

# THE MERTON WAY

"THE MIGHTY BOARS"





# ABOUT US

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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 East fields 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 information about our club.



# THRIVE TO SURVIVE

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After Christmas and when the monsoons have cleared the season seems to go on fast forward and now most teams are winding up their campaign. We still have a lot to look forward to with our Long Good Friday, Awards night and our very own Merton World Cup.

During the summer the SAL has some interesting discussions to have and some difficult decisions to take which will affect the future of the League and of the clubs within it.

At the start of the season the League granted a few clubs dispensation not to enter a first or second team for this season. This was a grasp of reality as these clubs would have had little alternative but to leave the league. This was done for just the one season and was balancing the interests of the SAL, trying to keep as many clubs within it and those of the other individual clubs those who benefitted from the decision and the rest who had to live with it.

A few seasons ago when our 3s left just before the start of the season our request to the League was summarily dismissed and whilst we seriously considered leaving the SAL it turned out to be too late to join another league. With the help of a sympathetic fixtures secretary we've struggled through the season losing about £3K as a consequence but luckily we have ended up a stronger club. Probably the right decision then by the SAL but times are a changing. But there has been a fair bit of discontent among the other clubs where the benefitting clubs have been successful.

The need to keep clubs in the SAL - as some divisions are down to nine teams and only 16 games and the Spring Cup. What seems to have happened is a breakdown in the discipline - that the fixtures must go ahead. I recall clubs like EBOG and CEV coming all the way from North London with just nine players to preserve the honour of their club and fulfil the fixture. But on Saturday the 3s opposition Carshalton 4s decided not to turn up. They let us down badly, and their club who have been very apologetic. The rules dictate that Carshalton 4s should have called up the their 5s to make up the number but the 5s were playing a cup final so that solution which was not implemented was unrealistic. The consequence was that our lads had a totally wasted Saturday and missed their football. Carshalton the club involved are investigating what happened and have offered to pay all our costs and given a full and heartfelt apology. On Saturday Len (our treasurer) and I went to watch the First team in their SAL Senior semi final at Crouch End Vampires. It took us two and a half hours to get there by car as Hangar Lane gyratory was being re-surfaced and two hours to get home on the M25. I had all the kit and stuff so that I had to go by car. The team travelled by train and did it in an hour or so. But travelling across London is both time consuming and expensive and not much fun. So we know further regionalisation is on their agenda. CEV have similar council facilities to us and very similar pitch conditions and facilities is another area where we all need improvements.

(Incidentally it was an entertaining game which we lost 2-0 a little unluckily but on balance they were better than us and deserved it. It was a good competitive game with their second goal coming in 92nd minute).

The SAL have some difficult matters to deal with and there are no right or wrong answers just difficult judgements and we need to make the best of it.

One really pleasing area is Merton 7s continuing to thrive and the success of our recruitment campaign last summer. **We need to continue that this summer and we have produced a poster that we want to be displayed at Colleges and universities.** So if you know of anyone at a university or college who could put the poster up after the Easter holidays please let us know and we will get you some posters. (Contact [Max.herbert@btinternet.com](mailto:Max.herbert@btinternet.com))



# MERTON NEEDS YOU

**Carshalton -  
Queen Mary's  
Hospital for  
Children's  
Needs Our  
Help!**

We are looking for you to donate any Easter Eggs you can spare to give to the children in our local hospital over Easter.

“Put a big smile on their face this year” - Dave Laughton

**BRING ANY EXTRA EGGS YOU CAN SPARE TO THE FOOTBALL CLUB OVER NEXT 2 SATURDAYS AND LEAVE AT BAR**

Max and Michael will be collecting.



# MERTON FC – 2017 EVENTS MARCH - JUNE

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



## 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!!



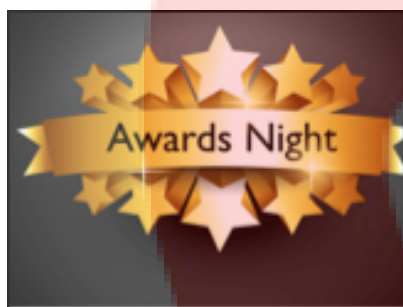
## SATURDAY 13th MAY

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

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## 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](mailto:Mertonwebsite@virginmedia.com). **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

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I'VE RECENTLY GONE DEEP IN MY MIND AND THOUGHT OF SOME OBSCURE THINGS, HERE ARE A FEW THAT HAVE ROLLED AROUND IN MY HEAD:

1. If you were to go into the future and meet future you, they would already be expecting you because they already traveled to the future and met another future you.
2. School buses not having seat belts is crazy. I would get a ticket with 1 kid unbuckled in a car, but throw 50 on a bus and it's fine.
3. You're older than you were when you read the start of this sentence.
4. My faith in humanity is so low that I look both ways before crossing a one way street.
5. Doctors don't actually save lives, they just delay deaths. So, they are like Human Life Snooze Buttons.
6. Shouldn't sex dolls be renamed "Smash Test Dummies?"
7. As a child I had nightmares of monsters and demons. As an adult I now have nightmares about screwing things up at work.
8. The purpose of golf is to play the least amount of golf.
9. There's a big chance that the blood you donated went to someone's boner.
10. No one says "Wooooooow" longer than someone who's been accused of something they definitely did.

#### TV OF THE WEEK:

Walking Dead - Season Finale

#### SONG OF THE WEEK:

Slide - Calvin Harris

#### TEAM OF THE WEEK:

Hull City - Getting out the relegation zone



# 1s



## MERTON FC 0 Crouch End Vampires 2

A combination of cars, trains, taxis and mums transported the Merton men to Crouch End for their Southern Amateur League semi-final cup matchup against the Senior Division I, Crouch End Vampires. The winner would earn a date in the finals with Senior Division I leader Polytechnic. The men (with the exception of Woody) arrived to the grounds on time, but before the kit, which was unfortunately stuck in traffic in Max's car and arrived about half an hour before the scheduled kick-off. The team's pre-match locker room banter (not to mention youth and style) naturally improved with the absence of Van, who was rumoured to be curling his young boy while posing for pictures at a wedding in Ibiza.

The temperature on the day was pleasant, not too hot or cold and the sun shone down on the thick Crouch End pitch, which was spacious. In contrast to the gale force winds faced in Merton's prior two outings at the Hood, the wind blew just softly enough for Siri's punts to hang in the air and carry but not strong enough to disrupt play. Kick-off was delayed by around fifteen minutes due to the ref and two linesmen's late arrival. One of the late linesmen, who had a witty sense of humour, came over to Merton's side to do the pre-match equipment check and ordered Siri to tape over the white of his socks that were showing. How lucky were Merton to have two linesman for this cup semi-final!

Despite the delayed start and team's sluggishness of late, the Merton men came out strong when the whistle blew. The forwards pressured the Vampires off of the kick-off and nearly created an opportunity on goal early. Clappers, filling in for a slew of injured central midfielders, played alongside Will Low and Sam in the middle and proved to be a dominant force in the middle, especially in the air.

Merton had momentum and the best chances of the first half. Chaz took a free kick from just outside the upper right edge of the eighteen yard box that hooked around the wall but struck the left post and ricocheted away. To end the half Charlie had a breakaway, but the keeper denied him, pushing the ball behind the goal to the right. Crouch End's forwards, wingers and playmaker (#10) tried through balls, dummies, switching positions and everything they could muster to crack Merton's defence but managed little for their efforts. Chaz's aerial assaults and Kearnsey's stingy man-marking impressed. It seemed like Merton really wanted this one.

To start the second half Kiran replaced Johnny at left wing but otherwise Merton's line up remained the same. Not long into the second half it became clear that a more sluggish Merton form, similar to their form of late had returned.

Crouch End came out with a new level of intensity and dominated possession. A silly foul gave Crouch End a free kick from just outside the Merton eighteen yard box but fortunately for Merton, #10's strike nearly missed wide left. Shortly after, a through ball slipped past Merton's central backs to a wide open #9, but Kearnsey ran him down and contained him giving time for the rest of the defence to recover.

Merton needed to wake up. Kiran showed flashes of brilliance on the left wing, using his speed to get by the right back on several occasions, and Chaz headed a corner into the right post, his second post of the afternoon. But it was a Crouch End corner with around 10 minutes remaining that crushed Merton's SAL cup final hopes. A corner from the left side of the goal bounced into a crowd, inside the six yard box, and the loose ball was knocked into the Merton right corner. Another terrible goal conceded.

After the corner Boshier and Woody came on to give Merton a boost of energy, but spirits and energy levels were low. Merton only mustered a few chances in the final ten minutes, primarily led by Boshier down the right wing. Kearnsey earned a yellow card running down a streaking right back and grabbing his arm in the process. A cheeky, off the ball attempted trip of the Crouch End #9 a few minutes later earned Kearnsey his second yellow, a seat in the locker room for the final minute of the match and the meaningless second Crouch End goal and dick of the day honours. What a pleasure it is to play with two linesmen, who can see everything! Chaz's two posts, leadership and stellar defence earned him his second straight man of the match. Honourable mention for man of the match with two votes went to Clappers for his solid play in the middle of the pitch.

MOM: Chaz (2nd week in a row)

DOD: Kearnsey

Starters: Siri, Kearnsey, Connor, Chaz, Browner, Clappers, Will Low, Sam Harvey, Johnny, Charlie, Tom Rowe.

Substitutions: Kiran, Woody, Bosh





# 2s

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MERTON FC

**NO GAME**



# 3s

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MERTON FC

END OF SEASON



# 4s

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## MERTON FC 0 Old Wokingians 1

Another glorious Spring morning dawned for the 4s' second game of the Spring Cup at Woking on Saturday. Or so it seemed, until a potent bucket of rain descended upon what was already a fairly poor (and small) pitch. The lads who were there took refuge in the change rooms. Others were heading anti clockwise down the M25 at the time. And Kieran did his standard bi-monthly no-show.

Anyway, with the help of Tiago and DK, the 4s just about managed to assemble a starting XI in time for kick-off, and with a sub to boot. Mikey Elgar stepped in as goalkeeper, and it immediately became clear how impressive a keeper he was. Aside from his enormous kicks, his command of the defence, communication, handling and speed off the line were superb, and that confidence permeated through the rest of the team, who made a solid start to the game.

In particular, Sonny was tremendous in midfield, perhaps looking to make amends for his no-show the week before. Either way, his engine and work rate was unreal, and with Akram doing a solid job cleaning up behind, Merton were as solid as they've ever looked.

In truth though, it was a tight game where the two teams largely cancelled each other out. The smallness of the pitch was such that goalkicks were pinging from one end to the other, and there were moments where it might have felt like a Tony Pulis/Sam Allardyce showdown.

But Merton just about shaded it, creating the better chances, and snuffing out any attacks. The last five minutes of the half were going to be crucial though. The Yellows pressed forward, with the belief that they could find the goal they just about deserved. A goalmouth scramble, but Wokingians cleared. A long-range effort from Dan Gridley, but it went wide. A half chance for Dom, but it didn't quite fall for him.

Just no joy. And then, with literally the final attack of the half, disaster struck. Merton were caught cold on the counter. Their striker took it down well, his turn of pace was even better, and in the blink of an eye, he'd toe-poked it past Mikey to make it 1-0 to the hosts. It was a tremendous individual goal, but a bitter blow for Merton after putting in such a good shift.

The talk was still positive at the break, but they were a visibly deflated outfit once the second half got under way. They were by no means poor, but the intensity had dropped just enough that Wokingians were able to claim the ascendancy in open play.



Yet although Merton were beginning to spend a bit too much time in their own half, Wokingians didn't necessarily carve out much in the way of clear goalscoring opportunities. The Yellows eventually began to lift themselves too, and offered a bit more going forward. But like their opponents, they just weren't able to create clear chances for themselves.

It was just that kind of game. The skipper then darted off to join the Hollywood ranks, so wasn't able to give a first-hand review of how the last 15 minutes unfolded. But apparently the game remained tense, tight and with two evenly-matched teams not able to add to the scoreline.

So, 1-0 it finished, and another unfortunate reverse to add to the collection. Difficult to explain really - what more could the Yellows have done? It was by no means a poor performance. Anything but. It's just been that kind of season, but the lads continue to keep the spirits up and their heads held high. Plenty of credit due for that. Let's finish the season strong in our final game now.

Team: Mikey Elgar (GK), Ed Plaistow, Joe Plumridge, Mike Todt, John Gridley, Akram Choudhary, Sonny Kennedy, Frankie Kalogirou, Dan Kelly, Dan Gridley, Dom Plumridge

Sub: Tiago Carvalho

MOTM: Sonny Kennedy

DOTD: Kieran



# 5s

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MERTON FC

No Game



# 6s

## MERTON FC 5 South Bank Cuaco 2

Merton 6s travelled to Dulwich for an away fixture against South Bank Cuaco 6s. With Civil Service playing a double header against Old Blues this was a game which we needed to win to keep within sight of promotion. The kit was laid out ready and the players turned up with plenty of time to spare, all apart for the skipper of the day, who decided to take the long route to the ground. We lined up with the same formation in the second game last week against Civil, 4-2- 3- 1.

The starting line up was: GK Swanny, CB Mark, CB Beans, RB Matt, LB Ram, CM Ty, CM Chris, LWF Trey, AM George B, RWF Callum, CF Richard. Subs: Darren, Emmanuel, George H.

The game began, and we started well, the front 4 were getting forward and making chances. Chris was staying in the position he was given and Richard was holding up the ball. South Bank also started well, they made the first breakthrough and scored first when a ball was crossed in to their quick forward. Only for Matt to put the ball into his own net. He jumped for the ball and headed back to where he thought Swanny would be standing in the goal. This was not to be as Swanny was standing in other position getting ready to gather the incoming ball, like most of the first half lack of communication between players cost the first goal. It only takes a week to go from hero to zero. I have now joined some of the own goal greats; Chappell, John K, Todt, and Kevin We levelled not long after their goal from a penalty when George B was taken down/pushed in the box. With George being a contender for top goal scorer for the club, it was only right for him to take it, placing the ball in the bottom right corner, 1 – 1. Our second was scored by Callum, bit of a 6 yard box scramble between players, lead to Callum finding the ball and putting it beyond their keeper. The first half we could have played slightly better, Chappell getting the ball caught under his feet a couple of time caused a few edgy moments, including a fall on his hip, thankfully he doesn't need a hip replacement just yet. South Bank had chances as well, including their second goal which came from their midfielder, who gathered the ball just outside the box and hit the ball, Swanny attempting the save was just off his line and the ball off his palm went into the top of the net. 2- 2 the first half ended, a fair result.

Half time team talk which was to continue to press their defence and the goals will come and to also open mouths and talk more on the pitch. One change, straight swap, Emmanuel on for Trey.

The second half was a lot better, the team, playing with a bit more confidence, started playing the ball around to feet. With this, we managed to score 3 more goals. Callum getting his second, latching onto a great cross from George and Emmanuel grabbing a goal, slotting it into the top corner, 4 – 2. With the goals going in, it made changes easier as the match wasn't so tight. With about 20 minutes left to go Beans came off for Darren and Trey back on for Richard. The game was put to bed with Trey getting in on the act putting the ball in, to make it 5 – 2. South Bank continued to try and get back, but defence stayed strong. With just under 10 minutes to go we had a corner and Matt decided to make another change and bring himself on for Ram. Little did Matt know that Ram had asked if he could go up for this corner, his face was a picture as if he had just been giving some sweets and then to have them taken away. Matt wasn't that cruel and cancelled the substitution to allowed Ram to venture into the opposition box for a chance to get on the score sheet. The corner came in and was knocked out for a goal kick. Now the change could be made. Merton saw out the last remaining minutes, the ref who had a good game blew the whistle for the end of the match. Game finished 5 – 2, 3 big points for the 6s, as later, when the civil results came through after beating Old Blues twice, put both teams on 34 points. 3 big games left, can 9 points be enough to see the 6s gain promotion?

MOM went to Callum for his two goals and continual great play.

DOD: was it Matt for his own goal or was it Swanny for being very quiet and not shouting for the ball? As Swanny says he's never writing a match report I'll take it this week.



# 7s

## MERTON FC 2 Old Wilsonians 1

Home... and not the WCE, and with a 3oc kick off in the afternoon sun, the 7s are in a great mood to keep this 4 game unbeaten run going against a side that beat the 6s 3-1 late in February. Word in the changing room was the opposition was running late and only had 4 players, which was 4 more than our 'Merton 3s' opposition had, who failed to even turn!

Eventually, OW8s arriving just before kick-off and getting changed by the pitch, we got our first glimpse of this very much changed side, still... not worrying, the 7s carried on with their pregame warm up, which this week turned into 'crosses & corners' with the midfield duo of David & Tom trying to lash shots past the very composed Gubby

Kick off and another re-arranged team, this time were missing Dan at centre back, who's replaced by Steve Burchell, and Tom J for Delman. OW8s kick off and straight on the attack, there 2 centre midfield pairing have a combined age less than our own captain, but paired with Tom R, our midfield was soon putting the tackles in and stemming the flow of passes to the forwarded line.

The back four, which also included the consistent Josh at right back, and the versatile Martin next to Steve, was well marshalled by Steve B who's tones echoed around the ground from the very first whistle, rumour has it, this was his 7s trail as his written transfer request had been denied by the 5s captain as being too valuable to them.

15minutes in and the 7s still not really getting a foot hold in the game, the OW8s passed around the centre third and looking to get in behind the rear guard, but with 2 banks of 4, Noor and Adam E, playing out wide, found themselves having to drop back to defend, this isolated Malcolm and Denzel up front.

Still soaking up the pressure and conceding a good few corners, the 7s finally started to get rewarded for their resilient play, Malcolm being played in between the right & centre back, not being blessed with much pace, BUT makes up for it in strength, holds of the challenge of the pair and gets a solid shot off which goes wide.

Seeing the chink in the OW8s armour, Tom R starts to have more influence on the game, taking the ball from the half way line and gains ground. 7s Now applying the pressure at the right end, and once again Malcolm, finds the ball at his feet, muscles his way past the centre backs, this time making no mistake with his shot to put the 7s 1-0

Composed, the OW8s come straight back at the 7s, Steve & Martin doing a great job of being the oldest centre pairing the 7s have fielded still keeping the attacks at bay, couldn't do much when appealing for offside only to see the Ref wave play on as the OW8s young speedy striker beat the trap and went 1v1 with Gubby, who had already kept the 7s well in the game, couldn't do much as the striker blast his shot past the advancing keeper to bring the game level after less than 5 minutes



As the game panned out to half time, OW8s clearly on top in the early exchanges, but pegged back at the end, the 7s debated that were not doing much wrong. None the less, Martin who had a fine game at centre back, makes way for Andy L and Denzel off for Scott, the 7s kick off the send half

Tom R & David once again pass the ball around confidently from the start, draw in the 7s defence to play a bit of keep ball, Steve B looking remarkable composed at the back, and with Delman now keeping Noor in check on the left, the 7s looked to be controlling the early exchanges.

However, not too long into the second half, Adam E seemed to pull up with a hamstring and signals to the bench, up to this point and having a great game in tandem with Josh, it was not what the 7s wanted. Replaced with Andy DOBBY Dobson, it wasn't long before he was called into action, wining a strong 50/50 and getting a fine through ball to Scott, this was showing there's no weak link in the 7s ...

Still controlling the game and pressing higher up the pitch, the 7s win a free kick around 30yards from goal, Tom R placing the ball, floats a high ball in which see's David tussling with the OW8s centre backs and getting free, but with no chance of winning the ball, still bears down on the keeper which seemed to distract the fella long enough to lose the flight of the ball and then can only flap at the air as the ball clips the underside of the crossbar and goes in. As the team congratulate Tom on a fine Cross/Shot, the Ref (who had gave the goal) finds himself surround by OW8s players, protesting that the linesman flag was up, after much debate, the ref agreed and awarded offside due to the 7s captain being 'in the line of vision of the ball while in a offside position'

This only spurred the 7s on, now gaining more possession and linking play together, Noor once again got into the area and got his cross off, which took a deflection off the OW8s centre backs arm, the ref had no hesitation awarding the penalty kick which Scott stroked home with power, 2-1 the 7s. Once again, OW8s feeling hard done by, got back on the attack, a lofted ball over the top sees Steve B in a foot race with 'easily' a guy half his age, without rushing in, Steve lets the player get the ball and with perfect timing, executes a sliding 'hook' tackle which sees Steve not only win the ball, but manages, control and with calm, he passes away to Andy L, thus diffusing any kind of attack the OW8s had in mind.

Still with 15 minutes or so to go, the 7s are now accustom to digging in deep, the captain forever shouting commands and organising the troops, looked the better team, OW8s probing away, had the better fitness overall, but couldn't find a way past the wall at the back. As the clocked ticked down, Adam E having to replace the 7s captain to give some extra legs in midfield, the Merton boys did not look like giving this up easily, much contrast to early in the season, with the OW8s getting a corner late on, even the strikers dropped back, making sure that 5-in-a-row was nailed on.

Great team effort and handshakes all round, no one could begrudged the 7s this victory, with only 3 games remaining, the target of top 4 is possibly, be it not in our hands, and with the unbeaten Carshalton 6s away this weekend, can they pull off an upset? Even a mild defeat to the league winner's elect will be a moral victory in our eyes. All we say is .... BRING IT ON

MOTM: Once again, it goes to a legend, Steve B... stepping in for Dan.

(Still 50/50 if he passes the trial though!)

DOTD: Denzel... I know we haven't played at the Hood in a while, but turning up at the wrong ground that to even ours is worthy of this week's DOTD J

Team : Gubby, Josh, Steve B, Martin, Delman, Adam E, Tom R, David ©, Noor, Denzel, Malcolm

Scott, Andy L, Andy D





NAME: ANDREW HOLDER ROSS

TEAM: 2S

POSITION: CENTRE MIDFIELD

BIRTH DATE: 7TH JUNE 1991

BIRTH PLACE: TEDDINGTON

PREVIOUS CLUBS: VARIOUS IN ASIA

# ANDREW HOLDER ROSS



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

A chilled out entertainer. I live in tranquil Stockwell with four other people, above an Eritrean café/crime syndicate headquarters. I work for a brand strategy consultancy. Don't ask me to explain what that means. It is fun.

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

Seeing Ben Cook get sent off for attacking an opponent was quite magical. When you have heard so many stories, it's a rare thing that the reality lives up to your expectations. A genuinely moving moment for all who witnessed it. I also enjoyed scoring my first ever goal for the club, with my back/shoulder.

## 3. What is your favourite quote?

"People see me and see the suit, but they know I'm rock and roll through and through. You know 'Live fast, die young'? Not my way. Live fast, sure. Too bloody fast sometimes! But die young? Nah, die old."

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

I lived in Asia for six years, from 8-14. It's the reason why I am able to get along with people of all cultures – eg Mike Todt (African) and Jordan (Scouse)

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

Courtesy of my dear friend and housemate Mike Stone: "What Andrew Holder De Rossi lacks in stamina, speed, aerial threat, desire, tactical awareness, physical prowess, experience, finishing, passing, and the ability to last more than 60 minutes without cramps, he more than makes up for with his knack of scoring with his back. God bless AHR."

## 6. Lastly, share with us your goals/expectations for the season...You can use this for next season too if you want:

1. To score with my feet
2. To gain promotion with the 2s

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Player of the season (at Merton): Alan Clowes  
 Favourite team in the UK: Manchester United  
 Favourite team outside the UK: Brooklyn Nets (a basketball team)  
 Childhood hero: David Beckham  
 Favourite word: Loquacious  
 Favourite band: An impossible question (check 'em out they're great)  
 Favourite food: Dim Sum  
 Dream job: Brand strategy consultan

## RAPID FIRE



# JASON THOMAS



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

I'm a teacher of English to speakers of other languages and a part-time actor.

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

"Playing" in 30 degree heat and totally hungover in Portugal and hallucinating that Woody scored from the halfway line.

3. What is your favourite quote?

The lowest one

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

I have worked as a professional Santa for the last four Christmases

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

Coming through unscathed

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Player of the season (at Merton): Pearcey for the 2s

Favourite team in the UK: Norwich City

Favourite team outside the UK: Neuchatel Xamax

Childhood hero: Rupert the Bear

Favourite word: Holidays

Favourite band: Crowded House

Favourite food: Indian

Dream job: Actor/Singer in the West End

## RAPID FIRE



- \*where are they now ?\* (*coming soon*)

\*memories from "those were the days"\* (*coming soonest*)

\* legends or leg-ends ?\*

# MERTON OLD BOY'S

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## PLAYER PROFILE :

### **PETER KNOX**

Pete was a major player in the sixties & early 70's, 2nd X1 captain & Hon secretary. later he made an occasional appearance for the "war babies".

Now in his 70's Pete lives in Brighton but still supports the club when we have pays us a visit as well as attends the old boys get together's & reunions...Peter i am happy to say is now fit & well after a nasty cancer scare.

He also enjoys ploughing through the website and says "THE MERTON WAY" is just wonderful. It a great way to keep up with all the club news and goings on.

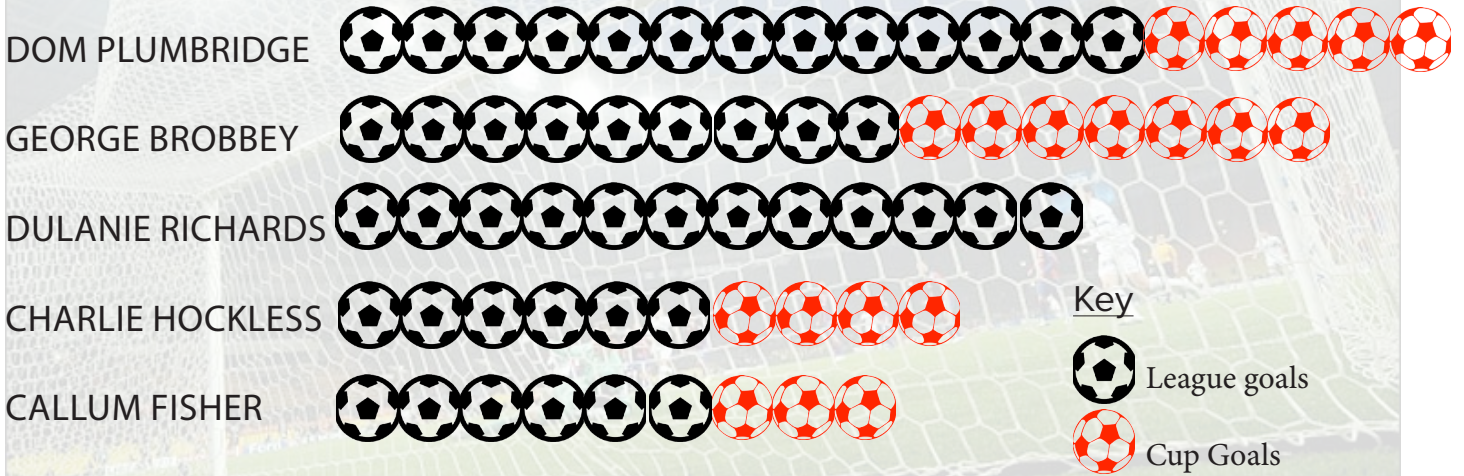
We wish Pete well & hope to see him soon....



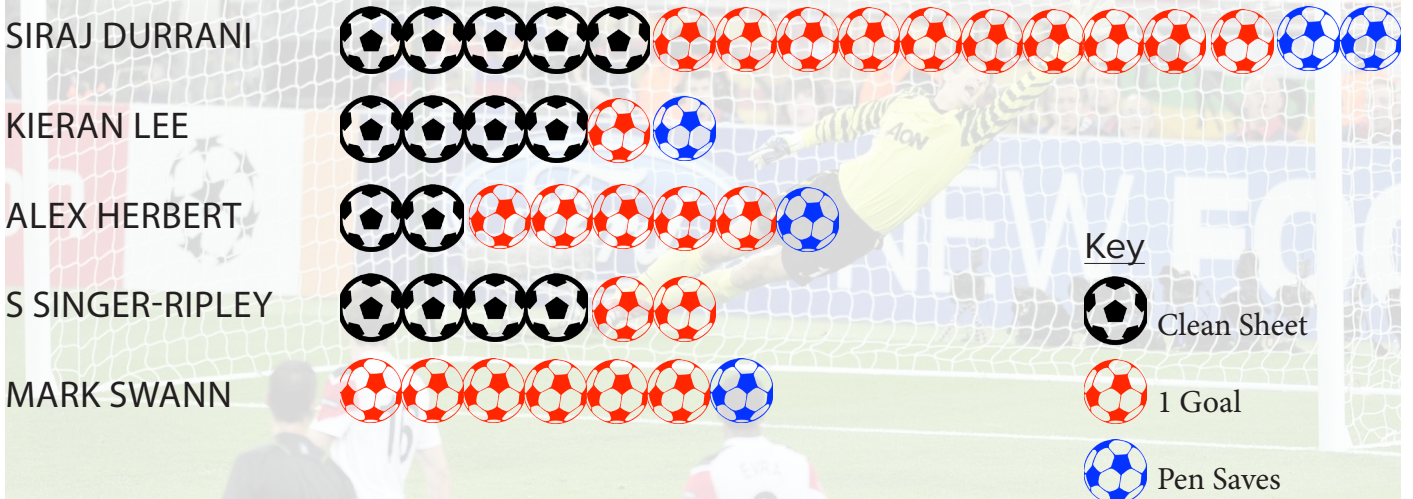


Its nearing the end of the season. Lets see how the table for top goalscorer and top goalkeepers are looking... AS OF - 7/4/17.

# TOP GOALSCORERS



# GOLDEN GLOVE





# U9s



## MERTON FC 4 Barnes Eagles 2

On a lovely sunny April morning away at Barnes football ground, Merton under 9s took on Barnes at a 6 a-side match with no substitutes (due to holiday commitments). It was an all-round superb display by Merton with a gutsy, technical and energetic performance shown by all the players. A total team game.

Barnes set off to a quick start with an opening goal, but from then on Merton were in the ascendancy. Harry deservedly won the man-of-the match award with a determined performance, with some fantastic crosses and an important goal. Do-Hoo scored twice, one with a penalty (after being sandwiched by the other side) and Tommie with his pace scoring the fourth. Sam again made some significant catches in goal (and won a best moment award for one of his saves), whilst Jack added pace down the wing. Callum was as strong as ever in midfield and defence.

Given the lack of substitutes, it was decided to “rest” the players by playing a rotational system, which was very effective as the boys preserved their energy and progressively dominated each quarter.

This was a thoroughly enjoyable game for players, coaches and spectators alike in a great setting. Although playing a 6 a-side game, the boys were not phased and showed great patience, skill and character to wear the other side down and to seize control of the game.

Thrilling match with a superb result!

Winta  
U9s Pitch Marshall



# U11s

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MERTON FC 3  
Doverhouse 0

**NO REPORT SUBMITTED**



# U13s

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MERTON FC

**NO GAME**



# U14s

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MERTON FC

**NO GAME**





# U15s

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MERTON FC

**NO GAME**



# WHO'S WHERE AND WHEN

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## SATURDAY 8th April 2017

1s  
MERTON FC  
NO GAME

2s  
MERTON FC  
NO GAME

3s  
Civil Service v MERTON FC  
Away 15:00

4s  
MERTON FC v Ibis Eagles  
Home - 15:00

5s  
MERTON FC v Polytechnic  
Away - 13:00

6s  
MERTON FC v Bank of England  
home– 15:00

7s  
Carshalton v MERTON FC  
Away – 15:00

## SUNDAY 9th April 2017

U9s  
MERTON FC v Walton & Hersham Youth Swans  
Home

U11s  
AFC Walcountians Blues v MERTON FC  
Away

U13s  
MERTON FC v Hampton Rangers Juniors  
Home

U14s  
Esher Lions v MERTON FC  
Away

U15s  
MERTON FC  
NO GAME



# MERTON'S BIG FAT QUIZ

- 1) Who did Alan Pardew succeed as Crystal Palace permanent manager in early 2015?
- 2) Who was the first Italian manager to win the Premier League?
- 3) Who was known as 'Big Ron'?
- 4) Who was Blackburn manager when they won the league in 1994/95?
- 5) Who has managed Liverpool, Southampton, Blackburn and Newcastle?
- 6) Which Chelsea manager was sacked after leading them to the Champions League final, League Cup final, and second in the Premiership in 2008?
- 7) Which Dutch club did Ronald Koeman leave to join Southampton in 2014?
- 8) Which club did Glenn Hoddle join after being sacked as England manager in 1999?
- 9) In what year was David Moyes appointed as Everton manager?
- 10) Who was the Leeds United manager who led them to the Champions League semi final in 2001?

## LEAGUE TABLE

QUIZ 1: **WINNER** - Luke Newman, who got 2 out of 10.  
QUIZ 2: **WINNER** - Mark Chappell, who got 10 out of 10  
QUIZ 3: ???

If you'd like to partake in our trivia challenge league, please email, Facebook PM, whatsapp, text, or carrier pigeon your answers to the above questions to Mike Todt. No Googling allowed!



# MERTON FC CLUB SHOP

**MERTON FC CLOTHING NOW AVAILABLE AT THE NEW CLUB SHOP**

New Merton FC clothing range, now available at the link below. From training gear to kit, all the kit you need for men, women and juniors take a look and get kitted out the new season. For better value take advantage of the bundle packs.

Order now from the [Merton FC Club Shop](#)



**GET YOUR KIT ON**

## LOOK THE PART ON A SATURDAY!!

Get yourself or your partners to the Merton FC Club Shop and pick-up some club attire and look like a proper player off the pitch if you're not on the pitch!

Some great bargains and new stock for all your football needs.



### MATCHDAY HOODIE

Polyester tricot construction  
Ideal for pre- & post match  
Full Zip with Hood  
Embroidered Merton FC club badge

**Price: £25.00**



### Matchday Polo Shirt

Polycotton construction  
Placket neck with contrast inner  
Embroidered Merton FC Club badge  
Also Available in Yellow

**Price: £25.00**



# FANTASY PREMIER LEAGUE

## LEAGUE TABLE

1. KEVSTER'S ALLSTARS KEVIN LOCKE 1660
2. DARKIES DANGLIES MARK HORSNAIL 1651
3. POGBA DO DO DO SIMON CLAPPERTON 1648
4. BRIAN MUNICH GRAEME COOMBS 1636
5. ABCDE FC PETE JENNINGS 1636
6. PARD'S DEATH DISCO ADAM PRIOR 1587
7. A.C KERMAN LEWIS ACKERMAN 1583
8. DOWNTON XAVI CHARLIE HOCKLESS 1581
9. CAN'T TOUCH THIS MICHAEL TODT 1578
10. JURGEN'S ARMY WILLIAM CLERKE 1554
11. BOSTON BRITS MARK THOMAS 1537
12. LEAVEMYARCÉLONA DARREN FITZGERALD 1524
13. PLANET X FC SAM SINGER-RIPLEY 1492
14. HOW ABOUT ZLAT?! EDWARD PLAISTOW 1480
15. ABANDON ALL HOPE IAIN EVANS 1473
16. THEYTOOKTHELEAD.COM BRIAN MEGGS 1456
17. NORFOLK ENCHANTS MARK CHAPPELL 1442
18. FUTBOLEROS RICARDO IGLESIAS 1440
19. BENTEKE FRIEDCHICKEN DAN RIST 1428
20. TBC MARTIN QUINLAN 1423
21. BIG BUNNY UTD MATTHEW HASWELL 1361
22. LEAVE-MY-ARSALONA NEAL DAVISON 1360
23. ROYAL EAGLE VINCENZO DI MATTEO 1336
24. THE JELLY MEN GLENN CARR 1325
25. DAVE FC OLLIE DAVISON 1176

