

THE MERTON WAY

"THE MIGHTY BOARS"





ABOUT US

We are an amateur sports team that currently has 7 adult football teams and 5 youth teams (U9, U11, U13, U14 and U15s).

Founded in 1910, we have affiliations with the Southern Amateur League and the Amateur Football Association. **Our home ground is Joseph Hood Recreation Ground, Martin Way, Merton, SW20 9BU.**

As we are still a budding young football club we **welcome any new players at all levels to join our club.** So please put the word out to friends, family, work colleagues, people you meet at the park, at the bus stop, in the school playground or in the fruit & veg aisle of your supermarket!

We invite you to come down to our training sessions, or on a Sunday morning to see our youth teams in action.

TRAINING

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

TIME: 8pm-9.30pm on Wednesday evenings (please arrive by 7.45pm to stretch and warm up)

SURFACE: Astro-turf - please wear appropriate footwear

Each player is responsible for their own physical fitness. Attendance at training is encouraged and preferable but not yet compulsory. However training is likely to affect team selection and there may be occasions when attendance is required.

HOW TO GET THERE:

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

Alternatively

Check out our website at:

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

Where you can send enquiries and find more out about our club.



THE SEASON ENDING ON A HIGH!

It's an interesting time of the season, with the 3s and 4s now both having completed their league campaigns, but with the 1s, 2s, 5s, 6s and 7s still with a number of games left. Credit must go to the SAL for coordinating this year's Spring Cup, which will see the 3s and 4s kicking off their Cup run next Saturday. For the rest, it is wonderful to see so many Merton teams in the shakeup for promotion, with the 1s, 5s and 6s in particular knocking on the door. The 1s also have a Cup semi-final to look forward to, while the 5s picked up a crucial win on Saturday to get back on track. The 7s so nearly did the 6s a favour against a formidable Civil Service side in the first of Saturday's double headers, but the 6s took care of business themselves with a comprehensive win over Old Salesians.

Things are also looking very good among the Youth as well, who braved the weather on Sunday to produce three wins and a draw out of five. A big congratulations to managers, players and parents for the continued good work they do, with a special mention to James Laughton, who has drawn rave reviews for his excellent refereeing in recent weeks. Keep it up James.

Finally, a quick note about events. Our atmosphere at the Hood continues to thrive despite the weather, with the 5s keeping the bar going until 11pm on Saturday. This week we'll be screening the England vs Ireland Six Nations match (5pm kick off) in the bar which will make for excellent apres footy, St Paddy's Day 'vibes'. Thereafter, there are Long Good Friday (14th April) and Awards Night (27th May) to lock into the diaries, and please note that the Merton World Cup has been moved to Saturday 13th May.

Plenty to look forward to, with the Hood pitches finally starting to show signs of recovery to boot – let's end the season with a bang!



MERTON FC – 2017 EVENTS

MARCH - JUNE

PS. we now show live premier league games in the bar after football on Saturday's



SATURDAY 18th MARCH

JOSEPH HOOD – FROM 4.45PM

LIVE IRELAND V ENGLAND, GAMES, BETS, FOOD & BEERS IN THE BAR.



FRIDAY 14th APRIL -

THE LONG GOOD FRIDAY - JOSEPH HOOD –
11AM START (PROMPT)

The annual Long Good Friday Event returns at Merton, VETS GAME with the legends from Old West Citz, Merton X1 friendlies, YOUTH GAMES and SENIOR FRIENDLIES much more. Hot food + hot cross buns in the bar – with a good old drink and catch up to celebrate the start of Easter. Not one to miss!!



SATURDAY 13th MAY

1PM to 10PM, Joseph Hood

Merton FC is staging its inaugural 5/6-a-side World Cup splitting all the members & teams up equally & fairly! There will be two pools, involving a group stage, semi-finals & final & a PLATE competition.

FOLLOWED by a BBQ & BEER!

ALL are welcome – please join the event page on Facebook to state your interest!



SATURDAY 27th MAY,

AWARDS DAY & NIGHT AT MERTON FC
- JOSEPH HOOD -

2PM START (PROMPT).

Inter club friendly, fish n chips, the fa cup final in the bar & awards.

Everybody welcome!



MATCH DAYS

TURN UP ON TIME.

If a meet time is agreed please turn up on time or face starting on the bench. If you are going to be late kindly let your manager know with a quick text.

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!!

SHOWERS

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

Discipline

Poor behaviour a result the means the club incurs additional penalties and costs when club exceeds different tiers of penalty points (costly to club). I urge every player to think about how they behave and how they speak to Referee/s – can you improve? Do you think your behaviour is acceptable? Can you be an Ambassador for club and support Merton FC? Most Importantly: **ENJOY YOUR FOOTBALL.**

Match Reports

Please send all match reports to Mertonwebsite@virginmedia.com and Sammy.sr@blueyonder.co.uk. **NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY EVENING** to be put into the Merton Way. (attached - The score, the team line up, the report and any photos taken.)



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. Geese are the asshole teenagers of the animal world.
2. As an adult, I always forget that i can literally get in my car and buy a cake whenever I want and no one can stop me.
3. Zombies on treadmills would be an excellent source of renewable energy.
4. I get irrationally offended when websites tell me my password is weak.
5. I have secretly been hoping for the apocalypse so I can justify avoiding responsibility.
6. I have never heard someone in a restaurant ask for Pepsi, and heard "Is Coke okay?"
7. Your salary is the bribe they give you to forget your dreams.
8. A TV weatherman goes to work to tell you not to go to work because of the weather.
9. If I dug a hole in the ground and stuck my head in it, the earth would be my helmet.
10. What if that chirping I hear out there isn't bird song, but rather bird screams? Maybe they're afraid of heights?

TV OF THE WEEK:

People Just Do Nothing Feat. Ed Sheeran

SONG OF THE WEEK:

All Summer Long - Kid Rock

TEAM OF THE WEEK:

Leicester City F.C.



1s



MERTON FC 1 HSBC 1

A game likely enjoyed by the braying twits in club ties cheering on the home side for the occasional malice exhibited by the hosts was a satisfactory occasion for the visitors in yellow, too, thanks to a hard-earned point.

Proceedings quickly settled into a pattern of HSBC possession and Merton chances on the break. The Will Low/Wilgo combo typically broke play up. Ivan, as the third man in the middle, had his tail up and passing radar on high alert. His early pass gave Jonny a chance with which he shaved the post.

It was simple, direct, decisive stuff. Shame Rat wanted no further part in it after 10 minutes, shuffling off for lunch while complaining about a twisted ankle.

The Charlie Hockless penalty that gave Merton the lead might seem simple enough, too. In reality, his spot-kick was the decisive blow in an episode of physical and psychological warfare. First, after good work down the right from Jonny Graham, Charlie scrapped with defender and goalkeeper - and was eventually hauled down - to win his chance from 12 yards. He then had to retrieve the ball from somewhere in New Beckenham while fielding less-than-sporting posers from the less-than-sporting posers in red. "Don't overthink it," was among the advice doled out. Our boy didn't. 1-0.

If it was a game of tireless running from the front three, then that was reflected by the industry from the back four. Conor and Joe Grew on either flank impressed, the latter deservedly winning MotM.

Browner and Clappers needed to be a muscular presence. They delivered. Silly Browner had such a good time he even forgot to EG his post-match tequila.

Siri makes a habit of making saves he has no right to. This one was up there with his finest this season. A low ball drilled along the edge of the six-yard box from the left was intercepted by Willy Low's outstretched foot, but Merton's midfield engine could only direct it towards his own goal. One of HSBC's shrieking forwards was already celebrating as Siri threw himself down low to his right, his impossibly-extended paw scraping the ball out for a corner.

HSBC equalised from a low corner midway through the second half. That aside, the Merton wall stood firm. The midfield even won the majority of their headers, despite Clappers' early ("reverse psychology") predictions.

Tom Rowe ran himself into the ground for little reward. Milo looked bright on his introduction from the bench. The game remained an energetic encounter that became stretched.



Charlie didn't quite get his feet right when presented with a good chance to grab a second after a Wilgo flick-on. Then Vanny could have won it, galloping through beyond the last man, only to misjudge his attempted lob.

That was enough to bag him DotD, despite his otherwise stellar performance and Tom Rowe asking whether one needed an HSBC current account to play for the team. Marvellous scenes, truly.

Siri (GK), Conor Murphy, Clappers (c), Peter Brown, Rat (Joe Grew), Will Low, Wilgo, Ivan, Tom Rowe (James Laughton), Jonny Graham (Milo), Charlie





2s

MERTON FC

NO GAME



3s

MERTON FC

END OF SEASON



4s

MERTON FC 1
Ibis Eagles 6

No Report Submitted



5s

MERTON FC 1 Old Wilsonians 0

It was a warm, Saturday day, and we arrived to Wimbledon Common Extensions two hours early confident of a good performance & a much needed 3 points to keep us in a strong position for promotion. But this confidence soon turned to confusion, as rumour had it we were employing a 3-5-2 formation [or 5-3-1 – still not too sure]! Ensnare panic that hasn't been seen before since the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 when the world thought we were entering into nuclear war [I remember those days well]. This was only intensified by the lack of Clive, our motivational speaker who doesn't fail to jeer us up. Luckily, we were able to get him on loudspeaker, so at least that crisis was averted, but trying to explain each player's roles was still proving to be difficult. And you thought Brexit negotiations would be difficult Mrs May – just come and try explain to Merton 5s how we're playing the 3-2-3-1-1 for next week! Luckily, we had a shepherd to herd the headless sheep, with Dwayne taking up the mantra and being our very own Mourinho for the day. One by one, he went through our roles with us until we all knew what we were doing.

The first 45 minutes was a tight affair, with Merton just about creating the better chances. A ball whipped into the box by the charming & handsome left wing back was only very narrowly missed by the desperate lunge of Gibbo and the long outstretched leg of our defensive midfielder Bambi [they can be forgiven for not expecting a good ball in]! We were winning the right hand side of the pitch too, with Delman, Tigs, Ackers and Tom combining well to get us up the pitch and start feeding Gibbo and Dulanjie – one of the promising moves resulting in a shot from outside the box from Tigs! He must have seen a dropbear in the distance that put him off because the shot was scuffed and went wide of the goal. The best chance of the half by far, though, was when Dulanjie was put clean through. He raced onto the through ball, leaving defenders trailing in his wake, and approached the goalkeeper. It was a firm strike that was heading into the corner of the goal, however the keeper instinctively stuck a leg out to deflect the ball away from danger. Terrific save and we went in at 0-0.

Dwayninho's half time team talk was largely positive, and we knew we had to keep the pressure on straightaway. That, we did. We had two great chances not long after the break, and the first fell to Gibbo. Played through, he was 1 on 1 from the keeper from outside the box. He rifled it, however the keeper was well positioned. The rebound fell to him, and he rifled it again – this time a defender had got round to just about deflect the effort over the bar. Unlucky from the big Welshman – it will come I promise! Not long after, the 5s found ourselves 1-0 up. The lively & energetic Delman burst forward with an aggressive run, and swung a delightful ball into the box. It fooled the keeper who came out to collect but missed it, and hit Dulanjie to bobble into the net. None of us knew what part of his appendage he swung at it – I will leave that for the readers to determine – but whatever part it was he did well to get it up by his head to whack the ball in. A deserved goal for D who had been threatening throughout.



We had a couple of chances to go 2 up; however it just didn't seem to want to go in for us. Samurai Steve made a great early run into the box and a better ball would have seen him clean through. Dulanjie and Gibbo had a half chance each, however we were largely defending – but defending well. It wouldn't be a Merton 5s game without at least a couple of injuries, and injuries to Lenners in the first half and myself in the second meant our back 3 [or 5, or 7 depending on what way you look at it] was much-changed. Mike slotted into Centre Back expertly and was doing a gooda job at being Lenners with the exception of shouting a lot and swearing at the ref, Steve was as solid as ever and absolutely nothing was getting past him, and Darren was winning everything in the air. It looked like Delman was tiring after 70 mins, but he still kept somehow going and he defended superbly well when we needed him to. And Dan, who replaced me at left wing back, matched their tricky winger stride for stride despite the unfamiliarity of the position! Tigs was our little Ngolo Kante in the middle with Tom and Steve battling hard to ease the pressure on the defence. Sam had to come to the rescue once or twice, and pulled a couple of good saves out the bag, but it was quite comfortable and we saw out the game with a 1-0 lead.

It wasn't just the first half – our defence was solid throughout and the clean sheet was very well deserved. Ackers, Dulanjie and Gibbo, as well as Delman on our right, caused real problems for Old Wilsonians with their pace and power, and we could have scored more. Lenners does a brilliant job in there for us and it was a shame to lose him to injury in the first half, and as mentioned the three subs more than proved their worth. MoM was a difficult one due to everyone playing very well, however Tigs was just absolutely everywhere across the midfield, not giving them a sniff. He linked up play well and deserves his MoM award.

Naked Lee Time then ensued, with shirts & appendages swinging all over the place. Is winning really worth that much, I find myself asking? Yes – but just about.





6s

MERTON FC 5 Old Salesians 1

Saturday saw us push for promotion against our near neighbours. With some bruised and battered from the previous weekend and unavailabilities, the 6s managed to remain strong with the aid of DQ, Ackers and Mustard coming in, the latter arriving pitch side 10 minutes before the start as he found it difficult leaving his beloved East London, resulting in a 3 hour journey.

Back to the game, with a 4-3-3 formation the opening exchanges showed this will be a good, fair and difficult match. Kevin thought he would try and take out their pacey right winger as soon as the game had kicked off, suppose that was the closest he was gonna get to him all game!

Callum was turning out to be a good out ball and had their left back and the rest of the defence on the back foot and linked up well with Pete and Trey. Between the three of them and the help of some intelligent passing from the midfield, we were slowly turning the screw and eventually got a deserved lead. A cross from the right lead to the ball dropping to the feet of Trey, who gladly tapped into an empty net.

With chances coming more often but not being taken, Old Salesians managed to win the ball in midfield and with their forward holding the ball up and shielding it just inside the area, Beans decided he would follow Kevin's lead and swipe at the forward's leg with the ball 2 yards away from him leaving the ref no option but to point to the spot. Most penalty takers have a bit of nerves before taking it, but if you have to take a pen against Swanny, there's nothing to worry about. There's reading the penalty and there's Swanny's idea of reading a penalty... before the oppo player had started to run up to the ball, Swanny decided to run off to the left post, leaving the rest of the goal to the roll the ball into to make it all square.

The rest of the half looked like it was going to see the teams go in on terms, but Pete had other ideas and knocked in from close range for Merton to regain the lead.

Mustard came on for Paul midway through and was in the action straight away by giving a free-kick away, calling for him to subbed by the Ram :)

Merton carried on creating more chances and possibly the miss of the season, from a corner from Ty, Chappell managed to get his head to the ball from below his waist from a yard out to somehow head over the bar! Thankfully, a few minutes later Trey showed off his skill by finding the bottom left corner from the angle by managing to score from a dropping ball which rolled down his thigh, knee, shin to bobble past their step-in goalie (lucky he was the shortest player on the pitch).

The second half saw DQ replace Trey and Ram with George H. Old Salesians started the half on the front foot and kept Merton honest and ensuring that the game was far from over. Merton were now struggling to keep hold of the ball and the back line were working harder to ensure that shots on goal were kept to distance, with Swanny making a good save diving to his right to tip the ball around the post.

Chappell was now taking corners as Ty's calves, hamstrings and other body parts gave in and was replaced by Paul and thought he would test the oppo's sub keeper and found his attempt coming off the far post but no one to tuck the ball home. Ackers and DQ were now linking up well, and the latter increased our lead after Paul decided scoring easy goals was not for him again. This brought a sense of relief and calmness to proceedings and was most important goal to put the game to bed despite Old Salesians spirited second half display.

Ackers put the final nail in the coffin with a shot from the edge of the area and added the extra coat of gloss on the score that was fully deserved from an all round good team performance.

With five games to go, promotion is in our own hands and to play a double header against our closest rivals Civil Service in a couple of weeks, we can go a step closer this weekend with 3 points!

Team: Swann, George H, Beans, Chappell, Kevin, Paul, Ty, Ackers, Callum, Pete, Trey
Subs: DQ, Ram, Mustard



7s

MERTON FC 0

Civil Service 1

Match one

With only 1 win in 6 you would expect the 7s to be a bit down... however, the chat was more to put on a show and start to get some sort of form back starting with a double header against a good CS side. With a squad of 17, game day started with John pulling out with an ankle injury and taking up a roll on the side line as Merton's very own cheerleader, without the pom poms, or much cheering... !

Starting with a 4-4-2. Darren stepping in between the sticks (our 4th goalie in as many games), the game started with Civil straight on the attack, pushing back the Merton midfield with some neat passing, Darcy playing in the midfield alongside David, soon got to grip with things and managed to break up play and create a few half chances for Dennis to run on to, who was holding up play well for Dylan on the overlap. However, Civil got the best over the opening exchanges and on the 10 minute mark there seem to be a flash point between their volatile striker who was 'putting it about' to say the least, and the 7s captain. With the striker seemingly trying to leave a late 'shoulder' on the old fella in the middle, he was rather surprised to bounce off and end up in a heap on the floor with a torn shirt to boot!

After an exchange of a few choice words and the young whippersnapper being put back in his box, the game resumed with Merton getting the better chances, Darcy once again pulling the strings in the middle, releasing the wingers down the flanks, slotted Malcolm in with just a player to beat managed to get into the 18 yard box and power his shot against the advancing goalkeeper, this could turn into a good day

However, on the 25minute mark and after a few self-inflicted mistakes, Civil managed to break the dead lock on a long ball through which up to this point, Darren seemed to be unbeatable, had no chance with the striker having a clean strike on goal

Half time, a few changes to freshen up the squad, Merton Started quickly and moved the ball around the midfield looking for a an opportunity to release the strikers, once again there was a coming together between their striker and the 7s captain in an aerial battle that was only going to be one winner, which the ref also agreed on

Merton was now having the best of the game, settled and passing the ball around well, Dennis once again causing Civil all sorts of problems, snapping at the heels of the midfield and defences, not giving them time on the ball, managed to create his self a great half chance, only to see the ball come off the crossbar, the resulting rebound being well cleared.

Try as we might, time run out and the game finished in a hard fought defeat, a draw maybe a fairer result, but we all know the game likes to kick you while you're down.

MOTM: Split between Darren, Darcy, Dennis and David (So being the only 7s player, David)

DOTD: Andrew... by his own words, 'a day to forget!'



7s

MERTON FC 0

Civil Service 8

Match two

Now, with our record of not starting well after half time, who knows how we would react to a second game, this came apparent soon after the ending of the first game, looking spent and with over half the team sitting on the floor, it was going to be hard to motivate the team for the second game, in contrast, Civil was having a good team talk, clapping and rallying the troops, clearly far more up for the game than Merton

It did not take long for Civil to breach the rear guard, finally there striker decided to play a bit of football as opposed to gobbing off and trying to muscle himself around, ghosted pass the 7s midfield and was now having the freedom of the pitch.

Ripped apart, the game was all but over with only 30 minutes played, 6-0 down and with no real answer, the team had given it there all in the first game and completed folded in the second. This was without doubt the worse half the 7s have played all season.

Play for a bit pride was the cry at half time, with a further reshuffle, the 7s dragged themselves back on the pitch and looked to contain the damage that was already done. Darcy back on for the now spent David, seemed to galvanise the team and managed to get Noor released down the left wing on several occasions, and with Noor revelling in his battle with the oppositions number 6, got the better of him with a neat control and snap shot which just cleared the cross bar. With 15 minutes to play, Noor was having the better of the battle with his adversary and once again managed to skip round a challenge and get a great shot off, only to see it hit the side netting. With the clock ticking down, Civil managed to put the game to bed with 2 quick finishes, with the full time whistle blown, it was a contrast on days, the first game was a close fought game, but the second be best left on the pitch and never spoken about again, expect for Noor, who seemed to have got a second wind and took the game to them.

MOTM: Noor, great show in the second half, expect to see him step up in the remaining games

DOTD: Team 7s

Team:

Darren, Scott, Tom R, Dan, Martin, Adam, Darcy, David ©, Andrew, Dennis, Dylan, Noor, Malcolm, Tom J, Anam, John, D



NAME: STEVE HARVEY

TEAM: 5S

POSITION: CM

BIRTH DATE: 16/04/1988

BIRTH PLACE: LONDON

PREVIOUS CLUBS: SOUTHBANK, MANOR PARK, CHEAM

STEVE HARVEY



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

Outside the club I'm a self employed plumber who loves a drink and helping others to fulfill their drinking potential.

2. How did you end up at Merton FC?

Last year Scott Shew kept mentioning Mertons pre season so I thought I'd come down and see what it was like! Loved pre season, had such a laugh with the boys and enjoyed the organisation. Haven't looked back since!

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

Beating Actonians 5-2 before Christmas. We lost the first half 0-1 after a lackluster performance. We all got a serious bollocking at half time and we won the 2nd half 5-1. Amazing closing down and play from the boys!

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

I've got to go with Real Madrid. The Santiago Bernabeu is a monster of a home ground and they play beautiful football with a killer instinct to cap it off!

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

No superstitions but pre match rituals are to get in the changing room with the lads, putting some loud music on, singing Dwayne happy birthday and roasting eachother!

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

Goals for this season are to help the 5s finish as high as possible. Every game is a cup final from here to secure promotion!

Player of the season at Merton: Delman AKA. The White Kenyan

Childhood Team: Chelsea

Favourite team in the UK: Chelsea

Favourite team outside the UK: Real Madrid

Childhood Hero: Gianfranco Zola!

Favourite Food: Chinese

Favourite Drink: Jaeger Bomb!

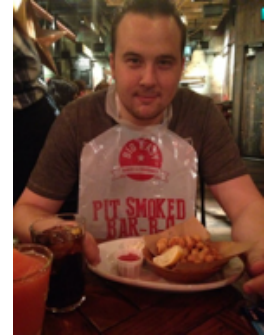
Favourite Band: Cant choose between Steps and Hear'Say

RAPID FIRE



NAME: SCOTT SHEW
 TEAM: 7S
 POSITION: STRIKER
 BIRTH DATE: 15/02/88
 BIRTH PLACE: ST HELIER
 PREVIOUS CLUBS: CARSHALTON FC

SCOTT SHEW



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

I am an estimator for a kitchen company. I would say I am a very caring, a trustworthy person & very honest, if I have a problem with something I'll make my voice heard just ask my manager Dan he would agree with that lol. I also like to play football when I can and I enjoy spending time with my mates and family when I can.

2. What was most memorable moment in your MFC career till now?

I would have to say getting my first hat trick this season against South Bank especially when the goal to get the hat trick was from outside the box which hit the bar before going in.

3. What is your favourite quote?

'the more you sweat in training, the less you bleed in battle'

4. Tell us something about yourself that most of us at the club probably aren't aware of?

I am actually getting married this Saturday 18th March.

5. Ask a friend for a reference and post their response of you

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

To hopefully get some more goals and get the top goal scorer for the 7s.

Player of the season: Tom Roberts. He's a great player and I think you could play him anywhere and he would do a great job.

Favourite team in the UK: Man Utd

Favourite team outside the UK: PSV

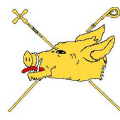
Childhood hero: David Beckham

Favourite band: Boyz ii Men

Favourite food: KFC with my good mate Malcolm

Dream job: I don't really have a dream job to be honest.

RAPID FIRE



MERTON OLD BOY'S

*meet the V.P's (*this week*)
 - *where are they now ?* (*coming soon*)
 memories from "those were the days" (*coming soonest*)
 * legends or leg-ends ?*

Something new is here for your entertainment

The MFC's old boys corner is something new to "the Merton way". This week we feature the vice presidents, Meet....

MARK (dixie) DIX. Joined the club in the swinging sixties, a midfield maestro his long flowing blond hair & his venomous shot was his trade marks. Played mainly for the 1st X1. unfortunately Dixie suffered from cartilage problems and after 4 operations was told to give up football of suffer the consequences in his old age. He always was a good listener & took up a new career as a "keeper"! He went on to play in every team in the club & became the only player to play in all "9" teams in one season ! A feat that will never be repeated. Dixie also spent many years as club treasurer. Founder member of the "Merton war babies" vets team. He tells us that his greatest achievement at Merton was playing in the same team as his son Andrew Dix. Dixie is still an firm supporter of the club & attends 1st X11 matches from time to time or seen telling jokes & propping up the Applegate bar with his old buddy "Dodge".

TERRY BAKER - Terry joined in the early 70's, Terry spent most of his playing career in the 1st X1. Long black hair & bearded "el tel" was arguably one of the most skilful midfielders the club ever had !Known for his hard tackling & fierce shooting & constant moaning.(nothing has changed there then)terry went on to become club president (retired) also club chairman along the way. The work he has put into maintain "the Merton way" is immeasurable & the club owes him huge amount of gratitude.

MARTIN QUINLAN - The mighty quin, son of very old boy Phil Quinlan & brother to Neil & john, all of whom played for the mighty MFC some years back. Martin has been a stalwart ever since the 70's and has so far notched up in excess of 800 games ! He will fulfil his goal of 1,000 we feel sure. Now part of the management team of the reformed 7's and still having a shave after every game he plays !

JOHN GRIDLEY. When John joined in the 80's he was made 1st team keeper for a while, gridders evolved into a useful full back and at the grand old age of 85, he still bombs up & down the line for the 4's. *We have just been informed that gridders is in fact only 55 years young, John is known for his once weekly ritual of cleaning his black boots & dying his hair with the same shoe polish! When not on holiday gridders has the pleasure of playing footie with his only son & is so proud to do so..

GRAEME COOMBS - yet another VP joining in the 70's. a midfield dynamo "coombsey" now 60 ! Was a stalwart of the John Lewis 5's era. Later repping the 6's along side some other MFC legends. His loyal undying service to the club & his pleasant & gentle manner is legendary.**STEVE PHILPOT.** A true gentleman steve was also club chairman & played in the mid & lower sides for many years..Steve now retired from football still attends some club functions & reunions. Can now be found drinking bitter in the Railway pub in cheam village most nights with at least one of the murphy's !

And on the note we go onto the **MURPHY'S PAT** - long time stalwart of the lewis era & ex club Chairman. Pat is responsible for the invasion of "Murphy's". The club have an awful lot to thank the murphy boys for, always on hand to support the club in anyway possible, including playing for the "vets" attending most functions, suppling siblings to various teams as well as drinking the bar dry !

JIM, - Another Merton legendary figure, can now be seen supporting his son conor & supporting the 2's. Jim also a product of the 80's...tough tackling no nonsense all round nice guy.

FURGUS - Yet another Murphy ! Fergie used to turn out for various teams in his time and also ended up in the 6's, a great supporter of the old boys get together and his son Simon also played for the club for a long while.



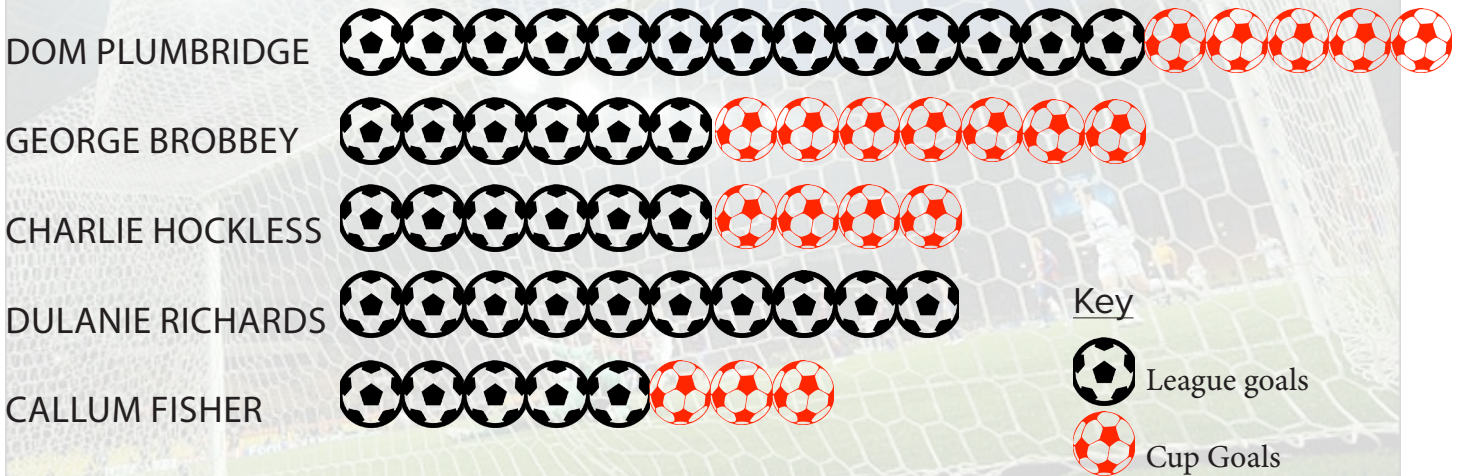
Coming up next time....."where are they now?"

Our team of investigative reporters search out long lost "old boys"

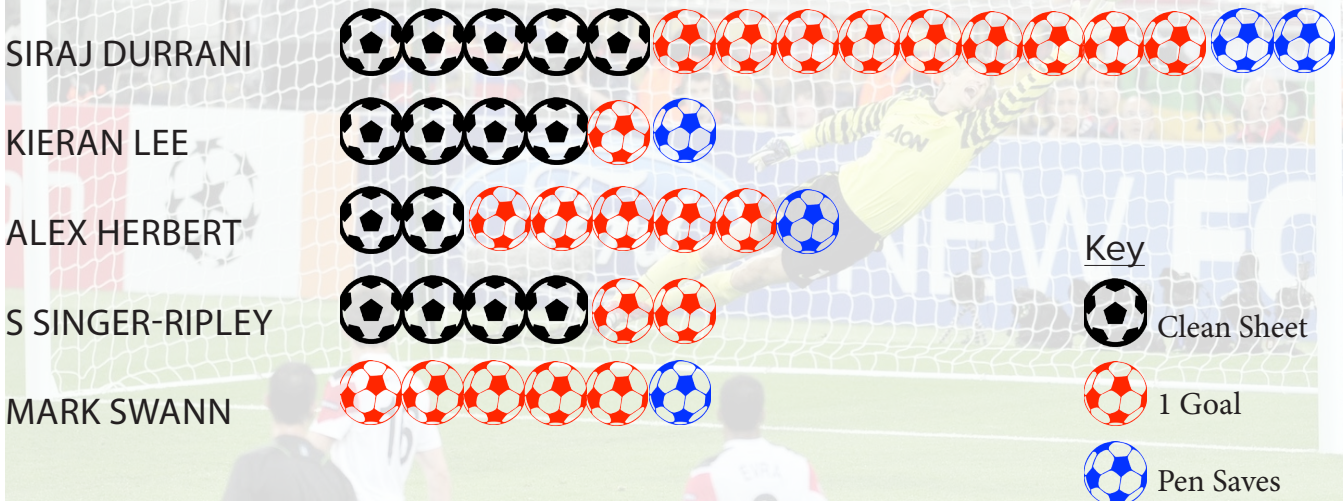


Its nearing the end of the season. Lets see how the table for top goalscorer and top goalkeepers are looking...

TOP GOALSCORERS



GOLDEN GLOVE





U9s

MERTON FC 2

Old Isleworthians Yth Whites 6

No Report Submitted



U11s

MERTON FC 3 Rocks Lane United 1

Mighty Merton U11s took their impressive tally of 1 defeat in 20 development matches going as they defeated Rocks Lane U11s on Sunday.

What was most impressive was there was less than 6 minutes to go to final whistle and away keeper needed treatment.

This gave us opportunity to call lads in for a call to arms rally....."press the players and leave no energy on field after whistle was our call".

Then came change - fantastic corner kick from Olly which was met by a great glancing header from Thomas low into corner of the net. "check-out Merton FB - video" watch drill.

Cormac continued his scoring spree with another fine finish and played really well on right wing throughout match.

Steve Gumble - grabbed 3rd and again showed bravery as he ran onto ball from Kaya and chipped it over keeper - "Another video FC Merton FC".

What made this special was the sheer execution and believe from players - "never over to referee blows final whistle".

Next week we face best team in development league - Molesey and it will be tough encounter - as we stated from very start of season - "Hard work - delivers great results".

Thank you to all our special parents - boys are getting better and stronger and to me score is irrelevant at this age - its all about development, learning and fun.



U13s

MERTON FC 3

Hampton Rangers Juniors 3

First half we had kick off we were playing well as were the opposition. We had a few shots off and we were passing and defending well, the conditions were not the best, it was a bit rainy and muddy but we all had to get used to it.

Evan scored the first goal assisted by McKenzie on the left side. He curled it a little bit and their keeper could not reach it, 1-0 to Merton.

They started paying a route one. A very nice cross coming from goal fell to one of Hampton's players who ran through our defence, Jack was the last man but couldn't foul him or he would be sent off so the opposition got a goal, 1-1. They were passing the ball down the left side and trying to get the crosses in but Alfie was doing well to stop them, Kadeem had a couple of chances for the cross but couldn't make them, whistle blows, first half over.

Both teams had a talk and the game recommenced, second half Hampton's kick off. We weren't passing as well as before and Hampton were pushing a lot. But we were on the break and passing magically, we got a shot off but it got blocked, the ball fell to Evan who yet again scored a great goal just in front of the half way line, 2-1 to Merton. Hampton were really trying at this point and eventually scored a goal via route one, a good goal 2-2.

Both teams needed a goal to win, we tried really hard but Hampton came out on top scoring another goal by running straight through our defence and skimmed our goalie and scored, 2-3. We really needed a goal here so we made some subs: Isaac came on for Justin at (ST) Hugo came on for Kadeem at (RM) Freddie came on for Alfie at (RB) and Theo came on for Evan at (CAM).

Hampton had another run but were unintentionally fouled by Freddie, free kick to them. The free kick didn't go in so Merton still had a chance with 10 minuets left to score. Isaac got the ball and ran but there was a hand ball so the ref blew the whistle but he couldn't hear it and carried on running and everybody told me to stop so he did and had a laugh, Kieron then ran down the right and tried a cross which led to a corner for Merton. Theo took the corner as usual but scuffed it, unlucky, but all was not over!

Merton on the break again, the ball was passed to Hampton's defence and they tried to clear it but failed, in comes Marcus, he runs through what was left in their defence and scored a very nice goal leading to a 3-3 score line.

Hampton try to get the goal but the whistle was blown and the match ended 3-3. Everyone was happy, it was a very nice game and it was very even sided, everybody shook hands at the end and all was merry, well done everyone!

By Isaac Tossio (striker)

Line up: (GK) Milo
(CB) Jack and Nikoy
(LB) McKenzie (RB)
Alfie (CDM) Daniel
(RM) Kieron (LM)
Kadeem (CAM)
Evan (ST) Justin and
Marcus.





U14s

MERTON FC 11

OLD ISLEWORTHIAN YTH RED 0

NO REPORT SUBMITTED



U15s

MERTON FC 3

Doverhouse lions pink 1

Merton ended their poor run of form after a comfortable 3-1 win against Doverhouse. The weather conditions were hard to play in because of the rain and the muddy pitches. However, Marcin managed to score two great goals before the break to put Merton in the driving seat.

The 5-0 defeat for Doverhouse, last time, already put pressure on them and going 2-0 down in the first 30 minutes didn't help them.

Merton knew this was a very important game because if they lost it then the yellows would be facing a big fight to stay up. Therefore they had to turn up with the right attitude and prove how good they were. Tommy had a relaxed game also due to Dan and Darren's side being much better defensively.

Although there were 3 goals scored, Merton's attack still had room for improvement and their midfield had to be worked on. Many chances were missed in the second half and Doverhouse were lucky it wasn't double figures. Sam made it three with a good finish, cutting in and smashing it past the goalkeeper, bottom left.

Doverhouse got a goal back, down to poor Merton defending, but there was no hope. The weaker team just couldn't hold onto the ball for long enough and kept giving the ball away.

For both teams there were things to work on and the play could have been better. The win leaves Merton 8th in the league only 2 points behind 6th and with one game in hand. There is hope for the yellows to finish mid-table but with some hard games coming up there is a need to improve all around. They face Hanworth next week, a vital game that could potentially move them up to 6th.

However it's all bad for Doverhouse who are definitely relegated to division 2. The pinks are last in the league and 7 points behind second to bottom, Brockham. Doverhouse could get their second win of the season if they beat Brockham on Sunday.

Finally, man of the match was Marcin, the Merton striker who was outstanding and scored 2 fantastic goals.



WHO'S WHERE AND WHEN

SATURDAY 18th March 2017

1s
MERTON FC v Weirside Rangers
Home – 15:00

2s
MERTON FC v Weirside Rangers
Home - 15:00

3s
MERTON FC
END OF SEASON

4s
Old Wokinghands v MERTON FC
away - 15:00

5s
Polytechnique v MERTON FC
Away - 15:00

6s
Old Salesian v MERTON FC
Away– 15:00

7s
MERTON FC v Old Wilsonians
Home – 14:00
DOUBLE HEADER

SUNDAY 19th March 2017

U9s
MERTON FC v G4G FC Whites
Home

U11s
MERTON FC v Molesey Juniors Youth
Home

U13s
MERTON FC v Sheen Lions Pride
Home

U14s
MERTON FC
NO GAME

U15s
MERTON FC v Hanworth Sports
Home



TESTIMONIAL

Steve,

I just wanted to feedback some of our parents comments about today's referee - James Laughton. It's not often I am asked with such conviction by our parents to ensure that I make their feelings about a match referee known, but they were all blown away by how he took the time to correct the children when they made mistakes, how he took the time to explain what they had done incorrect and what needed to be done again. He was only a young man but he really had such a calm and sensible way about him that the children related to brilliantly, whilst ensuring that the game flowed without hitch or hindrance.

We would be more than happy to have another game in the future officiated by James and we would be most grateful if you could pass on our comments to him

Many thanks.
Lucy

Lucy Peacock MSc, BSc(Hons)

-

U7's Whites, U9's Whites & U11's Whites Team Facilitator
Girls Football Development Centre Administrator
Old Isleworthian's Youth Football Club



James Laughton - 1's player and Youth Referee




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