

# THE MERTON WAY



# PARK PROBLEMS

This is the first edition of 'The Merton Way' with our new editor Sam Singer-Ripley and we are all most grateful for Sam stepping up to the plate and grateful to Ram for his work in the past.

There are a few things that I need to be updated.

The Council have changed their arrangements for managing their parks. The maintenance and booking of all the pitches and courts has been outsourced to IdVerde who already do this for Kingston and Sutton Councils. Most of the guys who worked for Merton on this have been transferred to idVerde but there are some teething difficulties unsurprisingly. We were the victims of this last weekend when the Hood was unplayable but it would seem that there was no weekend officer on duty to see if the games could be transferred to Wimbledon Commons Extension. It was very frustrating and disappointing. A couple of weeks ago when the Hood was too wet the Council's weekend duty officer, Danny Lovelock could not have been more helpful in ensuring that games got played. I am sure this will settle down but the change has come at a difficult time.

We are, as all members know, developing a strong Youth section and our managers

encourage the players after they train on Saturdays to watch the adult games at the Hood but have run into a problem and that is the on field behaviour of the players and the swearing. The parents took their children away. This is something we need to watch. The complaint was that it was not just unacceptable language but also dissent and swearing directed at the referee. So please watch your language (Expletives deleted) and show 'RESPECT'. We are in a public park and our behaviour is important. We cannot influence our opposition but I will be writing to the SAL Referees/players committee asking why the referees allow so much disrespect because it does spoil the game and they can quite easily do something about it. They are the ones to enforce this.

It seems that 'Superbowl LI Mayhem' was a memorable night down at the Hood and tremendous thanks to Ryan Gresty for organising this and I hope it will be same time next year.

Finally a bit of good news for our youth section. The U9s have been moved up a division yet again and are now in the top twenty teams of their age group. Well done to Gary and the boys. Terrific performance and like all our youth teams well worth watching on a Sunday.

# Merton FC Needs you

When news streamed in that Ram was hanging up his boots as editor of the Merton Way, an ever-swelling readership shivered at the prospect of losing their Friday weekly reading treat. How on earth would the Merton faithful now occupy themselves whilst consuming their afternoon coffee and bagel?

But, after a hiatus of just a solitary week, up stepped young Sam Singer-Ripley to the plate, and as you can see from his first edition of the newsletter, the baton has been passed to a very capable pair of hands, and the Merton Way dream lives on in fine fettle.

We thank Sam hugely for taking on this role, and giving of his time. A club like ours can only thrive through the enthusiasm and support of volunteers, and we are grateful to have true Merton men like Sam on board. But with a few important committee positions set to open up over the summer, we need more of you guys to follow Sam's lead, and ensure seamless transitions across the board so that our club can continue to go from strength to strength.

So, as we welcome our new editor, we also extend a call to arms to the inner passion we know you have for the mighty Yellow. You can help – so please don't be shy to come forward!

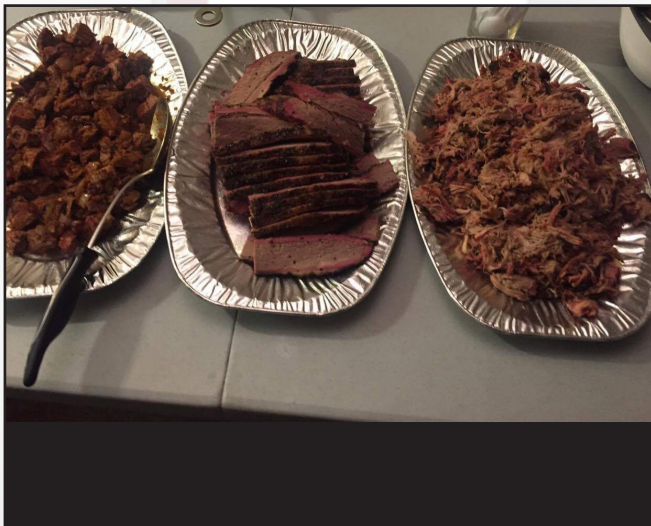
We are on the lookout for a new Bar Manager to take over as soon as possible as Peter Kemp wants to stand down. If you want to know what is involved speak to **Peter** or **Mike Todt** but we have an excellent bar and we want to keep it that way.

If you'd like to help in the bar in anyway please let us know.

# Super Bowl Evening

A massive thanks to you all for a great evening. Rumour has it the last carriage was at 8am, which is a sensational effort. Big, big thank you to Jonny, who put in a shift for the ages to present us with such world class food. Darren also put in a heck of an effort, which we really appreciate. Steve Sales deserves a big shout out too for his mammoth shift behind the bar. And lastly, to Ryan Noble-Gresty, the visionary who organized it all. For those who haven't already, please do re-live the magic of 'that' speech...

Don't let this distract you from the fact that the Falcons blew a 28-3 lead.



SUPER BOWL

# 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.

## A note from the new editor:

Hello, I would just like to formally introduce myself to those who have not yet met me yet. As the new Editor of 'The Merton Way' - I'd like to put your mind at ease with the fact that its in good hands - The merton way that you know and love will continue to be the highlight of your week.

So now that that formalities are out of the way - the standard format of the player profile will end the introduction and start the ball rolling for my first edition!

I hope you all have a good year, and that you finish the season strong!  
Thanks for tuning in - Best Wishes.  
Sam Singer-Ripley

---

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

I am a student at Roehampton Univeristy, I study Sport and Exerice Science. Other than football my hobbies include cycling and eating.

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

I was just searching around on the internet for local football clubs at the beginning of last season because I stopped playing football a while ago after a nasty injury, I came across Merton FC's website and decided to give it a go - I never looked back

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

I've only been here a couple of seasons, but hopefully this season, getting promoted with the 5's would be great. My worst moment, as many of you probably already know - Was being taken away in an ambulance after an 'off the field' accident occured.

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

Liverpool, they definately have a goalkeeping problem, so I think I'd be a great contender. It would also be awesome to play for the team I support.

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

I always make sure I've got my tape on the correct way. As well as making sure that I've got my lucky gloves on hand. I also try and make sure I go to bed a little earlier than normal.

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

I hope to get promoted with the 5's and keep up my challenge for the Golden Glove award.

---

## Rapid Fire

Player of the season (so far): Andy Bitmead - Scoring hatricks for fun  
Favourite position: CAM but I can't play football so I play in goal  
Favourite team in the UK: Liverpool FC  
Favourite team outside the UK: Borussia Dortmund  
Childhood Hero: Jens Lehmann  
Favourite Food: Pizzahuts' Chicken, bacon and sweetcorn pizza  
Favourite Drink: Dr. Pepper  
Favourite Band/Artist: Imagine Dragons

TEAM: 5s  
POSITION: GOALKEEPER  
BIRTH DATE: 7/10/1997  
BIRTH PLACE: MITCHAM  
PREVIOUS CLUBS: T&M U16



# SAM'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. People say "go big or go Home" as if going home is a bad thing?? like hell yeah I wanna go home, and I'm gonna take a nap when I get there.
2. When you are dead, you wont even know you are dead. Its a pain only felt by others. Same thing when you are stupid.
3. We're all the most productive when we should be doing something else.
4. Arsenal
5. Online dating is for amateurs. Real men go out and disppoint women in real life.
6. I would challenge you to a battle of wits, but I see you are unarmed. - Shakespeare.
7. The older you get, the harder it is to get around. There are more and more people you are trying to avoid.
8. School starts with s and so does slavery. Coincidence? I think not.
9. "I wasn't that drunk!.." "Dude, you were using the flashlight on your phone to find your phone."

**MOVIE OF THE WEEK:**

T2 Trainspotting

**SONG OF THE WEEK:**

Believer - Imagine Dragons

# 1s

---

MERTON FC 0

EBOG 0

**N**ot the kind of away day you want on a wet weekend in January. It began with either a long tedious tour up the Northern Line or an excruciating journey through central London marred by anti-Trump protests.

Initial observations of the pitch looked positive however, upon further inspection the pitch was heavy and boggy - not the ideal conditions for a top of the table clash. Earlier in the season Merton earned a hard-fought 0-0 draw at home to unbeaten league leaders EBOG. The first 20 minutes gave indications that the return fixture was not going to end goalless; EBOG started well and had Merton under the cosh. Twice either EBOG winger found space in behind the Merton backline and on both occasions pulled the ball back which only thanks to the cat-like reflexes of Siri, their forwards were unable to convert – two great saves. A surprising long throw from the wing almost lead to the opener with EBOGs centre mid ghosting in and glancing a free header wide from the centre of the goal. Again, EBOG should have taken the lead, a hopeful ball over the top caught Browner off guard worrying about his finger allowing their striker in behind 1 on 1 with Siri however, fortunate for Merton his lobbed finished lofted over the bar.

Merton eventually started to find their feet with some strong battles being won in midfield by the Tenacious Woody, relentless Tills and courageous Sam, one such battle allowed Woody to gain possession and play a good ball into Van who found some space 30 yards out; A decent strike from the veteran worked their goal keeper who tipped his effort onto the bar. Cracks were starting to appear in the EBOG defence, again Van found space and put in a great ball to the back post only for Jonny to flash his header wide from point blank range (one could say it was inexcusably miss-timed, he may argue a lack of heading practice in training may have attributed to the miss).

Merton started the second half well, the back four looked solid and chances were few and far between with a both teams limited to shots from distance for a long period of the half. As the game approached the final 20 minutes Woody played a great ball in behind the EBOG backline for Jonny who flashed a shot across goal only for the EBOG keeper to get a toe to it, maybe 10 years ago Van would have been there to tap in the rebound. EBOG had a couple of chances but were unable to beat the impenetrable Siri. Substitutions were made with Charlie and Els replacing Jonny and James. Els looked lively from the off and Charlie despite returning from injury looked strong and sharp leading the front line. Within the dying minutes of the game Merton had their chance to snatch the game, a ball into the box was brought down by Charlie who held off his man to fire a low shot to the keepers left who was only able to parry the ball out to Els. 5 yards out with the goal gaping Els fired his shot against the post (it was unlucky for the young lad but after a cracking winner last week no one can complain).



The full time whistle blew after a feisty affair with honours even and Merton unbeaten against the title favourites this season. One would argue Merton were very unlucky to not take all 3 points on both meetings. Credit must also go to the Merton defensive line who on both occasions have kept a clean sheet against EBOG (the league's top scorers). Other results went Merton's way which added to the great performance from the lads.

Man of the match – Siri

Dick of the day- Jonny

# 2s

---

MERTON FC

GAME CALLED OFF

# 3s

---

## MERTON 3 OLD PARKONIANS 2

Our story begins with a handsome man from the regions that, for the purposes of this match report, we shall call 'Bill Baylor'. Though long since departed for foreign shores, Bill once played sports with a host of friendly folk at a club that, for the purposes of this match report, we shall call 'Burton FC'.

Burton was full of so many attractive men that one of its many fraternities was known as 'Team Attractive', and they were renowned for dazzling lady people as well as any opposition sporting outfits that they played and defeated. Bill was undoubtedly the most attractive member of Team Attractive, for he dazzled the most brightly. And yet, another attractive (and in this case intelligent) member of Team Attractive, who for the purposes of this match report we shall call Dave Wayne-Tonne, was somewhat confused.

"Why," enquired Wayne-Tonne over a perfectly chosen beverage. "Why is Bill, the finest of swordsmen and a clear Southern Amateur League Senior Division 1, so often seen squiring lady people that one might objectively say are Southern Amateur League Junior Division 3?"

"DW," replied Bill. "Why did you say 'Bill' just then and not 'you'?"

"Good question," said Wayne-Tonne. "I think it's because this is a made-up story forming part of a somewhat off-kilter match report, though a story itself based upon many truths."

"Ah, then I shall answer," said Bill, placing his hand on Wayne-Tonne's awesome shoulder. "You see, making love to beautiful ladies is much like scoring goals. I do plenty of both, but you've got to accept that occasionally you will have a a bit of a mare. The thing is, if you keep putting it out there and your balls end up in the right place, you have to consider that a success."

Though its message is somewhat esoteric, I was reminded of this story at halftime during Merton 3s' not-at-all-epic 3-2 defeat of some numpties from Essex.

"We're playing REALLY well," Mustard was telling the team, playing at manager for the day after giving himself the cold shoulder. "I don't know how we've not scored more goals."

"I need to go and do a Jason Puncheon," I (DQ, for those not keeping up) said, galloping towards the ref's changing room for a quick ten-bob-bit. And it was on that run, and during those runs, that the story came back to me. You see I'd scored the goal that had put us 1-0 up, but really by that stage should already have secured the match ball. Twice the Ukrainian Menace, Denys, had put me through, and though once the 'keeper saved well the second time he really didn't have the chance. I blame the pitch. The favour was returned on a quick break, but this time the UMD himself dragged wide, before finally the partnership struck some sort of gold via a dainty throughball and tidy outside-of-the-boot finish. 1-0. Lovely.

Bored of watching his teammates making like an unlucky Monopoly players and repeatedly passing chances, Andrew Holder Ross then chinned one of the weighty Parkonian players' elbows. Somewhat unsurprisingly AHR's chin came off worse, and he departed the pitch worse for wear.

Holder Ross was to return in the second half. The same cannot be said of Parkonian's best player who appeared to break his wrist on the post during a goalmouth scramble. The scramble came from a corner generated by one of the many fine saves Dan made on the day, ensuring him a couple of MoM votes in the bar.

I was to receive no such votes. Returning from the halftime relief, not knowing whether I'd missed out on any of Mustard's keener tactical insights, I joined 10 other determined men on the field of battle ready to enjoy a ten minute brain fart that saw us 2-1 down and making more mistakes than Donno trying to do a healthy food shop.

One chubby chancer wandered through and poked home apologetically before a corner a few minutes later resulted in a handball that Vin assures everyone in no way touched his arm. Slow motion replays reveal that, in fact, one of the Italian Stallion's enormous moobs swayed majestically across his bicep and thwatted the ball away. But you couldn't blame the ref for giving the penalty, nor Dan for not saving it.

My time to shine. Still giving the defence a glorious old runaround I shaved the post when one-on-one and grazed a header somewhere in the direction of the corner flag. Realising the folly of my ways, next time round I lay the ball back on the left-hand edge of the area and Jordan, who had woken-up after a slumbersome first half, proceeded to curl the goal of the season into the top bag. 2-2. The jolly Scouser went on to win MoM and in no-way stick to stereotype by stealing my shower gel.

The UMD was so excited by the goal that, rather than score when given the ball on the goal-line by a galloping (and returning) Holder Ross, dummied it, lay down beside it admiringly, and punched it twice without putting it in the net. How he wasn't sent off no-one really knows, but word is the ref really loves a hard-smoking and hard, smoking eastern European.

I scored again. May have been offside. Who cares? I celebrated two minutes later by Porborskying the keeper and, sadly, the bar, and, with the very last move of the game, aiming another delicious Glenn cross (there were quite a few) over the left-hand corner of the goal.

A 3-2 win, and a bunch of ruddy heroes involved. Notable shoutouts for the wonderfully complainsome Ricky, who caused many a defensive problem in the first half (both the oppo and Conor); our Hispanic friend and the UMD's married couple arguments that go on the entire time they're on the pitch together; Iain, for not knowing what E.T.A. means when questioned about arrival time, but also largely dominating the midfield; and Cookie for returning and not getting sent-off or arguing with anyone.

"I haven't got time for this," said the Bristolian battler, without a hint of irony, after Conor's dual with Parkonians' 'solid' left winger boiled over a bit. "Why do people argue on football pitches?"

"Nah, she was terrible mate, so was yours," Baylor said to Wayne-Tonne, as he ushered the recently boffed, and sore-yet-satisfied vixens out of his doorway. "But a score's a score, always never forget that."

Wayne-Tonne nodded, for he knew it was true, and he slept like a man that had missed enough chances to earn 'Dick of the Day', yet had the satisfaction of knowing that he alone ended the match with two goals on the scoresheet.

# 4s

---

## MERTON FC 0 Old Wilsonians 3

After a heartening performance against Carshalton the week before, the Merton 4s had every reason to feel positive going into this relegation 6 pointer at Old Wilsonians. Despite the dire weather predictions, the game went ahead under sunny skies.

There were a couple of absentees, with Mike pulling out due to a 'back' problem, while Kieran Lee's non arrival was almost half expected, given his birthday celebrations the night before. But all in all, a pretty strong squad took to the field, and they began the game well, despite being into the sun and up the slope. Aaron, as ever, was very incisive on the wing, while Will Harrison did what he does best in midfield - the ideal screen for any defence.

Unfortunately, the breakthrough came at the other end, and somewhat against the run of play. Merton might have done better to clear their lines, which allowed the Wilsonians left winger time and space. He got in behind the defence, and ended up one on one with stand-in keeper Chris Outred. His finish was clinical, and with that, the hosts led 1-0.

It knocked the wind out of Merton's sails, and they were fairly poor the next 15 minutes. Wilsonians' second was deserved, albeit a worldie from 30 yards out.

At 2-0 down, Merton came back into the contest though, with the wings bearing fruit. The flashpoint came a few minutes later, as Frankie was played in. He took the ball well, beating one defender in the box, before being savagely smashed in the face. It was a blatant penalty and a red, but that was almost beside the point. Frankie was writhing in agony, and somehow the ref waved play on! Wilsonians nearly scored at the other end before sanity eventually prevailed and play was halted.

Frankie gingerly made his way off the pitch, and in some pain too. Fingers crossed for a speedy recovery.

It was all Merton at this point, but with five minutes to go until half time, another worldie from outside the box made it 3-0. Chris had no chance, as their little forward turned into space and shot in a flash from 25 yards. Incredible goal, but at 3-0 down, it was now a long way back.

Credit to Merton, they put in an excellent second half display, pretty much in keeping with the performance against Carshalton. But, like the week before, the Yellows were guilty of flagrance in front of goal, and they spurned a number of golden opportunities to haul themselves back into the game.

They gave as good as they got right to the end, but were unable to get on the scoresheet. A real shame, and the final result all but condemns them to a second relegation in succession. But this is a team starting to play some good football, and there is now a great opportunity for them to string some results together and build the

confidence that's just lacking a bit. This team will be back, you can bet your bottom dollar on that.

MOTM: Aaron Loftus

Team: Chris Outred (GK), Ed Plaistow, Dan Gridley, Joe Plumridge, John Gridley, Will Harrison, Michael Vogt, Frankie Kaligorou, Sonny Kennedy, Aaron Loftus, Dom Plumridge

Subs: Mikey Elgar, Lee Lenihan

# 5s

---

MERTON FC

GAME CALLED OFF

# 6s

---

MERTON FC

GAME CALLED OFF



# 7s

---

MERTON FC

GAME CALLED OFF

# RYAN BURCHELL



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

I'm currently a team leader in training at Sainsbury's and I'm doing my best to balance a job in retail and playing football... Unsuccessfully at the minute! I'd describe myself as a friendly, wannabe funnyman who's always up for a laugh and a beer or two.

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

Been watching since I was about 10 years old with my Dad playing for the 6s and when I was finally old enough I put on the yellow shirt and have loved it ever since.

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

Up until a month ago this would've been winning Player of The Season for the 6s in my second season but now it has to be scoring my first Merton hatrick.

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

I would play for my boyhood club Arsenal, been a fan since I was little (Much to the disappointment of my Dad) and walking out onto the Emirates would be a dream come true.

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

Not really, apart from praying Scholesy doesn't put me on the bench!

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

Hopefully be able to see the 4s pull off a miraculous recovery and avoid relegation, as well as the 5s continuing their good form and winning their league.

Player of the season: Will Harrison  
 Childhood Team: Arsenal  
 Favourite team in the UK: Arsenal  
 Favourite team outside the UK: Borussia Dortmund  
 Childhood Hero: Thierry Henry  
 Favourite Food: Gammon Steak and chips  
 Favourite Drink: Bulmers  
 Favourite Band: Not a band but Ed Sheeran

## RAPID FIRE

# U9s

---

Our U9s are having a great season in the Surrey Youth League and have been promoted yet again and now they are in the top 20 teams in their age group in the SYL along with top academy sides. This is a tremendous achievement by Garry and the boys. And well done to the supporters/parents. Like all our youth teams well worth getting down to the Hood on a Sunday morning to cheer them on!!!!



# U11s

---

MERTON FC 5  
Raynes Park 3

We arrived on a cold Sunday morning at Nescot College to take on Raynes Park who had 6 trial players against our team of 11.

We took lead early and then went 3-1 up...the opposition came back to 3-3 and we switched on after burners and scored 2 further cracking goals.

Steven Gumble scored 2 and his second was a worldy from 25 yards out...ping and bang as keeper was puching mid air.

Ollie Laughton caused havoc down left wing all game and scored 3 truly excellent goals to mark his first ever hatrick.

We have now gone 17 matches with 1 defeat.... next week we are in cup at home to Bedfont.

# U13s

---

MERTON FC 6  
WORPLESDEN RANGERS 1

No Report Submitted

# U14s

---

MERTON FC 2  
STONELEIGH ATHLETIC 4

No Report Submitted

# U15s

---

MERTON FC

GAME CALLED OFF

# WHO'S WHERE AND WHEN

---

## SATURDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2017

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

2s  
MERTON FC v Weirside Rangers  
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 14:30

3s  
**NO GAME**

4s  
Polytechnic v MERTON FC  
Polytechnic Sports Ground – 14:30

5s  
MERTON FC v Kew Association  
**Game Called Off**

6s  
Carshalton v MERTON FC  
Carshalton Sports Ground – 14:30

7s  
MERTON FC v South Bank Cuaco  
Wimbledon Common Extentions– 14:30

## SUNDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2017

U9s  
**NO GAME**

U11s  
MERTON FC v Bedfont & Feltham Yth  
Home

U13s  
Merton FC v Cb Hounslow Unt Greens  
Home

U14s  
MERTON FC v MET POLICE YOUTH RED  
Away

U15s  
**NO GAME**



**MERTON FOOTBALL CLUB**

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