

# THE MERTON WAY



# CHANGING SATELLITES

I am afraid we have reached that time of year. It is a little later than usual, but the rains have arrived. It is that time of year when the Hood has a lot of standing water and we have to rearrange games and transfer them to other grounds that are better drained but don't have the facilities we have at The Hood. Some refer to this as 'The big wet', 'the rainy season' 'the monsoons' we call it the football season! In order to get as many games played as possible we will try to rearrange our matches at other venues. The Council are very helpful over this as was evidenced last weekend. This of course depends on there being vacant pitches. It puts an extra load on everyone especially our Fixtures Secretary and our captains and we need our members to be patient and understanding.

The 3s and 7s were switched at late notice to Wimbledon Commons Extension Ground last Saturday and it was great to see the numbers that came back to the Hood for a drink and pizza and that essential 'Apres Footy' !!!!! It was a really nice atmosphere in our bar even though the opposition could not make it and that is hardly surprising. So well done to the 3s and 7s for coming back and also the postponed 6s who just

pitched up for a Saturday drink. Good to see!

Just a reminder to managers/captains that if you are switched to a satellite ground you will need to pick up (and return) our corner flags as the council do not provide them.

With the three games played on Saturday the 7s had a really impressive win against Old Salesians 3s and are bedding in nicely. The 3s frustratingly lost by the odd goal again. The 1s played at the Hood on Pitch 2 which was pretty heavy going but made light of it winning a Cup match against HSBC, another Division 2 side 5-1 and are now in the quarter finals as they are in next week's game. They play Old Thorntonians in the Quarter Finals of the AFA Surrey/Kent Senior Cup. Good luck there.

On Sunday our U14s, managed by Darrius and Ben played their Surrey County F A Cup match against Sutton United at Gander Green Lane on the pitch used by Sutton for their FA Cup game the week before against AFC Wimbledon. They put up a really good performance but lost 5-0 in the end to a side 62 places above them in the Surrey Youth League; a very creditable performance in a good cup run.

# THINGS TO KNOW

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## 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.

Last weekend, the 4s had a Cup game and finished early, they kindly left the showers on and then there was no hot water for the 6s & 7s when they finished their games!!

# SUPER BOWL LI MAYHEM AT THE HOOD

A different kind of football comes to the Hood on Sunday 5th February - the American kind! Join us at Merton FC's fortress pavilion for a splendid evening filled with darts, Remember the Titans, Any Given Sunday, Cool Runnings, a large amount of drinking, and a sumptuous full Texan BBQ spread. Oh, and some Super Bowl action too.

Many hardcore football fans will be there until the not-so-early hours of the Monday morning, but feel free to come and go as you please. The festivities will get underway at around 18:30, with food being served in the early evening. On the menu is Brisket, Pork shoulder, Short ribs, Chicken wings and a host of delicious sides.

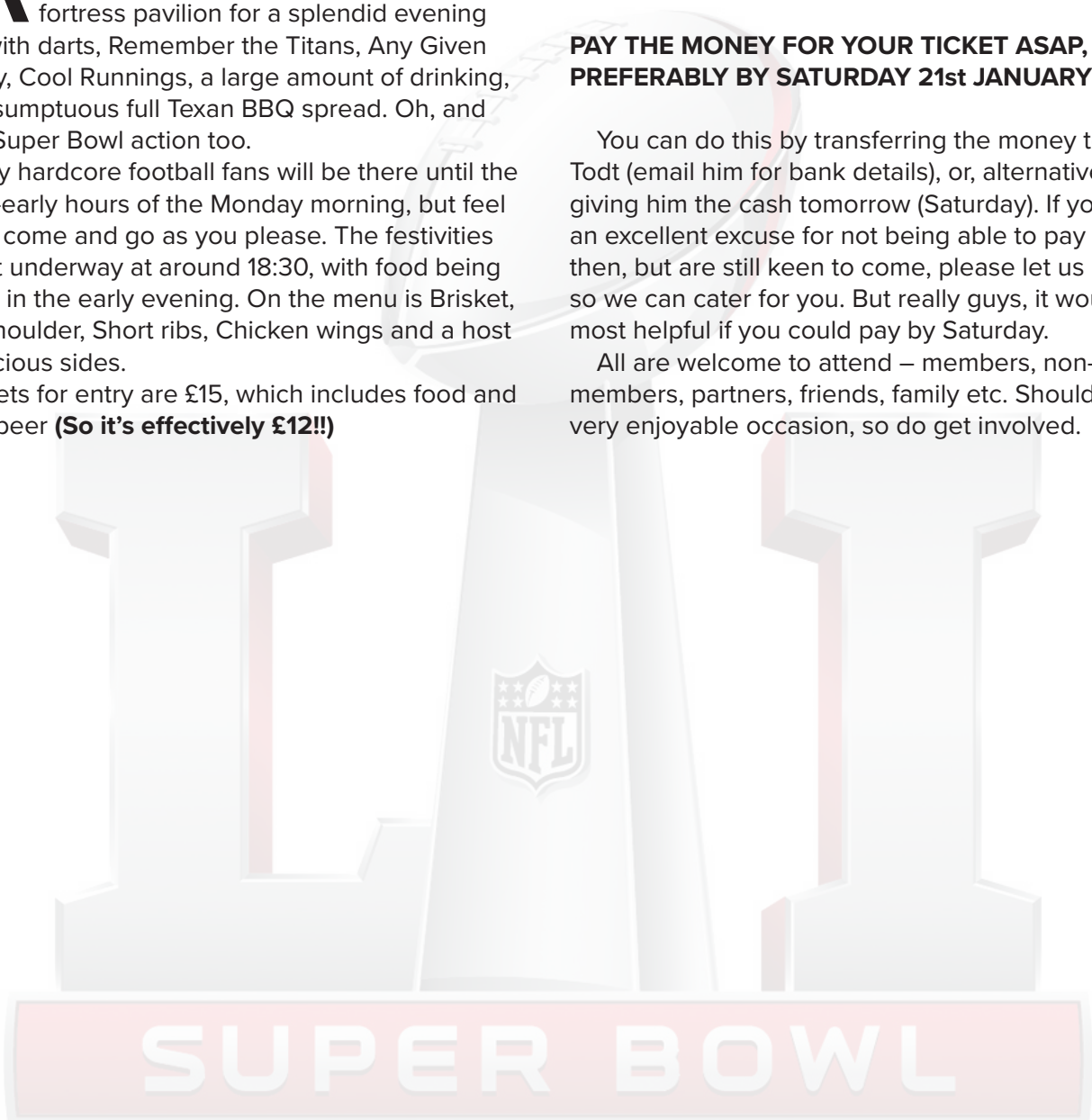
Tickets for entry are £15, which includes food and a free beer **(So it's effectively £12!!)**

However, to reserve your spot, and to help us with catering in terms of numbers, we need you to please:

**PAY THE MONEY FOR YOUR TICKET ASAP, PREFERABLY BY SATURDAY 21st JANUARY!!!**

You can do this by transferring the money to Mike Todt (email him for bank details), or, alternatively, by giving him the cash tomorrow (Saturday). If you have an excellent excuse for not being able to pay by then, but are still keen to come, please let us know so we can cater for you. But really guys, it would be most helpful if you could pay by Saturday.

All are welcome to attend – members, non-members, partners, friends, family etc. Should be a very enjoyable occasion, so do get involved.



# RAM'S HEADS UP

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**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. When you were a child, the most you were scared about was getting spanked, but when you get older...
2. Who overthinks their overthinking?
3. A wise woman once said, "Fuck this shit" and she lived happily ever after!
4. Arguing with stupid people is like killing the mosquito on your cheek. You might kill it or not, but you'll end up slapping yourself for sure
5. My mum said my sister was an angel when we were young.  
So I dropped her off a ladder to see if she can fly.
6. I am not an early bird or a night owl. I am some form of permanently exhausted pigeon.
7. Went shopping the other day with the girlfriend and she was trying a top on and asked if i think she looks good in it, for some reason I blurted out "I'd look good on you"
8. Women wake up yawning and men wake up with an erection.
9. I have multiple personalities and none of them like you.

**TV OF THE WEEK:**

Jack Dee's Helpdesk – BBC2

**SONG OF THE WEEK:**

Shape of You – Ed Sheeran

# 1s

## MERTON FC 5 HSBC 1

Another good performance from our 1s saw them through to the Quarte-finals of the SAL Premier cup. But first we had to overcome the elements as the Hood had experienced a real battering from the snow and rain and pitches 1 and 3 were clearly unplayable. But with a bit of brushing and sand from the management team the pond at the centre of pitch 2 was absorbed. The downpour just before kick-off didn't help but the ref deemed it playable...just and we were able to get underway. I thought this was going to be a tough game as we had already played out a draw against HSBC earlier in the season in the league. Just before kick-off we lost Bosh who felt a twinge in his hammy.

We started the better but had little to show for it until Woody unlocked their defence with a quality free kick from just outside the box. Keeper no chance 1-0. Soon after that we were on level terms as Clappers played a strange cross field ball to their centre forward who was one on one with Sirij. Keeper no chance. Now Clappers has been with the club for nearly 10 seasons 300 games perhaps and I cannot remember him doing anything like this before. I do tend to hit the erase button on such events but apart from an OG in the Algarve when both he and our keeper were desperately hungover and rightly so that is it. So Forgive and forget , move on with just a very firm 'Dick of the Day' nomination! The game was pretty even with us on top but susceptible on the break. A good passing movement saw Johnny played thru and he finished well from a difficult angle 2-1 at half time.

We dominated the second half and created a lot of good chances. Their keeper played well but had little luck and sometimes less cover. They were gruelling conditions and both teams tired. With a 2-1 lead I was surprised how much we pushed up and left ourselves exposed and on two occasions outnumbered on the HSBC counter attack. Mainly due to the conditions both sets of attackers found the final ball difficult. Our third goal came on about the hour. Vanny (?) putting away a loose ball inside their area, This was a relief for a



Merton 1s: left to right: the undersoil heating on the blink so all hands on deck; someone's only got one foot or boot; a happy first team

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number of reasons mainly though because the pizzas were being delivered with no allowance for extra time or pens. Nick back from hols in sunny climes was exhausted after a good slog through the mud and replaced by Tom and Milo came on for Johnny Graham who had also run himself into the mud.. Fresh legs gave us a bit more impetus.

Tom Rowe making a welcome reappearance after his broken ankle scored our fourth goal shortly after coming on. He swung a foot at it from way out on the left wing. I thought nothing of it but shortly after I heard their keeper shout 'oh shit' and realised that the ball was destined to go over him and into the back of the net. He was surprised so were all of us on the touchline and even Tom looked a little bemused by the outcome.. We continued to press forward and squandered some good opportunities and were thwarted by their keeper. Our subs caused trouble down the flanks and on one such occasion having saved well milo got to the rebound to make it 5-1 for his first competitive goal. Sam was our Man of the match as he and his new orange boots put in a big midfield shift, Clappers Dick of the day and everyone put in a big effort for this win. The ref Bill Green controlled the game well and had to put up with a lot of chat. Pizzas and drinks very welcome at the end as was another good win for our 1s against a determined opposition who battled to the end. Now that Woody's devastating delivery from set pieces is being brought to the masses by Facebook videos we are seeking sponsorship for the rear of Woody's shorts, a tremendous advertising opportunity for BT Sport you may think!!!!

**STARTING LINE-UP:** Siri (GK), Rat, Chas, Clappers, Kearnsey, Nick, Woody, Sam, Vanny, Johnny, James L,

**SUB:** Milo, Tom R

**SCORERS:** Woody, Johnny Graham, Vanny



**Merton 1s:** left to right: spot the ball competition?; Vanny closes down the oppo

2s

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**MERTON FC**  
**AFC OLDSMITHS**

**GAME CALLED OFF**



# 3s

## MERTON 1 OLD OWENS 2

**W**ith Merton 3s embroiled in a relegation battle and playing the team directly above them in the table, this was considered to be a crucial and winnable game, especially given that the 3s won a hard fought game against the same opposition (or so we thought) earlier in the season.

With the inclement weather ruling all but one pitch at The Hood out of action, this match was switched on Saturday morning to Wimbledon Common Extensions (WCE). Arrangements were put in place to ensure that everyone could get to WCE in time for the 1pm meet. Unfortunately though, things did not go to plan as an accident on the A3 significantly delayed Neal's arrival, but to add to it, he was transporting Mustard, Denys, Chris (returning for his first competitive game this season) and crucially, the kit. Denys spotted an opportunity to depart from the static car and use an overhead bridge to take the kit to the waiting team, who were no doubt also missing the delights of the pre-match Motown playlist. Everyone had arrived by 1.40 and the team was able to get onto the pitch in time for a quick warm up and team talk ahead of kick off. Walshy was keen to stress that we needed to be aware of the sticky pitch and to not take any chances on it. Oh how we should have heeded his words....

The opposition, whom appeared to have none or possibly just 1 player from the reverse fixture, kicked off. However within a minute, a Walshy through ball had put Glenn through with a good opportunity. Similar to how Andrew Cole took his first chance for Man Utd on his debut v Blackburn Rovers in January 1995, Glenn lashed at it and the ball went high, wide and not so handsome past the near post. Good positive start though we thought; we're going to be able to cut this team apart! One minute later, we were a goal down. The sticky pitch had either caused Jack to get his foot stuck in the mud or caused the ball to bounce differently to what he expected. Either way, he didn't connect with the ball and a routine ball forward by Old Owens had found it's way straight through the defence to allow their striker a clear run on goal to round Dan B and slot home. On reflection, not such a great start.

Within five minutes, it was 2-0. Neal played the ball to Mustard in centre midfield and the sticky pitch had claimed its second victim as Mustard was unable to move the ball out of his feet, was disposed and within a few passes, Old Owens had created another goal scoring opportunity and scored it. Poor Dan B must have been feeling Claudio Bravo at this point, 2 shots, 2 goals.

We needed to get a grip of the game and started to do so, led by the hard working Neal (Streetboy) Davison in the middle of midfield. Merton were



Merton 3s: in the bar

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awarded a free kick midway inside the opposition's half, near the touchline. Judging by the week before, this was definitely within Dan Rist shooting territory. Dan, probably conscious that the opposition keeper would have heard of his wonder goal exploits from the week before, elected to cross the ball instead and found a stooping (or perhaps stumbling?) Walshy, whom guided the ball home with his head to make it 2-1. He was very excited and celebrated with a few fist pumps of sort and it was now game on.

Merton 3s being a single goal behind is definitely something that we're used to, coming back to get the points from this position, we're not used to so much, although we had done it against this club's 3s earlier this season, so there was definitely room for optimism.

Getting the goal had inspired us further and we started to play better and created a few chances, one with Glenn putting a great ball in for Denys, who didn't seem to fancy taking a shot, which allowed the defender in to make a tackle. Another opportunity saw Iain through on goal, but from a wide angle, which prompted him to try and chip the keeper but he couldn't get enough elevation on it to go above the keeper. As the game progressed, some challenges were getting a little tasty and the opposition also had some lively chat, including some very witty banter, such as referring to Vin as a JCB and Walshy as a "long streak of p\*ss".

In the second half, the game petered out a little and there wasn't a great deal in terms of goal mouth action. The opposition did hit the post, Dan B made a great save with his legs and he also took the opportunity to have a wholesome laugh at their striker's attempted overhead kick, where he'd failed to connect with the ball. We brought on Joe Squires and Chris Pap to try and find a different way of breaking them down but we were unable to test their keeper. There was still time for Mustard to be penalised for a foul throw (although the author definitely disagrees with the decision) and after receiving a long throw from Iain in the penalty box in the last minute, to be accused of diving after going down under pressure – the general consensus was that if it had occurred anywhere else on the pitch it would have been a foul. However as it wasn't given, it was determined to be a dive by the players and adding that to the foul throw, the lateness and being involved in the opposition's second goal, Mustard had no doubt cemented his position as DOTD – not a good day.

The game finished 2-1, which is the seventh time this season that Merton 3s have lost by the odd goal. At times we've been unlucky, other times the opposition have simply been better, we've always been competitive but there are areas as a team we can improve on, such as better levels of fitness, tracking back more, increased availability and a bit more composure, especially when it comes to finishing. All of these things are within our gift to work on and they could be the difference between losing the game by the odd goal, to winning the game by the odd goal.

**STARTING LINE-UP:** Dan Bridgeman, Dan Rist, Jack Rowe, Vincenzo Di Matteo, Walshy, Iain Evans, Neil Davison, Mustard, Glenn Pittman, Darren Fitzgerald, Denys Zhurbiy

**SUBS:** Chris Papastasiou, Joe Squires

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** Walshy

**DICK OF THE DAY:** Mustard (for a foul throw and alleged dive)

**SCORERS:** Walshy

# 4S

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**MERTON FC**  
**LLOYDS WARREN**

**GAME CALLED OFF**

# 5s

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**MERTON FC**  
**IBIS EAGLES**

**GAME CALLED OFF**

6s

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**MERTON FC 6s – NO GAME**

# 7s

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## MERTON FC 7 OLD SALESIANS 1

**A**fter snow on the Thursday, we half expected the game to be called off, however with hard work behind the scenes and moving the game to the wonderful Wimbledon Common Extension (WCE), the game was going to be played.

Typical of WCE, the traffic on the A3 was very bad and whilst we managed to get most of the team there on time along with the referee unfortunately Old Salesians were late, which gave us time to watch the 3rd team play!

The game kicked off about 20mins late with a slight change to the normal back line, we started strongly and soon were creating chances which their keeper managed to stop. This caused a slight worry as Old Salesians began to gain in confidence and they were playing some good football, yet our defence, which included Scott along with the midfield held tight and Mike G in goal only having to make a few simple stops. Were those early miss going to cost us?

We did eventually make a breakthrough with a good goal by Malcolm K, we then took some control and a couple of goals from George B, whilst Malcolm K took a rest (sorry gave a sub a run). This didn't stop Old Salesians and their good football eventually broke through our defence and they finally scored.

In the second half, we needed to make our dominance count since we have a habit of conceding two goals a game and we soon did scoring a fourth by Callum, followed shortly by a second goal from Malcolm and a hat-trick from George B. We made further substitution and whilst Old Salesians didn't lay down, they did create a few chance with Mike G make a good save we did have advantage of the slight slope.

We created several more chances and from a rare corner Dave G hit the crossbar and shortly afterwards he also hit the same spot from the 18 yards, he was thinking it wasn't going to be his day, then he connected with a pass and hit a shot from 25 yards.

We managed to not concede, so apart from the first game against Carshalton, we hadn't conceded two goals and we are now have a positive goal difference, if only for a week as we face Carshalton next weekend and being the second highest scoring time in the division.

**STARTING LINE-UP:** Mike G, Scott S, Dan A, Tom J, Martin Q, Billy G, David G, Malcolm K, Callum F, Jon T, George B,

**SUBS:** Trey M, Tom R, Noor E

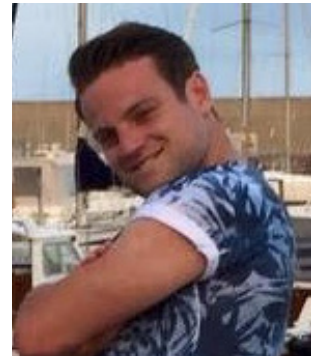
**MAN OF THE MATCH:** David Goulding for his strong work in the midfield

**DICK OF DAY:** Nobody had a bad game although Tom Roberts was nearly 20 Minutes late and possible Malcolm for having to borrow a pair of gloves to play the game.



Merton 7s: the happy management team

# ANDREW DOBSON



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

I'm a self-employed carpenter during the week, at the weekend's I play football, play golf, I go out on my motorbike and get pissed at every opportunity

**2. How did you end up at Merton FC?**

My mate the one and only beautiful Scott Shew

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

Only played a couple of games so far, so probably getting my first goal because I missed a few chances

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

Would have to be Arsenal as I've supported them all my life!

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

I have to run round the pitch 4 times and kiss all the corner flags

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

Help the 7's finish above the 6's in the league!!

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**Player of the season (so far):** N/A

**Childhood Team:** Arsenal

**Favourite team in the UK:** AFC Wimbledon

**Favourite team outside the UK:** Real Madrid

**Childhood Hero:** Dennis Bergkamp

**Favourite Food:** Curry

**Favourite Drink:** Vodka & Redbull

**Favourite Band/Artist:** Oasis

## RAPID FIRE

# IVAN GLADKOW



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

Client Relationship Director.....Have been described as “The Main Man” :)

**2. How did you end up at Merton FC?**

BBF Woody (Best mate from Uni) was playing at Merton and told me to come and play at Merton, the rest is history.

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

Promotion to top division and then cup final, that memorable season!

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

I don't follow one team so any of the top 4.

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

Same meal routine, toilet routine, same accessories (hairband and shinpads, shirt (Number 7) etc)

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

Getting promoted again giving the top division another go and then retiring!

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**Player of the season (so far):** Charlie Hockless thus far! He has become coordinated over the summer break and he has definitely been practicing in his back garden.

**Childhood Team:** N/A

**Favourite team in the UK:** N/A

**Favourite team outside the UK:** N/A

**Childhood Hero:** Jean Claude Van Damme

**Favourite Food:** Steak

**Favourite Drink:** Jaegerbomb or Predator

**Favourite Band:** One Direction! Obvs

## RAPID FIRE



# U9s

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## MERTON FC 2 CLAYGATE ROYALS SWANS 0

**O**n a cold and wet Sunday morning, Merton battled not just with the elements but also with a strong Claygate side. Merton showed great determination, as all that hard work in training paid off. Claygate had a good passing game, but our defence remained strong through out, particularly with some excellent goal keeping by Doo Ho.

Merton worked particularly well as a team, with strength and spirit shown by Callum in midfield, skilful footwork by Harry, darting runs by Jack, all round commitment by Danielus and speed by Tom upfront. It was clear that the players were continuing to develop in the right direction, showing maturity both in attack and defence, and some intelligent throw-ins from the touchline.

Man of the Match went to Tommie, who showed excellent attacking play in the second half which rattled Claygate and led to some good opportunities to score.

A well deserved performance all round in challenging conditions. Great start to the New Year. Keep it up Merton!

### Winta

U9s Pitch Marshall



Merton U9s: We are not wet or cold!!!

# U11S

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**MERTON FC**  
**BEDFONT & FELTHAM YOUTH**

**GAME CALLED OFF**

# U13s

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**MERTON FC**  
**HOOK YOUTH REDS**

**GAME CALLED OFF**

# U14s

**MERTON FC 0**  
**SUTTON UNITED 5**

**T**he U14s bowed out of the County Cup beaten 5-0 by Sutton United in their stadium. This was a terrific performance and cup run from our lads with Sutton 62 places above them in the Surrey Youth League.

Great performance and well done to the lads and the proud coaches Darrius and Ben!!!!



**Merton 14s:** Line-up in the dugout at Sutton United

# U15s

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**MERTON FC**  
**HAMPTON YOUTH HRBFC**

**GAME CALLED OFF**

# WHO'S WHERE AND WHEN

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## SATURDAY 21 JANUARY 2017

**1s**  
**OLD THORNTONIANS V MERTON FC**  
Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields  
13:45

**2s**  
**MERTON FC v LLOYDS WARREN**  
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 14:00

**3s**  
**MERTON FC v OLD FINCHLEIANS**  
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 14:00

**4s**  
**MERTON FC v OLD WILSONIANS**  
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 14:00

**5s**  
**MERTON FC v KEW ASSOCIATION**  
Wimbledon Common Extensions – 14:00

**6s**  
**SOUTH BANK CUACO V MERTON FC**  
Dulwich Sports Ground – 14:00

**7s**  
**CARSHALTON V MERTON FC**  
Beddington Park – 14:00

## SUNDAY 22 JANUARY 2017

**U9s**  
**WANDGAS YOUTH v MERTON FC**  
Away – AM

**U11s**  
**MERTON FC v OXSHOTT ROYALS DIAMOND**  
Home – AM

**U13s**  
**ROCK LANE UTD v MERTON FC**  
Away – AM

**U14s**  
**ESHER LIONS v MERTON FC**  
Away – AM

**U15s**  
**MERTON FC v HANWORTH SPORTS**  
Home – AM

**MERTON FOOTBALL CLUB**

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