draw was a fair result and we continue unbeaten in all 4 matches.
- Onwards we march to the next challenge.

David
Co Manager

U13s

MERTON FC 3
ELM GROVE COLTS 4

S econd round of the cup. We came down to the hood at 9:45 Prepared and ready for the match ahead, we put our boots and stepped onto the pitch it was focus time. After our warm-up and we exchanged the cards we were ready to kick-off. For the first few minutes we played OK.

The oppo had a strike on goal and Jack, our left-back believed to had cleared it off the line we was all excited until the linesman gave it as a goal to the Elm Grove to give them a 1-0 lead. Theo said something out of turn and was put in the book for decent. The opposition striker had lots of pace and wiggled through our team with pace and pure interplay to score three more goals.

Four down by the 40th minute, we had to fix up. In the last 20 minutes, Marcus, Evan and Nikoy scored from unbelievable strikes and it was 4-3. The comeback was on, Nikoy (centre-back) really urged the defence to push right up, we kept the ball well in their half as we fought for an equaliser but we couldnt get it in the end with the match ending 4-3 to the Elm Grove.

An unlucky result for the boys.

Report by: Keiron Nedd (Winger)

U15s

MERTON FC 1 THREE BRIDGES 7

Not a good day at the office today, tough game made tougher by the mistakes made all over the pitch. The hunger and desire shown in the last few weeks was missing today, however we battled and were in the game up until half-time.

Three Bridges had a lot of the ball and despite only having eleven players to choose from today, made Merton tire by moving the ball very well. This was a theme of the whole game - they were excellent on the ball.

We defended solidly and stuck at it, looking like we may have come in at half-time 0-0. We missed three good chances before Three Bridges took the lead. A miscommunication in the back line allowed them in for an incredibly soft goal and they took the lead to see them into half-time 1-0 up.

We made changes at half-time to try and create more chances, but from the start of the second half, Three Bridges came out of the traps quicker than us in all areas, and nicked an early second goal. Our heads began to drop, and allowed them to score a third.

We found some courage from somewhere and started to battle back and try and get a result. We managed to scramble a goal, and this was deserved for their never say die attitude. We battled throughout, however was overrun by the constant movement of the ball.

In the end, Three Bridges went on to score four more to make it more convincing than it should have been. At times we played some good football, but overall back to the drawing board to put it right and have a reaction next week at home to Hampton

Congratulations to Three Bridges, great hospitality. Thanks!

WHO'S WHERE AND WHEN

SATURDAY 8 OCTOBER 2016

1s
BANK OF ENGLAND v MERTON FC
Bank of England Sports Ground – 15:00

2s
ST JAMES' OLD BOYS v MERTON FC
Barnet Cophall Playing Fields – 15:00

3s
MERTON FC v CIVIL SERVICE
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 15:00

4s
MERTON FC v POLYTECHNIC
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 15:00

5s
OLD WILSONIANS v MERTON FC
Old Wilsonians Sports Ground – 13:00

6s
MERTON FC v OLD SALESIANS
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 15:00

Vets
MERTON FC v OLD WESTMINSTER CITIZENS
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 13:00

SUNDAY 9 OCTOBER 2016

U9s
No Fixture

U11s
CLAYGATE ROYALS v MERTON FC
Away

U13s
OLD COULSDON COLTS v MERTON FC
Away

U14s
BEDFONT EAGLES v MERTON FC
Away

U15s
MERTON FC v HAMPTON YOUTH
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 10:30

MERTON FOOTBALL CLUB

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