

THE MERTON WAY



-season-
2017-2018





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ABOUT US

We are an amateur sports team that currently has 7 adult football teams and 6 youth teams. Founded in 1910, we have affiliations with the Southern Amateur League and the Amateur Football Association.

As a budding young football club we welcome any new players at all levels to join our club.

We Invite you to come down to our training sessions.

ADULTS 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 with trains from Victoria, Clapham Junction and Balham.

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.

Our home ground is:
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground, Martin Way, Merton, SW20 9BU

Alternatively
Check out our website at:

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

Feel free to send enquiries and find more information about our club.



Merton Statistics

Top Goal Scorers

Pictured: Top Goal Scorer Leader - Adam Collings

Name	League Goals	Cup Goals	Total Goals
Adam Collings	3	0	3
Aaron Loftus	2	0	2
Richard Gibbs	2	0	2
Nick Englefield	2	0	2
Billy Golding	2	0	2



Golden Gloves

Name	Clean Sheets	Pen Saves	1 Goal Conceded	Points
Siraj Durrani	1	0	1	4
Kieran Lee	1	0	0	3
Mike Gubby	0	0	1	1
Alex Herbert	0	0	1	1

Name	MOTM Awards
Harrison Ryle (Joint)	1
Jonny Graham (Joint)	1
Mario Del Prestito	1
Adam Collings	1
Craig Usher	1
Billy Golding	1
Aaron Byrne	1



Pictured: Craig Usher



Pictured: Steve Burchell

Name	DOTD Awards
Mike Reed	1
Dom Preece	1
Dan Gridley	1
Charlie Hockless	1
Steve Burchell	1



MERTON FC 8 Polytechnic Association 1

STARTING LINE-UP: Michael Gubby (GK), Joe Plumridge, Dan Gridley, Michael Elgar, John Gridley, Edward Plaistow (Capt.), Akram Choudhury (Matt Shreeve), Sonny Kennedy, Aaron Loftus, Ryan Burchell (Michael Vogt, Adam Collings)

After last weekend's opening defeat, it was important that we went brought the three point's home against Polytechnic 8s.

We were able to welcome Michael Gubby back in goal with Sonny Kennedy and Michael Vogt back and named in the starting line-up and on the bench respectively. Unfortunately we were with Dom Plumridge however had a squad capable of getting the result that was needed.

It was clear from the outset that this was a game that was there for the taking and the result proved that.

The first half seemed to go by in a flash in which we went in four goals to the good. Going in just one goal to the good is rare for this team!

We stated the second half as we did the first, one the front foot and not going the host a sniff of the ball. It didn't take long before we were able to add more to our tally with the score at 7-0 in our favour with 10 minutes to go which included a hat trick from Adam Collings.

The opposition were able to find a consolation however after Dan Gridley found himself in the sin bin following a dispute with the ref. Two sin bins in successive games isn't good enough and something that we need to work on.

With Dan having kicked the ball out of play for a corner before leaving the field of play, we were unable to track men which allowed an easy header to find the back of the net. This was something that Gubby wasn't happy about as the clean sheet would have helped towards the Golden Glove award he hopes to win come the end of the season.

We managed to dent the oppo a little more with one final goal courtesy of Matt Sheeve so record our biggest ever win of 8-1.

Next week we are in Chiswick again to face IBIS Eagle in the hope that we can move this performance forward and claim another three points.

SCORER(S): Adam Collings (3), Aaron Loftus (2), Sonny Kennedy, Michael Vogt, Matt Shreeve

MOTM: Adam Collings – Hat trick Hero

DOTD: Dan Gridley – Sin binned



7s

MERTON FC 4 Old Wilsonians 0

Team Lineup: Kieran, Josh, Dan, Mark, Steve, Jacob, Tom, David, Denzel, Billy, Luke Scott, Andrew

After a few mish mash friendlies which included a 3-2 v SBC, an epic 8-5 v CS8 and a game that will never be mentioned again...! It would accumulate in the father & son of Goldings to be 2 a piece in the pre-season.

The closed season has seen a few changes to the squad, notably in the management roll where Dan Alley stepped down after a very good 2016/17 debut season and sees the 7s captain David Golding step up to the management roll. First job for the new manager was securing his no2, which see the very youthful looking Steve Burchell finally coming home to the 7s. To complete the new look management, we have Martin Quainton in as 7s Director of football!

Squad changes have seen Tom R, Adam E and Noor leave, although rumour has it that one may be retuning. The loss of Malcolm to injury in preseason was a blow but happy to report he should be back before the end of year, Kieran signing full time for the 7s in a coup by Dan before stepping down, further in comings are Marvin (although still carrying a knock and has yet to do a full 90), Jacob, Luke, Daban and Billy who hopes to be over his injuries that kept him out for most of last year's campaign, comes back into the fold.

The start of the SAL cup season which see us grouped with Old Wilsons 8, Sales 3rd and for some reason Corinthian Casuals under 21!! We get our new season on the way against the OW8s.

Nothing like a 1230ko to open the season, the 7s turning up in force and only missing Marvin & Malcolm to injury, Martin to another triathlon (remarkable effort...) and the late drop out of Daban due to work, still sees the 7s with 13. With Kieran between the sticks and a back four of Josh (last year's players player of the season) Dan, Mark Chapel of the 6s on his debut trial (rumour has it, he may be available in the January transfer window once the 6s drop out of Europe!) and Steve 'don't call me Burchell' Burchell at left back, we start with a strong back 5. Going with three in midfield of the new signing Jacob on the right, El Capo David in the centre and Tom J on the left and three up front of Billy centre flanked by Denzel and Luke, we kick off in the early afternoon sunshine.

Early exchanges see the 7s get into the swing of things and with a very composed back four, stroke the ball around comfortable with not much pressure form the oppo. So, bedding in the new signings and getting everyone a touch, the opening 10 minutes see's the 7s go close with Luke and Billy getting onto some good though balls and crosses. Pushing forward, the 4-3-3 soon switched to a 4-4-2 with Denzel switching to the left wing in front of Steve to give him cover, the change looked to have worked straight away, with once again Luke going close.

With all the possession going with the 7s and the centre backs calmly clearing up any threat, it takes a single effort from Billy Golding to steel the ball after an error from the OW8s keeper, comfortable rounding him and slamming in form a tight angle to give the 7s a deserved lead with 20minutes played.

The remaining of the half sees the 7s dominate, with only the odd lap of concentration from the centre mids (as pointed out by BURCHELL) almost gifting the OW8s an equaliser, we go in to the break 1-0 up.

Half time sees Denzel, who had a strong defensive game on the left wing, make way for Scott to join Billy up front and Luke to drop on to the left wing in a more attacking roll, the 2nd half kicks off in more of the same. 7s dominate from kick off and grow in confidence, some great first-time touches from the midfield see any threat from OW8s quickly snuffed out and soon defence turns into attack. With 10minutes gone in the second half, a further change is made, with Dan making way for Andrew 'Dobby' Dobson joining the David in centre midfield, but as an attacking mid, and Tom dropping into centre back, Dobby instantly gets involved with attack .



OW8s still pressing wins a corner which is cleared up fielded to Billy, who.. still in his own half, takes on the OW8s defence in a foot race, Jacob on the right wing provides back up as Billy sprints past the OW8s defence and comes 1 on1 with the keeper, still at pace, the keeper rushes out as Billy takes a sweet knuckle shot, which see the keeper get a strong glove on the ball at full stretch, a good save from a great shot, but fortunately the advance Jacob is there to smash the ball home for a 2-0 lead.

This spurs the 7s on more, now cutting the OW8s apart with fluent passing, even the watching Merton FC seemed to be impressed with the 7s performance. This sees Steve B slotting a perfect through ball to Billy who timed his run perfectly, only for the ref to pull the game back for offside, which would have surely been a goal... and Billy, wouldn't have to wait long for another opportunity.

Another OW8s attack was broken down by David, muscling the ball off the oppo outside the 18 yard box, skipping through 3 players challenges and pushing forward, Billy starts a run form deep and is released with a defence cutting pass from the old boy, Billy latches on with only the keeper to beat, this time Billy makes no mistake, sending a powerful shot that goes in of the post for 3-0.

A further defensive cutting pass from Mark to Billy, these old boys in the 7s have a cracking range of passing, results in another great save, soon followed up by a double shot form Scott at close range, which seemed to be harder to miss than score, but in fairness, it was the OW8s 'Glove Man' that was only keeping the score respectable.

A further corner won by the attacking two, finally see's Mark & David get there timing right, with Steve whipping in a cross to the near post, David beats the defender in the air to flick past the keeper for 4-0 (and his 4 goals in 5 games scored from corners must be mentioned!)

The remaining minutes of the game, sees the 7s comfortable run out winners, with better finishing the score could have been double figures, but this will be something that can be worked on. Special mention to Kieran who basically had 1 shot to deal with and only about 6 touches in the whole game, and to the new lads who got there first game under the belt for the new season.

Saturday sees the 7s away to Sales 3rd who lost 4-3 to CCU21. With their reserves having no game Saturday, we expect a strong opposition to turn out in what is the 2nd group game in our pool.

MOTM: Tight voting between Josh and Billy, but Billy takes it for his 2 well taken goals and energy all over the pitch. One to look out for this season.

DOTD: Fair play to Steve to nominate himself ahead of David (Some wonderful passing, as well as woe-full!) for his run of his own half, and shot from 25/30 yards... which rolled about 2 yards ahead of him (other than giving us that laugh, had an immense game with Mark C at the back).



Pictured: 7s before their 4-0 riot





Pictured: U-12s before their 2-1 win





THE IN'S AND OUT'S OF RUNNING MERTON FC

The season has started pretty well with some good results in the adults section and the youths. The 1s and 2s have both had a win and a draw. The 3s are still breaking in their new kit. The 4s, 6s and 7s have won games but the 5s have been edged out. What is very gratifying is that we have a good number of new members settling into their teams and finding the right level.

In the youth section again the results have been pretty good. The Under 9s and 10s are playing in very competitive divisions and are holding their own and playing some good football. The U16s and U14s have started well.

So on the pitch things look to be very promising. Off the pitch we have some very interesting challenges. And if we are to have a truly successful season we will need some help from our members.

The administrative burden in running this growing club increases every year; particularly as a Charter Standard Club the standards that we have to achieve are very exacting. So we need qualified coaches, and for each team there has to be two certificated emergency aiders. In the youth section, it is important that our coaches are CRB checked and are also trained in Child Protection and Welfare - not only for the children's benefit but also for their own protection. I know this training takes time but the safety of our members is our highest priority. So we are asking even more members to get these qualifications.

We are planning some landscaping work on the patio area of the clubhouse on October 8th and 15th and we need a few more able-bodied men (and women!) to join the working parties. This will be a really good upgrade for our beloved clubhouse, and, spearheaded by the expertise of Peter Kemp, a rewarding exercise too. No doubt there will be good banter on the day as well, so whether you're up for digging, labouring, landscaping, trimming trees, or simply making killer cuppas, do get in touch with Toddy to put your name forward to help.

As a club, with increased outgoings and overheads, we have work to do to break even this year. It is thus essential that, if you haven't already done so, you pay your membership fees. We are fortunate enough to have a strong stock of paid up members now, so, if you haven't paid, you will not start. Simples. The tail is no longer wagging the dog, as it were!

Lastly, we have had a complaint from the Council about the amount of litter left after our games. I wrote about this last week. Jason is the man who looks after our pitches (and us) at the Hood, and in a way, it was good that he phoned as it shows that he is taking pride in what he does. Part of the reason we have done the deal with IdVerde is so that we have more control over the Hood - so we need to look after it as well. We are the only football club to use it after the Little League finishes, and we need to remove our litter. So please let us clear up after the game.



2S

MERTON FC 3

Carshalton 1

Team Lineup: Sherbs, Clowes, Dance, Grew, Draghici, Murphy, Usher, Willgoss, Gibson, Ackerman, David Quinton. Bench: Peter Quinton, Dom Preece, Ally Shields

Leafy, desirable, full of undesirables, a kebab shop called 'Kebab World' (presumably something of a Disney resort for the cholesterol-arteried of the area, one of whom appeared to play for the oppo), and traditionally the venue of a little bit of needle. Carshalton: our kinda town.

Well, a town anyway, and it's where Merton 2s' first away match of the season took place.

Eventually. A slightly delayed kick-off due to unforeseen clubhouse-opening issues made a mockery of the fact everyone turned-up within good time. Messrs Murphy and Usher (back for his first game for two years after spending a prolonged time in Sheffield, poor lamb) found the whole experience very easy, living but ten minutes away; and Lewis Ackerman was delighted to be able to finish filming a morning's Fake Taxi in Sutton with plenty of time to hose down the back seat, remove the smell of lady, and still make it by the designated hour.

Captain Willgoss ruminated over how to squeeze the best out of a strong squad, replete with faces old and new, and a front line the sunny side of 70 years old. The 'respected cycling journalist' ultimately devised a 5-3-2, utilising Draghici and Murphy's energy down the flanks and packing the midfield.

Merton started like a house on fire, in that they were very soon engulfed and looking rather weaker than hoped. A long clearance was flicked on by a lunk familiar to anyone that's played at this level over that last ten years, and a leaden defence admired the quality of the finish. So far, so disappointing. But this, as mentioned before, was a quality Merton line-up, and they picked themselves up, dusted themselves down, and resolved not to make the same mistake again.

Instead, Merton took control of the game. Willgoss and Usher intercepting everything in midfield, Gibson alongside finding space and demonstrating class of touch. Ackerman hit the bar, DQ had a half-volley acrobatically tipped over, and minutes later was elbowed in the back of the head by a Tubby Angry Man, securing a free-kick on the edge of the area. Having already had one sighter, Gibson stepped up and arced the ball deliciously into the top corner.

1-1, and more was to come. DQ had a super game up top, making so much through his own physicality and determination. He won the ball in the area, beat the keeper, and saw his shot cleared off the line by the head of the smallest player on the pitch. Murphy and Draghici increased their sorties into the opposition half. Carshalton complained lots. Merton were unlucky not to lead at half time.

Willgoss told everyone they had played just spiffily well and to do exactly the same in the second half. Draghici – full of energy throughout – listened intently, took to the pitch, stole the ball from the left-back, powered into the area and won an absolutely stone-bonking penalty. Ackerman scored it. Because he's deadly. 2-1. Willgoss rang the changes: PQ on for the hobbled Murphy, and Preece on for the captain himself. Usher took over the armband, his reintegration into the Boars thus complete.

Preece, evidently bored by the mundanity of a penalty goal, strode onto a clearance and half-volleyed unstoppably into the top corner from 30 yards. A real beauty. Even the Carshalton players stopped whinging, such was the professional quality of the strike. DQ had a further two shots saved, PQ whipped in some testing set-pieces, and Shields - on for Ackerman - stole onto a short backpass, calmly rounded the keeper, and pulled the shot about ten yards wide. By the end of the match, Carshalton had been given such a runaround that half the team had cramp or somesuch and it was an altogether comfortable end for the men of Merton.

Sherbs – another excellent game in goal – tends to make at least one save per game that he has no right to. No change here, Alex acrobatically tipping over a stinger of a ping that thrashed through the air, surely destined to make the last 10 minutes a little uncomfortable for the men in yellow. Sherbs wasn't having it. The whole event was a thoroughly promising affair, and 4 points from two games means the 2s are starting to look more than a little handsome again.

Preece secured DOTD after celebrating his worldly by attempting to air-Cruyff-turn a goal kick. But mostly for wanting to shoot off early to get some DIY done. Usher, Crusher, dear sweet Craigy, edged MOTM for a typically action performance. It's good to have him back.



1S

MERTON FC 2 Old Lyonians 1

The 1s stepped out at the hood for the first time in the 2017/18 season against an unfamiliar opposition in Old Lyonians. Even more unfamiliar was the position in the front three given to resident American and usual left back Will Kearns, not to mention the encouragement given to Browner to maraud forward when possible.

The men in yellow started well, forcing Lyonians onto the back foot during the opening exchanges. Merton looked assured on the ball with Sam and James working the ball from side to side as we waited for an opening. The persistence paid off when Jonny (who had an excellent game) was fed in by a marauding Browner down the right, after ghosting past his man he squared to an incoming Kearnsy who, favouring the moulded cleat, tapped in for his maiden Merton goal. 1-0. Lyonians struggled as any attempted attack was easily dealt with by Clappers and Harrison at the centre of the Merton defence. We continued to work the ball up the field, and dominated possession in the final third. Chances kept coming as Charlie saw a diving header go narrowly wide, and Kearns just unable sort his feet out to convert a rebound off the keeper. For a period, it seemed Merton were toying with their opposition. The second came from a clever Woody freekick, who fired low into the box for an unmarked Sam to stroke home, 2-0. Wanting to make a game out of it, Merton decided to engage in some haphazard set piece defending, failing repeatedly to clear our lines before their man on the edge of the box scuffed a weak shot past the vision obstructed Siri. 'We only concede shit goals' was the cry in the bar afterwards.

The second half began with extensive Merton possession and pressure. This was, however, not converted into chances as we struggled to find the final pass. Van was subbed on for Woody in a like for like midfield dad substitution, with Woody taking over in the Merton Creche, EJ and Robert (benched for their extreme lateness) came on for Jonny and Browner. We poured forward in numbers, special mention to Jordan who once again put in a huge shift, and the defining chance to seal the game eventually came. After a frenetic attack, the ball was eventually squared to Charlie who, swinging a tired right leg, was unable to make contact with the ball with the goal at his mercy. DOD sewn up in one action. Clappers made sure to throw his hat into the ring for DOD by subbing himself on with 30 seconds to go, only to barge over a Lyonian player, giving the opposition a chance to equalise with a dangerously placed free kick inside the Merton final third. The threat was successfully dealt with, and Merton were deserved winners. Overall, a very solid performance early in the season, taking the unbeaten 1s to 4 points from 2 games. The new recruits provided another positive; Harrison looked imperious at the back, while Sam controlled the play in the middle with some smart touches, James marshalled the space in front of the back 4, and EJ and Robert provided spark on the wings.

MOM – Shared between Harrison and Jonny
DOD – Charlie

We look forward to the return fixture later in the season.



MERTON FC 2017-2018 EVENTS



MERTON QUIZ - SATURDAY 7th OCTOBER

- 7pm START prompt – 10pm FINISH
- Classic Quiz with all the proper rounds!
- Teams of 6, £10 per person – including fish & chips.
- ALL teams to put forward a team for entry.
- BOOK YOUR TEAM NOW** – Alex.herbert@velocity-ww.com



INTERCLUB GAMES NIGHT - 11th November

- Please lock Saturday 11 November into your diaries.
- Clappers' lifelong dream of an inter-club games night has finally come to fruition. Darts, foosball and pool - all at the Hood. Should be a good'un



SATURDAY 2nd DECEMBER – THE MERTON CHRISTMAS JUMPER OFF

- 7pm – Midnight
- Kick-off silly season with your 1st Christmas party at the Hood!
- Drinks, food & Carol singing a plenty – with the now annual competition for the best Christmas Jumper on the night!



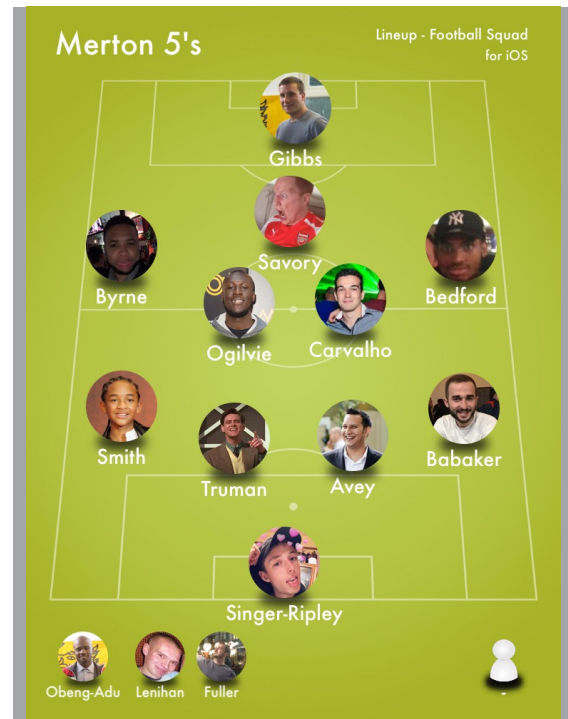
New Years JANUARY 2018 – Annual Memorial Match day

- NYE Drink the bar dry challenge?
- Memorial Match for Nick Papanastasiou.



MERTON FC 3 Actonians 4

The game started off as bad as it possibly could. Right from the kick-off they scored. It wasn't long after that after a good string of passing and possession and clawing back into the game that they struck again. This time, it was through a contentious penalty decision that the ref gave based on 'how guilty we looked'. If decisions were made this way we should simply smile and laugh when players go down in the box – food for thought for the next time we have this ref. Despite Sam's best efforts, their striker put it away at the bottom left corner of the goal. It was about to get worse. Again, after clawing back and picking ourselves up they struck again. This time it was from a through ball from lost possession in the mid-field. And then another right after that that is too painful to recall. We were on the ropes and half-time couldn't have come sooner. The boys were distraught. There was so much hope and chat before the game about how well we can play and how we should come out firing but the exact opposite happened. We gave the ball away far too often and they were clinical in putting their chances away – plain and simple.



The half-time talk wasn't bleak, it was one of uplift. We're a better team than this, we're better individually and there is a huge belief in each other and how well we can play if we just do the hard work, run for each other, stay calm and believe in ourselves. Games like this will happen but what happened next far outweighed what I thought was possible. Everyone was fired up and we came out swinging. Lenner's moves into CB and Josh moved from LB to CM. Lenner's barking precise orders at us gave us stability and direction whilst Josh gave us some much needed confidence in the middle of the park. One, two, three passes were strung together and switches of play ensured to an unmarked Dwayne 'Forrest' Bedford out on the right wing. Something he had been screaming for the whole game. We gained more confidence. More possession gave us more confidence as the wingers stayed wide and the midfield stayed compact. We finally managed our breakthrough goal from a great through ball from A-aaron to Gibbo who finished with extreme patience and composure. Then our second arrived. It appeared scrappy, but a miracle ball from Dwayne found Gibbo in the the 6-yard box who showed his composure once again to bring the ball down and pass it to A-aaron who finished and brought a huge roar from the capacity crowd (Bambi, Chris, Butters and Tiago). The third was a replica of the second. A beautiful ball from A-aaron unleashed an unstoppable Gibbo. What the team felt then was pride. We came back from 4-0 down to going close to pinching a draw when the game seemed destined for a cricket score. There's only one message this result sends to our team and it's we'll never give up.

MOTM: Aaron 'my haircut will be right one day I swear' Byrne. Every time he touched the ball and ran at the opposition it gave the team a renewed sense of confidence. His assists and goals were perfect but it was his drive and confidence that gave us the lift we needed.

Special mentions: Lenner. Amazing performance as a CB nearly MOTM worthy that helped resurrect us from the brink of a drubbing to a proud performance. Delman or Duracell. He just keeps running. I think I counted twice when he sprinted back to thwart their attack singlehandedly and one (or two!) off the line clearances. Great performances by these two.



35

MERTON FC 2 Kew Association 5

The first challenge of this match report is to improve on the match report from the previous game. I'll start with a joke 'How do you make toast in the jungle?? Under the gorilla.' Challenge achieved and exceeded. I could leave it there, but I won't! Onto the main event....

Last season Kew were playing in the same division as our 2s but had lost their first game of the season 2-0, therefore we weren't sure what level of opposition we expected to face. The Boars lined up in a 4-5-1 formation, although with an influx of players throughout the club, the squads are still in the process of settling down, as illustrated by the use of 6 (players whose natural position is) central midfielders, 3 strikers and 1 defender in the starting 11.

Within 15 minutes, the opposition had scored 3 times, in pretty much the same fashion each time. The first goal came from a free kick deep from the right, with the ball swung in and Merton looking like they'd clear it away, however two players appeared to call for the ball and resultantly the ball flicked off Ryan Gresty's head to the opposition player who chested it down and struck a very precise shot past Dan Bridgeman in goal, whom had no chance. The second goal was similar in that the ball was played in deep from the right, near the halfway line, the ball was allowed to bounce and this meant that it found its way to a Kew player, who again, struck a very good shot past Dan. The third came from the left hand side this time, after the ball was lost in midfield, a quick ball was played in over the top and a first time finish was dispatched past Dan. 3 shots, 3 goals. Between the first of these goals and half time, Merton, despite the score line, had the better of the possession and also had 4 very good chances to score. Fitz hit the bar with a great effort, Dan K, when through one on one, unusually didn't hit the target, Ryan received the ball six yards out, couldn't quite get it out of his feet and ended up hitting a rather limp shot towards the goal and finally Mustard, after a lung busting run from left back and having been cleverly played in by a very nimble Denys, flashed an absolutely incredible effort, just over the bar. In and around these chances, Merton played some decent football and kept possession well, with some good incisive play going forward.

It was a strange feeling at half time to be going in 3-0 down as it didn't feel like a 3-0 game (other than the goals) and confidence was high that if we continued to play as we had, chances would surely come. Alas, we didn't continue to play that way and for the first twenty minutes of the second half, we did what when Boar described as 'farming'. I didn't see many tractors, rakes or hoes but I guess he meant that we were just churning up the turf. It was only when we went 4-0 down, did we throw caution to the wind, with Mario, who despite the score was having a decent debut for The Boars, taking the initiative and moved from centre back to midfield. This created a bit more cut and thrust and the chances started to come again. Finally, a goal was scored, the first of the season (Crystal Palace fans can only dream of such a feeling). It was a well crafted goal, with another debutant, Luke Mora, playing the ball back to our rampaging right back, Iain Evans, who played a great diagonal ball into the box for the slightly built Denys to cower at the sight of a ball (I could be describing DK, both he and Denys are like two peas in a pod) about to hit him and it ricocheted off his swollen eye socket to trickle in at a pace that even could have exceeded. Shortly after this, Dan Bumstead notched his first goal for Merton with a well-taken close range finish on the volley. With the score having moved from a thrashing to on the verge of being a respectable defeat and the Boars continuing to push up, Kew almost immediately score their fifth and final goal of the game, 5-2.



In summary a strange game, where we played some decent football, could have scored 7 goals but clearly need to do better at defending diagonal balls and were unlucky with the extent of quality finishing displayed by our opposition. Big improvement on the week before but still further improvements to be made. Fitness being one, as more tracking of our men, will reduce the time our opponents have to score, which was a central issue in a number of goals we conceded. This game shows that if we take the initiative we can make things happen, it's a pity we waited until 20 minutes to go to do this, rather than starting the second half this way. If we had, who knows what might have happened?

Dick of the day, no obvious candidates this week, which meant a spread of votes for things such as "wearing white boots", "getting booked" "not doing enough for the 4th goal" but the 'winner' was Mustard for a throw in (surprisingly, not a foul throw this time) that was described as a parachute throw. Disgraceful decision to receive DOTD for, as it was clearly a legitimate throw within the rules of the game. There was no doubt whatsoever as to who the Man of the match was, well there was some doubt actually, in Joe Squire's mind, who presumably couldn't understand why some guy called Mario was getting all the votes, when he was very confident that it should be Carlos who was the MOTM. It transpired that Carlos and Mario are the same person, not too clear where the confusion over his name had come from given that each name originates from two different nationalities. Maybe if he'd put Luigi, we could have understand but Carlos.... No idea! If only the DOTD could be recast!

There was still time in the bar for Denys to tell Mustard that his girlfriend said that Mustard is ugly. Denys couldn't let this bombshell sit for too long and then stated that Mustard is a very handsome man. We all know the mantra 'never trust Denys', so it was all taken with a pinch of salt. The depths of the evening wore on with 4-5 Boars staying to watch the football and eat lots of packets of crisps. The tone was very much lowered though by the arrival of Darren Avey, who started producing some entertainment that may even have crossed Glenn Pitman's imaginary line. Delete, delete, delete.

Team: Dan Bridgeman, Iain Evans, Vincenzo Di Matteo, Carlos, Mustard (captain), Darren Fitzgerald, Neil Davison, Dan Bumstead, Ryan Gresty, Dan Kelly, Denys Zhurbiy. Subs: Joe Squire, Luke Mora.

Goals: Denys Zhurbiy, Dan Bumstead

MOTM: Carlos (AKA Mario Del Prestito)

DOTD: Mustard (for a throw in that wasn't a foul throw)



Landscaping the Hood

Your club needs you!

The committee has signed off on improving the patio area outside our beloved clubhouse.

This initiative has been very generously subsidised by the Papanastasiou family, in memory of Nick, who we sadly lost last year.

In order to do this, we need your help. Our man Peter Kemp is the brains behind the operation, has it all worked out, and will be directing us on the day. **But we could use another specialist or two**, and definitely need willing labourers to help with things like shifting dirt in wheelbarrows, laying slabs, digging etc etc.

We will be doing this project (weather permitting) on the following 2 days, starting at about 10am:

Sunday 8 October

Sunday 15 October



**Coming
Soon!
Under
Construction**



NAME: MARIO DEL PRESTITO
TEAM: 3'S
POSITION: CENTRAL MIDFIELD
BIRTH DATE: 02/12/1984
BIRTH PLACE: MILAN, ITALY
PREVIOUS CLUBS: MITCHAM PARK FC

MARIO DEL PRESTITO



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

I'm a real family/friends person who likes to spend time with those in front of a nice lunch/dinner with wines. Easy-going, love travelling and practise/watch sports.

2. How did you end up at Merton FC?

Just saw an ad on Facebook looking for new players so i've decided to have a go as my previous team was a little bit unorganised.

3. What do you like most about Merton FC?

Obviously, organization, structure and the camaraderie. Everything is really clear, and with committed people.

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

AC Milan as I've supported them since I was a child.

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

Yes i do as a good Italian. I always wear right sock, shinpad and boot first.

Favourite Player: Andrea Pirlo
Childhood Team: AC Milan
Favourite team in the UK: Fulham FC
Favourite team outside the UK: AC Milan
Childhood Hero: Bud Spencer
Favourite Food: Pizza - very italian!!!!
Favourite Drink: Red Wine
Favourite Band: Queen

RAPID FIRE



NAME: HARRISON RYLE
TEAM: 1ST TEAM (SO FAR)
POSITION: CENTRE BACK
BIRTH DATE: 11TH MARCH 1993
BIRTH PLACE: WREXHAM
PREVIOUS CLUB: READING YMCA

HARRISON RYLE



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

I manage a team of recruiters (yeah, I'm one of those people) for a company called Pareto Law. Aside from that I'm a fairly standard 24 year-old: I spend most of my weekends when I'm not playing football out in South West London or relaxing in my house.

2. How did you end up at Merton FC?

I knew Chaz through a mutual friend and had been looking for a team ever since I moved to London about 18 months ago.

3. What do you like most about Merton FC?

The location was pretty handy (I live in Mitcham)! Mostly though it was the welcoming atmosphere at the club and the potential to play with a group of lads similar to myself.

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

Has to be Liverpool – they're my boyhood team and I'm not sure I'd be that much worse than the current back four.

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

None whatsoever. I've played terrible enough times regardless of whether I put my left or right sock on first.

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

To play as many games as possible, keep a shed load of clean sheets and maybe bag a goal or two if I'm lucky.

Favourite Player: Sadio Mane

Childhood Team: Liverpool FC

Favourite team in the UK: Liverpool FC

Favourite team outside the UK: Portland Timbers – went to a game when I was in the US for a couple of months and the atmosphere was unreal.

Childhood Hero: It's a boring answer but growing up a Liverpool fan it's pretty hard to not choose Steven Gerrard.

Favourite Food: Burritos

Favourite Band: Arctic Monkeys

RAPID FIRE



YOUTH U-9S

MERTON FC 3

CARSHALTON ATHLETIC WHITES 5

Goalscorer: Faris (3)

MOM: Archie

Under 9s first home game at the Hood, everyone got to the ground early as per the coach's orders. Pitch half ready, just the important items waiting to be retrieved from storage, the goals. On Manager's agenda for next week's game a set of keys for the changing rooms.

Coach Neal (yes I have now got name spelt right) took the boys for a warm up and pre match tactic run through. Starting line up was Max (GK), Ollie and Archie in defence, Louie, Percy and Lewis in midfield and Faris up front. David, Joe and Harry on the bench. The team started well controlling their passes and getting the ball forward. Faris had his shooting boots on today scoring all 3 of the goals in the first half. 3 changes made half way through the first half David, Joe and Harry on for Ollie, Archie and Faris. Carshalton brought it back to make it 3 – 3 at half time, a good match so far with Merton looking a lot better from last week's game. Some positives to take for the half time team talk.

2nd half and a couple more changes made. We continued to play some good football, working it from the back, unfortunately Carshalton took the lead, scoring two more to make it 5 – 3 with about 5 minutes to go. Last of the changes and the boys tried to get the goals. David trying a spectacular over head shot just to see it land on the top of goal net and Lewis smashing a worldly only for the ball to hit the corner of the upright. Had it gone in could have been contender for goal of the month. All the boys worked hard but couldn't bring it back. Game ended 5 – 3 to Carshalton but defiantly improvements and positives to take into next week's game at home to Twickenham Tigers.

Man o f the Match was tight choice for the coach and manager, hat trick scoring Faris was just edged by Archie with his great tackling and some real quality on the ball.





YOUTH U-10S

MERTON FC 3
CLAYGATE ROYALS FOLEYS 3

NO REPORT SUBMITTED



YOUTH U-12S

MERTON FC 2
LYNNE COUGARS 1

Merton U12s were back at home in the 'Invitation Cup' against a very impressive Lynne Cougars.

This was a really close match - with Merton taking lead through Ollie Laughton with a delightful cheeky chip over goalie.

Cougars equalised in a moment where boys switched off.

2nd half Mighty Merton throw kitchen sink at Cougars and there keep produced some great saves - in return our new Keeper Adam - equally produced some monumental saves and ensured there was no way pass into our net "no you won't and I will not let you score".

Final score was 2-1 win - we are home next week against Met Police - this will be a tough match.

Big thanks to brilliant support and helping with all equipment.



YOUTH U-13S

MERTON FC 3
CB HOUNSLOW UTD GREENS 5

NO REPORT SUBMITTED



YOUTH U-14S

MERTON FC 3 KINGSTONIANS YOUTH COLTS 5

Our first away game of the season was against Kingstonian Youth Colts and the team was keen to set the pace from the start. The teams looked to be evenly matched and there was a high tempo with the opponent's number 8 and 9 possessing strength and skill as they looked to get in behind our defence. It was Hugo who had the first real attempt with a rasping drive that was unlucky to just clear the crossbar. The breakthrough came midway through the first half after a great chipped through ball over the top by Liam that was finished emphatically by Fareed on his weaker foot. The rest of the half saw Merton under pressure as the Kingstonian goalkeepers' long kicks consistently caused problems in defence. Milo made two outstanding saves to keep the score at 1-0 when their strikers managed to get through 1-on-1. Just before half time McKenzie produced an outstanding last ditch tackle, winning the ball cleanly and preventing a clear shot on goal by their standout number 9.

The second half was much more open, and it started off in great fashion for Merton with a good reverse pass by Liam which was well controlled by Hugo who cut in and crossed where Fareed was waiting to pounce. Unfortunately for Kingstonian it looped off their defender into the net for an own goal. Another two goals followed for Merton with debutant Diego scoring both. The first was again created by great play from Hugo who had an excellent game as he cut in and laid it off for Diego who scored with a composed finish into the side netting. Another good finish from Diego made it 4-0 to Merton and the game looked wrapped up. However Kingstonian put up a good fight and made it an interesting finale as a strong free kick, which was destined for the top of the net, was tipped onto the bar magnificently by Milo but the rebound was prodded into the unguarded net. Kingstonian made it 4-2 with a corner that was whipped in and headed home powerfully and you could sense they believed they could get something out of the game with 10-15 minutes to go. Fortunately Fareed put the game to bed with a well-taken finish after some battling by Daniel on the edge of the box. Kingstonian managed to score a consolation goal in the last few minutes with a well-taken finish by their strong number 8 and the game ended 5-3.

It was a strong battle that was evenly contested and played in great spirit with no cards. Nikoy put in an excellent display at centre back as did Milo in goal who made several excellent saves and they take joint man of the match.

GK - MILO
RB - LIAM
CB - NIKOY
CB - ENTRI
LB - MCKENZIE
CM - THEO
CM - DANIEL
RW - HUGO
LW - JUSTIN
CF - KIERAN
ST - FAREED

MOM: MILO/NIKOY

GOALSCORERS: FAREED (2) DIEGO (2)



YOUTH U-16S

MERTON FC 4
STONELEIGH ATHELIC 1

reat first win of the season. After a 0-0 draw in opening game of the season, Merton had some work to do to carry on the start made last week.

Merton started on the front foot, knocking the ball around well. Merton pressurised from the front, causing some panic in the back line of Stoneleigh. It took Stoneleigh some time to find their feet in the game, with Merton knocking the ball around well. Limited chances in the first half, with Malcin missing the first chance.

Charlie bagged the goal of the season, battling well to get the finish in.

Merton looked shakey at the back for the remainder of the first half, stoneleigh equalising against the run of play - through their hard work.

Half time 1-1

Second half started and Ollie looked bright, using his pace to cause trouble for the stoneleigh backline. George working hard on the right hand side created the 2nd and the 3rd - Harry scoring a free kick on edge of the area.

Merton were solid throughout and the fourth rounded off what was a great all round performance.

Next up Met police youth blues.



WHO'S WHERE AND WHEN

SATURDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER 2017

1s
West Wickham v MERTON FC
Away - 2pm

2s
MERTON FC v Cambrige Heath
Home - 12pm

3s
MERTON FC v Old Finchleians
Home - 2pm

4s
Ibis Eagles v MERTON FC
Away - 2pm

5s
HSBC v MERTON FC
Away - 2pm

6s
MERTON FC v City of London
Home - 12.30pm

7s
Old Salesians v MERTON FC
Away - 2pm

SUNDAY 24th SEPTEMBER 2017

U-9
MERTON FC v Twickenham Tigers
Home

U-10
MERTON FC v Lyne Topcats
Home

U-12
MERTON FC v Met Police Youth Reds
Home

U-13
Junior Shots Blues v MERTON FC
Away

U-14
Motspur Park FC v MERTON FC
Away

U-16
Mert Police Youth Blues v MERTON FC
Away



SAM'S SHOWER THOUGHTS

I'VE RECENTLY GONE DEEP IN MY MIND AND THOUGHT OF THE BEST LIST OF EXCUSES FOR BEING LATE TO WORK.

1. "A bird pooped on me on the way to work, so I had to go home and change."
2. "There was a really good program on TV and I really wanted to see the end of it."
3. "My cat got stuck in the toilet!"
4. "I was late because there was police activity and they made us stay down in the house so I couldn't leave."
5. "I got caught in a temporary cosmic rift and was sucked into a parallel universe for most of the morning."
6. "long story short... Two kids, one box of cocopops, a half gallon of expired milk, projectile vomiting..."
7. "I was kidnapped by the two-hour liberation army. After two hours, they let me go."
8. "We had a 'walking dead' marathon party last night and my girlfriend made me stay up all night on zombie watch"

DISCLAIMER: The editor of this newsletter urges you to always give 100% at work - 12% on Monday, 23% on Tuesday, 40% on Wednesday, 20% on thursday and [HIGHLY OPTIONAL] 5% on Friday.

Song of the Week:
Rockstar - Post Malone

Deal of the Week:
Dominos - £9.99 when you buy more than 3 pizzas



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 gear you need for 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



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Short Sleeved Training Shirt from Joma.
Quickdry Lightweight polyester training shirt
option for personalisation
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MERTON FC FOOTBALL CLUB

