

THE MERTON WAY



THEY THINK IT'S ALL OVER WELL IT DEFINITELY ISN'T!

The SAL has taken on an unusual look bearing in mind it's only the start of March. A mixture of surprisingly few games called off, smaller league sizes and teams pulling out midseason has meant that three of our teams have finished or almost finished their league seasons. The 3s have finished, the 4s have got one game left and the 2s two. It's not illegal to stay in a cup or two guys!

This doesn't mean you've got to now spend Saturday afternoon with your wives, girlfriends, boyfriends or those weird mates who don't like football. Stop panicking, put away your shopping bags and turn off your Sega Mega Drives, the SAL are launching the inaugural Spring Cup. We haven't actually been given the full details but it's going to be a league based competition leading on to knock out games of some sort. A bit like the Champions League but for less dextrous, unfit, footballers. As we know more we'll publish details.

As we enter the back end of the season please keep your eyes peeled for details of upcoming events. It's important that we stick together in those sad months between the end of one season and the start of the next and a good Merton FC event is the perfect medium for this. Key dates already are the Long Good Friday on the 14th April, the Merton World Cup 5 aside on the 6th of May and the end of season awards on the 27th May.

Good luck to the 1s and 5s this weekend and for any 2s, 3s or 4s players at a loose end get yourselves down to the Hood to **watch the 6s v 7s.**



MERTON FC – 2017 EVENTS MARCH - JUNE

(Remember we now show live premier league games in the bar after footy 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 6th 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!

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.

Match Reports

Please send all match reports to Michaeltodt61@gmail.com, Mertonwebsite@virginmedia.com and Sammy.sr@blueyonder.co.uk **no later than wednesday evening** to be put into the Merton Way.

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. Heat, Pressure, and Time. The three things that make a diamond, are also the three things that make a waffle.
2. Reading a book under a tree is peaceful but imagine how stressful it is for the tree to see it's dead friends in our hand.
3. An infinite number of \$1 bills and an infinite number of \$20 bills would be worth the same.
4. But when you think about it they're actually worth nothing because you've devalued the currency so much.
5. Nothing is still the same as nothing.
6. In the dog world, humans are elves that routinely live to be 500+ years old.
7. Your future self is watching you right now through memories.
8. Your DNA contains millions of years worth of software updates.
9. Everytime you get dressed remember that, if you die, that's your ghost outfit forever
10. Since bat wings are just skin stretched between elongated finger bones, bats fly through the power of jazz hands.

MOVIE OF THE WEEK:

Logan

SONG OF THE WEEK:

Slide - Calvin Harris

WHOSE WHERE

1's - Senior Division 2

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	East Barnet Old Grammarians	15	11	3	1	49	19	30	36
2	Actonians Association	15	8	4	3	33	15	18	28
3	Bank of England	14	8	2	4	43	26	17	26
4	Old Finchleians	15	7	3	5	31	30	1	24
5	Merton	13	6	4	3	22	18	4	22
6	Civil Service	14	6	3	5	15	16	-1	21
7	Alexandra Park	16	5	3	8	34	36	-2	18
8	HSBC	13	5	4	4	24	26	-2	16
9	Ibis Eagles	13	3	1	9	25	39	-14	10
10	Weirside Rangers	13	3	1	9	20	37	-17	10

2's - Intermediate Division 3

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	South Bank Cuaco Res	15	9	5	1	34	22	12	32
2	HSBC Res	16	9	2	5	56	26	30	29
3	St James' Old Boys	15	8	1	6	35	22	13	25
4	Weirside Rangers Res	14	6	4	4	26	21	5	22
5	Merton Res	14	6	3	5	27	20	7	21
6	AFC Oldsmiths Res	11	6	1	4	28	20	8	19
7	Lloyds Warren Res	15	6	1	8	28	26	2	19
8	Old Blues Res	16	3	1	12	14	48	-34	10
9	Kew Association Res	14	1	4	9	20	63	-43	7

3's - Junior Division 2

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Alexandra Park 3rd	15	11	0	4	46	27	19	33
2	Old Finchleians 3rd	14	9	1	4	46	37	9	28
3	Carshalton 3rd	15	7	1	7	33	43	-10	22
4	Civil Service 4th	15	6	3	6	28	27	1	21
5	Nottsborough 4th	13	5	4	4	35	25	10	19
6	Old Owens 3rd	15	7	1	7	31	39	-8	19
7	Old Parkonians 4th	13	5	3	5	32	35	-3	18
8	Old Wilsonians 3rd	16	4	3	9	38	45	-7	15
9	Merton 3rd	16	4	0	12	30	41	-11	12

4's - Minor Division 2 South

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Carshalton 4th	17	16	0	1	79	18	61	48
2	Actonians Association 6th	12	10	1	1	51	11	40	31
3	Polytechnic 6th	14	10	1	3	53	19	34	31
4	Ibis Eagles 5th	13	7	2	4	30	29	1	23
5	West Wickham 5th	15	6	3	6	29	25	4	21
6	Old Wilsonians 5th	15	5	2	8	30	46	-16	17
7	Bank of England 4th	16	5	0	11	30	46	-16	15
8	Civil Service 6th	15	4	2	9	23	54	-31	14
9	Merton 4th	17	4	0	13	34	47	-13	12
10	Lloyds Warren 3rd	14	1	1	12	15	79	-64	4

WHOSE WHERE

5's - Minor Division 4 South

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Polytechnic 9th	12	10	1	1	45	18	27	31
2	Kew Association 3rd	14	8	1	5	50	41	9	25
3	Merton 5th	13	8	1	4	28	24	4	25
4	Civil Service 7th	16	7	2	7	41	34	7	23
5	Actonians Association 8th	12	7	1	4	30	24	6	22
6	Ibis Eagles 6th	12	6	0	6	33	26	7	18
7	Old Wilsonians 7th	14	5	2	7	25	33	-8	17
8	South Bank Cuaco 5th	15	4	2	9	29	32	-3	14
9	Polytechnic 8th	14	3	4	7	20	26	-6	13
10	HSBC 7th	14	3	0	11	18	61	-43	9

6's - Minor Division 5 South

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Carshalton 6th	11	10	1	0	74	9	65	31
2	Merton 6th	11	7	1	3	33	29	4	22
3	Alley Old Boys 7th	12	5	3	4	39	35	4	18
4	Civil Service 8th	9	5	1	3	40	25	15	16
5	Bank of England 5th	12	5	1	6	32	20	12	16
6	Old Salesians 3rd	12	5	2	5	33	32	1	14
7	Old Blues 4th	8	4	2	2	22	22	0	14
8	Old Wilsonians 8th	11	3	3	5	24	39	-15	12
9	Merton 7th	9	3	2	4	30	37	-7	11
10	South Bank Cuaco 6th	11	3	2	6	20	35	-15	11
11	Old Wilsonians 9th	12	0	0	12	6	70	-64	0

7's - Minor Division 5 South

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Carshalton 6th	11	10	1	0	74	9	65	31
2	Merton 6th	11	7	1	3	33	29	4	22
3	Alley Old Boys 7th	12	5	3	4	39	35	4	18
4	Civil Service 8th	9	5	1	3	40	25	15	16
5	Bank of England 5th	12	5	1	6	32	20	12	16
6	Old Salesians 3rd	12	5	2	5	33	32	1	14
7	Old Blues 4th	8	4	2	2	22	22	0	14
8	Old Wilsonians 8th	11	3	3	5	24	39	-15	12
9	Merton 7th	9	3	2	4	30	37	-7	11
10	South Bank Cuaco 6th	11	3	2	6	20	35	-15	11
11	Old Wilsonians 9th	12	0	0	12	6	70	-64	0

1s

MERTON FC 3
Bank of England 0
1-1 after FT

Everyone knows that DOTD writes the match report. Well apparently not as this week's 1s DOTD has decided against it!

Maybe he thought it would interfere with his DOTY duties. Maybe it's because English isn't his first language. Maybe it's because he didn't want to transfer his poor spelling and grammar from Facebook to the Merton Way. Who knows but we do all know it's a shame.

We'd have helped if he'd asked. We could have written the report in big letters so he could copy it underneath. We'd have let him write it in capital letters. We'd have even let him draw pictures. But no, Ivan "the massive lad" Gladkow chose not to. What punishment awaits we'll have to wait and see! Thankfully, as I have to pick up the mantel, it's not too arduous a task because our game was dreadful and there is very little to write about.

We never got into our stride against a spirited Weirside team but midway through the first half, after we won a corner with one of the few bits of football played, we went 1-0 up. The aforementioned corner was headed out to the edge of the box, Sam juggled (miscontrolled) the ball from foot to foot and then unleashed an unstoppable half volley into the top corner. Like a young, white, Tony Yeboah.

Nothing else of note happened in that half!

The second half wasn't much better and I honestly can't remember anything of note to report. That is until the ref awarded a penalty with five minutes to go. A clearance had been hoofed straight up into the air and as I went to head it clear the swirling wind directed it onto my outstretched arm. Some agreed with the ref but most importantly James Laughton said it wasn't and he's a qualified ref and all round football nut so I'm agreeing with him. Anyway, after very little debate, Weirside equalised with a well taken penalty. The game finished 1-1 and it was onto penalties.

Sam, Will Low, James and Elz all confidently put their hands up for the first four pens. I can't remember the fifth volunteer but I definitely know it wasn't Ivan. He very quickly put his tracksuit on and hid behind the 17 year olds.

We scored our first three and they missed theirs. Siri saved two of them proving yet again that when he's not screaming his head off he's a pretty integral part of our success.

Sam was Match of the Match but honourable mentioned to Willgo who displayed his customary winning attitude and Will Low who cover almost every blade of grass. Epitomised by the fact we scored his penalty and then had to jog 30 yards behind the goal to retrieve the ball which has gone through a hole on the net.

Onto the semis now, away to IBIS or Crouch End.

Team: Siri, Willgo, Rat, Clappers, Kearnsy, Will Low, Sam, Nick van Winkle, James, Tom, Ivan. Sub: Elz

Man Of The Match: Sam Harvey
Dick Of The Day: Ivan Gladkow



2s



MERTON FC 1 Old Blues 0

Merton returned to winning ways with a hard fought victory at Old Blues, courtesy of a late DK/DQ strike. Truth be told, it was not a dissimilar game to last week, featuring a lot of effort, some accomplished defending, not much in the way of goal mouth action, and a goal that could also be described as a big bag o'shite. Considering the game last week was vs the champions-elect and this week we faced the 2nd bottom team, it shows how closely matched this league is.

With Lofty arriving and then dropping out ill and Emmanuelle applying his now-standard disregard for meet times, the 10 players who were on time conducted an exercise in democratic formation selection. The varying merits of 4-4-2, 4-5-1, 3-4-3, and 4-4-1-1 were considered, before the choice was made to adopt a 3-5-2 designed to put legs at wingback in the form of Milo and Emmanuelle, and in the hope that giving Ben Cook his promised role in mf would bear fruit and minimise rage possibilities. Pearcey, Jordan and Connor formed a back three in front of Sherbs, with BDS, Cook and Rayner in the middle, and a DQ/DK frontline. Reassuringly, the home side only had 11 as well, so were all set for iron man football as the game commenced.

Merton almost struck from the outset as Milo released DK and his cross was close to being turned in by DQ. However, after this, the game became more attritional, or in more blunt terms the referee spent most of the half giving Merton free kicks as Old Blues idea of tackling was, shall we say, old-school. To compound matters, he would then almost immediately balance things up by calling Merton offside from almost every free kick he had just awarded. Frustrating. Occasionally, some football did break out, and it was Merton who showed glimpses of quality most often. In particular, Emmanuelle was finding space down his wing, and linking up with DK, and in particular DQ, to good effect.

One such move saw DQ almost in behind; with DQ, covering defenders and keeper converging, DQ's squared header was deflected just behind DK or a goal would have been (mostly) certain. Big Dave Scott threatened next after more link up play down the left, but blazed wide after being set up on the corner of the 18 yard box. DK then span his defender following a cleared corner and looked set to gallop free down the left, only for a blatant shirt pull to end the danger as he was hauled down. The referee remarkably decided this warranted a free-kick, a fact no doubt noted by defenders on both sides for future reference. At one point Cookie was also crudely brought down by a sliding tackle from behind, before telling Connor to "leave it" as he came to protest. Merton were collectively stunned, and made a note to enquire (after the game) just who this player was and what he done with Ben Cook.

At the other end, Merton were largely looking comfortable at the back, with Connor, Jordan and especially Pearcey sweeping when needed and reading the game with aplomb. Ahead of them, the mid-field three were working hard to close down space, with winger-turned-CM Chris Rayner throwing himself into Noble-Gresty-like tackles and headers like he'd played there all his life. There were a few scares from set pieces, but Sherbs didn't actually have a save to make. 0-0 at HT, and Merton felt the game was theirs for the taking, if only they could turn their possession into some clear-cut chances. And not succumb to a set piece in the meantime.

For once, they were right. With Merton keeping the intensity level high, they remained the dominant team. Chances remained at a premium, with a free DQ header (over the bar) from a Rayner corner the clearest sight on goal for 30 minutes of effort. Old Blues continued to throw themselves into some questionable tackles, and their right back finally received the yellow card he deserved in the first half partway through the second, but were still failing to trouble Merton. It was definitely the sort of game where you felt one goal would be enough, and finally, Merton managed to take their chance and bag a winner.

First, great closing down won a throw-in deep in the opposition half. Connor slung the ball in and Dave Scott made enough of a nuisance of himself to knock the ball down. DK reacted first and hit what can only be described as a laser-guided trundler of a side-foot from the corner of the 6 yard box. It dipped, bounced, DQ and covering defender desperate lunged at it (to no discernible effect, although DQ claimed it brushed his foot), and then almost apologetically bobbed into the far corner. Literally unstoppable. 1-0.

With 15 minutes to go, Merton held out comfortably (for once) and the three points were theirs. An absolutely solid performance from players 1 to 11, with everyone working for the team.

Jordan bagged his first three point haul with the 2s and promptly hightailed it to Manchester to celebrate, leaving 10 to decide on awards. Ben Cook and Connor Murphy shared MOTM accolades, with Sherbs rather bizarrely picking up one vote despite not having a save to make. DQ was harshly voted DOTD despite putting in a heroic shift in terms of blades of grass covered, for reasons varying from the missed header to a flat "I just don't like him". Harsh, but the predator (with disaronno, no less) was brutally dispatched with aplomb.

This week, a new feature; player ratings. Well, performance descriptions to be precise. Everyone played their part and felt like this should be recognised.

Sherbs: Comfortable throughout, swept well when called for.

Jordan: Immense. Slotted into a back 3 like the old pro he isn't and dealt with everything thrown at him

Pearcey: Composed throughout, reading the game brilliantly and captaining his defence (and the team).

Connor: What other epitaph befits other than relentlessly, remorselessly solid. At all times.

Milo: Worked his socks off for the team, covering when needed and providing a valuable outlet down the right.

Rayner: Tigerish. Never stopped fighting for the team.

Cookie: Protected the back four when needed whilst ghosting past midfielders when on the ball. Classy

BDS: All action display of no little physicality and chipped in with an assist.

Emmanuelle: Offered threat down the left, supporting the strikers, and worked hard defensively.

DQ: Closed down the oppo relentlessly, effective at linking play, and won his share of challenges to boot as well. Inspirational. And apparently a dick. For the day.

DK: His usual mix of energetic closing down, misplaced passes and short-range goal-sniffing.

3s

MERTON FC 4 Nottsborough 0

On a blustery afternoon at the Hood, Merton FC's last game of the season was to follow on a day that coincided with a few Merton farewells and an end to a character building season on and off the pitch. After an unusually indifferent season of highs and lows on the pitch, Merton were cheered on from above by one of our beloved boars who we lost this season (smiler boar) Nick P. Our oppo got the better of us earlier in the season when the need for substitutes was ever so apparent. Merton had an almost full squad to pick from for the final home game.

Merton started off the game from the kick off pressing high up and won the ball back from a Nottsborough start. The ball was collected in midfield and played out to Glenn on the right hand side of the area, a swift cross in to the box, and Denys was on hand 7 yards from goal to finish well in the bottom left hand corner to make it 1-0 to Merton within 30 seconds of the kick off. Good finish and pressure from Merton, and a finish to start the tempo for the first half for Merton.

Merton were pressing constantly and after a few challenges on the Nottsborough forward players early on, Merton had a lot of the ball and were spreading the play across the midfield and to the two forwards well.

10 minutes in, a ball in to midfield from defence was played out to the left wing, crossed in to the area to Darcy who stuck the ball past the keeper from 5 yards to make it 2-0. Merton cruising and playing great. A few fouls were given by both teams (but mainly Tony P) as Nottsborough tried to keep the ball, and the Merton back line stuck together well. 25 minutes in, Merton possession, chances created, and not an opposition chance on target to note.

30 minutes in and more Merton pressure and pressing resulted in another goal. Great pressure from the Merton defence gave the ball to Ricky on the left wing, who combining with Mustard/ Glenn, gave Ricky a sight at goal from 30 yards out. The keeper only slightly off his line, Ricky lobbed in an audacious effort (and screamed as if giving birth) over the keeper which nestled in to the side netting. Great strike, and rightly so a Merton bundle followed...

3-0 up and in complete control. Some say it was the handsome (and rightly so missed) faces that were back for Merton on the day, some say it was Denys' relentless effort chasing down the Nottsborough back line, some even say it was the fear of being replaced by the fluorescent boot wearing, 'pregnant' substitute Donno that spurred the team on?! However a great first half from Merton and with a full team and all round commitment- showed us what the season could have been like had the personnel being consistent.

Second half and Ross and Donno were on for Denys and Joe (with beard).

The second half did not start as comfortably as the first half did. The Nottsborough players pressed higher up (possibly a last throw of the dice) to try and gain some momentum in the Merton half. 10 minutes of pressure from the oppo was dealt well with by the Merton back four. 15 minutes in and a through ball from Tony at right back was knocked through to Donno by Ross – as seen many times this season Donno has a tendency to think he is faster than he is – legs moving faster, and upper ‘torso’ area lagging slightly behind; the keeper came out of his area to collect the bouncing through ball. Donno managed to nick this past the keeper slightly in the air (or so he thought) until the oppo keeper decided to stop his effort, and handled outside of his area. Red card. Oppo down to 10 men. Free kick to Merton.

After a few minutes from the oppo complaining and Merton discussion on who to take the free kick, Glenn took responsibility. Most of the Merton teams’ pancakes on Tuesday night were as flat as this free kick – as Glenn confessed (whilst chuckling to himself) ‘errr – that was rubbish Tone’ – yes it was Glenn. Yes it was.

Shortly after a free kick given in Mertons’ half after Tony wrestled had their left winger to the ground and in the same movement pulled his shorts down – (great technique) - a Nottsborough attack resulted in their centre half cuddling Neal violently, dragged him to the floor whispering sweet nothings’ in to his ear (who can blame him?!) – a free kick was given quickly and taken by Dan up field to Ricky. Through ball to Donno and those pink boots were deliberating whether to go to the keepers left, right, over the top – in the end a toe-poke through the keepers’ legs was good enough to make it 4-0. Good finish in to the bottom corner of the net.

The opposition at this point had their heads down, but kept bombing forward and trying to hold the ball up in the Merton half. Their forward intent led to a lot of chances for Merton to score more, as their back line was nowhere to be seen.

Ross had a great chance to make it 5-0 when a through ball from Donno with only the keeper to beat, smashed an effort off the post. Donno then had 2-3 chances to wrap the game up and... didn’t. Ball was won by Ross within the Merton half, edge of the area, squared to the opposite side of the box to Donno, Tony was free with an open goal in front of him – yet inexplicably gravity pulled Donno and his excess ‘muscle’ to the floor for the umpteenth time. An open goal or two from Donno were quickly forgotten about when the final whistle went on what was a great end to the season and showed a great team spirit throughout the team.

Great performance from the boars and no bookings (unbelievably)!

Best of luck to Donno on his new venture in Spain – last appearance for him in a Merton shirt and farewell to those pink boots...

Starting XI : Dan, Tony P, Vinny, Neal, Welch, Ricky, Darcy, Mustard, Joe, Denys and Glenn
Subs: Donno, Ross

Goal Scorers: Denys, Darcy, Ricardo and Donno

MOTM: Ricardo

DOTM: Dave ‘Dad bod’ Donovan

4s

MERTON FC 4 Lloyds Warren 0

After last weekend's impressive display at home against Bank of England, plus the return fixture back in January where we triumphed 9-2, we knew that another three points was the only result. Knowing this, we approached the game like any other, with the mind-set that it could go against us and we could end up on the losing end.

The focus was there as it was still mathematically possible to stay up depending on other results. We had to ensure that we won this game for that to come to fruition however.

We were without our skipper Mike Todt this week as well as Michael Vogt with John Gridley also missing through injury. We did however welcome back Ryan Burchell and Mikey Elgar.

We started the game well and we on the front foot from the off. Frankie was like a man possessed in the middle of the park, winning each and every ball that he challenged for and doing well with it when it was in his possession. He did so well in fact that he won a free kick on the right by-line. Aaron Lotfus stepped up from more than 30 yards out to bury the ball into the back of the net, something that he predicted the night before.

Not long after the restart were we able to double our lead through Dom Plumridge. After a ball into the box failed to be cleared from Dom's initial effort, he buried it to the keeper's bottom right at the second time of asking. 2-0 and cruising.

Not long after doubling our lead, Dom picked up a freak injury when claiming the ball after it had gone out of play. Our job was going to be a lot tougher without our talisman but we knew we had capable replacements on the bench. Jake replaced Dom in a straight swap.

It remained 2-0 going into the break and it was a lead that was well deserved.

The second half started with the opposition opting for a change in keeper however this did not seem to change the outcome as we increased our tally by a further two goals with Dan Gridley scoring with a free kick from the left and Frankie getting on the scoresheet for the first time this season with a high looping effort from 20 yards that the keeper could do nothing about.

4-0 was the final score. A second win on the bounce however was not enough to stay in the league as Civil Service won. Unless Bank of England and Old Wilsonians loss their remaining games (both whom still have Lloyds Warren to play) we will be situated in Division 3 and facing back to back relegations.

Our league position doesn't justify our performances throughout the season. We have been unlucky in most of the games we have lost. Next season you will see a more determined Merton 4s with only one aim.....promotion and a league title!

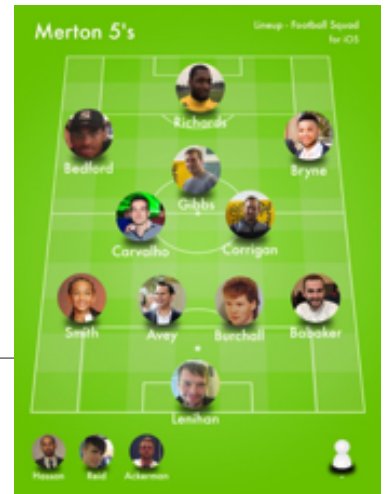
SCORERS: Aaron Loftus, Dom Plumridge, Dan Gridley, Frankie Kalogirou

MOTM: Frankie Kalogirou

STARTING LINE-UP: Kieran Lee (GK), Ryan Burchell, Mikey Elgar, Joe Plumridge, Edward Plaistow, Frankie Kalogirou, Will Harrison, Chris Outred, Sonny Kennedy, Dom Plumridge, Aaron Loftus

SUBS: Dan Gridley, Jake Hewitt

5s



MERTON FC 1 Kew Associate 2

So another week another report writer and can I just start by apologising to any one I fail to insult in this report. I like to treat everyone fairly so you'll all cop it at some point and bear in mind I am old and have alchzeim..... alsimer.....alchazel.....bollocks a poor memory this report will take the fashion of one of my arrest reports and be a complete work of fiction with no evidence what so ever!

The day started well we were nearly all on time changed and ready for a warm up but despite the jovial banter which we are used to there seemed to be a lack of focus, Aaron still racked with guilt over his night time fun and Delman pondering his last visit to Manchester where rumour has it he ate a sausage (cue 300 messages on the whatsapp group with gay GIF'S).

So against a side which beat us last time we kicked off with a strong side and a good bench ready in the wings.

Almost immediately with our first attack a tremendous strike by Aaron and it was 1 nil what followed was the most amusing goal celebration as he got clipped by the defender striking the ball he wheeled away in celebration he ran like a demented gazelle on steroids to the half way line and then collapsed in a heap. He had to be helped off but fortunately was unhurt and returned to the game later. We have strength in depth not only did we replace him with a class player but we did not even have to change names as Aaron A came on.

I can summarise the next 40 minutes of football in a few short lines we had chance after chance after chance but there was more chance of Sam losing his virginity (with a girl) than of our strike force hitting the back of the net. We could not score in a brothel with a fist full of fivers!

D had one great unlucky chance with a volley over his shoulder, Dwayne had a flying header that he did well to get to (the landing was something out of the pilots guide on how not to land) Aaron A lined up for a volley yes I thought I would bet my shirt on him burying that erm no high and wide and skins for me next week. Gibbo and D so often our saviours and reliable no no and no !

Darren and I looked at each other at the back and all those years of experience just commented to each other this was going to be one of those days! I hate being right (that's why I don't do it often ask Ryan) The defence held solid with Josh, Delman, Darren, me and Lee our stand in goalkeeper for the day performing our duties admirably.

The midfield of Tiago, Clive, Dwayne, Aaron A and Gibbo creating and protecting the back four worked hard and D up front running for everything surely we would prevail. Half time came and despite being 1-0 up the omens were not good.

The second half started well to be honest they started the second half we were all a little slow (except Lee who had dashed off for a quick half time dump memories of Lehman peeing behind the hoardings).

Then disaster on the scale of the Titanic sinking or the great fire of London or not getting a slice of Pizza! With a wonder strike that he will never repeat their midfielder left Lee flapping at thin air and it was 1-1 bad times (Lee had no chance really please Lee do not put me down for NLT as revenge)

A short while later with South Bank doing most of the attacking and our game dropping to their level, we gave away a free kick outside the box. Lee lined up his wall the little Italian kid lined up his shot and curled it in 2-1 again lee no chance.

We battled hard and tried to get back in the game but the writing was on the wall (that's the last time I want to see Josh with a spray can)

Their keeper was doing a better job of sweeping than I was he was quicker of his line than a man with irritable bowel syndrome who has been clenching for hours and just sighted a toilet!

Not really creating any chances this half for our strikers we should have had a penalty when D was fouled and a second when Aaron was pushed by the keeper but as he played honest stayed in his feet to shoot into the side netting the chance was gone. Most of us would have gone down like a stripper being offered a £10 (again another rumour about Delmans last visit to Manchester). Clive came the closest heading narrowly over from a yard away.

A third goal followed for South Bank when their striker robbed Josh on the side line and made an individual run to score.

They brought on the mong for the last few minutes who changed the game completely trying to turn a nice game into a fight taking out Delman with telekinesis well he kept saying he did not touch him despite flooring him so it must be a super power!

Lee managed to shout at me to prevent the inevitable card that would have followed the tackle that was in my mind at the end of the 50 yard sprint towards the mong next time he got the ball (saved me a tenner cheers Lee)

The game finished 3-1 sadly.

Positives we created great chances in the first half and we defended well throughout beaten by three individual moments of brilliance. Results keep us in the top three and we will move on from this as we are a great team with good team spirit (vodka shots all round)

Negatives – bad day at the office for finishing across the team, and a little bit of niggling comments coming out remember no one intentionally mucks up we stand and fall as a team (Straight out of Sam's book of inspirational comments along with go on son get in there she loves it)

Onwards and upwards and once again if I failed to insult you I apologise and here goes Lee (no you scare me) Delman what happens in Manchester stays in Manchester except crabs they come back with you!, Josh you lasted 90 minutes sick note, Darren you'll edit this so no point (Darren: I only corrected the spellings & grammar, plus the bit about Clive missing from a yard), Clive erm no never insult the manager, Gibbo if you flick the ball again I will volunteer you for double NLT, Tiaggio you're an inspiration annoying but an inspiration lol, Aaron A you should do a refs course, Aaron respect for Friday night which mates girl was it hope he reads this! , Dwayne no Dwayne's too nice to rip into but HAPPY BIRTHDAY! , and D no don't fancy getting battered to death by the huge member he has (do you pay extra subs to bring that third leg on the pitch?)

Subs for the day Bambi great to see you back I cried when the hunters shot your mum, and lastly Annam I love your chocolate, erm no, I mean I love Cadburys not your personal chocolate, erm really I'm strictly hetro I don't even like midgets! Erm on that note see you all next week where I shall be wearing my body armour and expecting to be beaten senseless!

If you enjoyed this Steve B wrote it if you did not then Luke did it!

Not sure who man of the match was but my vote would be Lee for standing in as keeper and pulling off some great saves.

6s

MERTON FC 1
Old Wilsonians 3

NO REPORT SUBMITTED

7s

MERTON FC

NO GAME

NAME: Ben Cook
TEAM: Merton 2s
POSITION: Centre Midfield (NOT A CENTRE BACK)
BIRTH DATE: 23/11/85
BIRTH PLACE: Bristol
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Nailsea UTD, Clevedon UTD, Winscombe, Wroughton Redhill, Clevedon Town Under 18s, Tickenham United

BEN COOK



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

Architect (not very intellectual so took the wise route of drawing for a living)
Quiet and chilled out person during the week.....like having the odd night out but trying to slow things down in my old age.
Also thinking about joining Tinder as have never used it before.

2. How did you end up at Merton FC?

Moved to London 6 years ago from the countryside so didn't really know many people so came along training and the red mist started from there.

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

Becoming friends with Ivan
Albufeira tour in my first season
Winning the league title with 2s

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

Not a team, but I think being in the England 1990s world cup squad would have been a dream to be part of.

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

- Certainly not watching porn whilst eating beans on toast
- Pre match motivational video to get myself fired up.
- Always check my bank account to make sure I have enough money to cover a booking.

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

Two games left.....win both and take it into the new season.

Player of the season (at Merton, or in professional football): Zlatan Ibrahimovic (unless DQ does something special at the weekend)

Childhood Team: Aston Villa

Favourite team in the UK: Man UTD

Favourite team outside the UK: Atletico Madrid

Childhood Hero: Superted

Favourite Food: Spaghetti Bolognese

Favourite Drink: Vodka & Coke

Favourite Band: Oasis

RAPID FIRE

NAME: Alan Clowes ('Clowesy')
TEAM: Merton 2's
POSITION: Anywhere across the back
BIRTH DATE: 14/06/1984
BIRTH PLACE: Carshalton
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Epsom & Ewell, Sussex Uni

ALAN CLOWES

AKA. CLOWESY



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

Outside of the Mighty Merton FC I'm a Catastrophe Analyst for an Insurance company by day, and a music loving, travel junky, football addicted dad to be by night. I also like a beer/love a Predator.

2. How did you end up at Merton FC?

I left Uni in 2005 and found Merton FC on the interweb. 12 years in I've probably only played about 3 full seasons due to injury, travelling and deciding to marry a Jock!

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

Promotion with the 1's in my first season. Some very memorable characters in that squad and me as well. Closely followed by winning the Portugal Tournament a few years back. Still can't quite believe Wellsey brought his bird. Genuinely shocking.

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

A Japanese one so I could win some headers

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

Porridge with honey, banana and mixed seeds (type depending on what Lidl has in stock). This then helps oil the bowls for my pre game turn out. A Ryan Gresty cross country warm up was also a favourite of mine. Why save energy for a game when you can burn it all off in a warm up?

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

To get some more games in before it ends after injuring my knee a month ago!

Player of the season (at Merton, or in professional football):
Merton = Connor Murphy – extremely reliable defender. Professional = Sam Baldock (Brighton FC)
Childhood Team: Cheam Warriors, Warren Mead FC
Favourite team in the UK: Norwich City
Favourite team outside the UK: Juventus – Zidane, Del Piero, Nedved. Need I say more?
Childhood Hero: Alan Shearer
Favourite Food: Lamb Jalfrazi extra hot
Favourite Drink: Anything with a golf ball in it
Favourite Band: Very difficult. Between Kings of Leon, Kasabian and Editors

RAPID FIRE

U9s

MERTON FC 4
Spelthorne Sports Skys 3

NO REPORT SUBMITTED

U11s

MERTON FC 2
Roehampton Rangers 5

NO REPORT SUBMITTED

U13s

MERTON FC 0
Epsom Town 2

NO REPORT SUBMITTED



U14s

MERTON FC 2

Mitcham Park Stripes 1

NO MATCH REPORT SUBMITTED

U15s

MERTON FC 0
Croygas Lions 1

Merton moved down to 8th in the table after a 1-0 defeat. This was the yellows 3rd consecutive loss. Croygas, who are unbeaten in 11 games, were away at the hood and once again, like the 2-2 draw earlier in the season, it was a close contest.

The blues right winger, Josh, scored a good goal when he got on the end of a great pass, beat Felix in pace and neatly finished it past Tommy. Merton looked like they were going to get a point out of the game when they held Croygas till half time. By the break neither side had many shots and the ball was being played over the top a lot. Merton dominated in possession but failed to get a shot away in the first 50 minutes. The defensive line for Merton was very strong and dealt with everything coming over the top apart from the goal.

Croygas played some good football and damaged Merton in the air with the tall centre midfielder Eddie. However, the second placed side in the league had to bury their chances and play the ball on the floor a bit more. The league is very much to play for and Croygas will believe they can get promoted as they are only 2 points behind Bedfont.

On the other hand, Merton could potentially face the battle of staying up if they lose their next match away at Brockham. The yellows lie 8th and only 4 points ahead of 10th placed Brockham. Both teams deserved points today and Merton will feel hard done by. However they had their chances and most of them came in the last 10 minutes. When Croygas keeper Tom was off his line and it seemed like he forgot where the goal was, Jake Davies ran through the defence but shot straight at the keeper. Bradley also had a chance but was off balance and scuffed the shot. However, Bradley's pace was hard for the blues defence to cope with and Jake, Yacob and Harrison kept a steady midfield.

Injuries seem to keep coming for Dan and Darren's side and they will have to make do without a keeper for the rest of the season. A big game for Croygas next as they face Kingstonians.

Man of the match for today's game was Merton's Tommy Arnold, who pulled off some great saves and stepped in for the goalkeeper position.

WHO'S WHERE AND WHEN

SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2017

1s
Old Finchleians v MERTON FC
Old Finchleians Sports Ground – 15:00

2s
MERTON FC
NO GAME

3s
MERTON FC
END OF SEASON

4s
MERTON FC
NO GAME

5s
MERTON FC v Ibis Eagles
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground - 15:00

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

7s
Merton FC v MERTON FC
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground– 15:00

SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2017

U9s
Wandgas Youth v MERTON FC
Away

U11s
CB Hounslow Utd Greens v MERTON FC
Away

U13s
Sheen Lions Pride v MERTON FC
Away

U14s
Mitcham Park Stripes v MERTON FC
Away

U15s
Brockham Badgers Blacks v MERTON FC
Away

MERTON FOOTBALL CLUB

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