

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 FC 2 (AET) 4

HSBC 2 (AET) 2

Last season, Team Handsome's effort across three cup competitions could be summed up like this: not pretty; didn't get very far. Three matches and three losses – clearly some work to do.

Still, a trip east-ish to play a bunch of bankers in this year's AFA cup offered a chance to redress the balance and even the hope of securing some silverware.

Imagine a carpet, but the carpet is made of grass and it's really nice grass and everyone likes playing on it. That was the pitch. No doubt buoyed by the un-Hoodness of the playing surface, Merton 2s tore into HSBC while also achieving the remarkable feat of actually talking to each other during the match and keeping the team shape.

The onslaught was spearheaded by Chaz, a kind of footballing Hurricane Irma who scored the opening goal with a Tim Cahill-esque header from a fine Dan Rist cross (adapting finely to a mid-field berth). A momentary loss of shape through substitutions and EJ's inability/refusal to throw a football saw HSBC equalise, but there was always the sense Team Handsome would pull through. It just took a while.

Ackerman, splendid until a late injury that will keep him out for a few weeks, strode through in the second half, played in ageing lothario DQ who left a defender on his backside and who handed the ball to Chaz on the edge of the area. Chaz's in-no-way-scuffed shot found the bottom corner. 2-1. Sadly, another collective bit of pony defending saw another HSBC goal and extra time beckoned.

Ackers' last contribution, before accelerating one hip flexor too many, was to watch an HSBC defender sit on the floor and to roll the ball into the corner of the net. 3-2, and in truth Merton were very much in control. The scene was set for Chaz's hat-trick. Pearce, once again defending stoutly, released DQ who ran the length of the pitch.

Ian Lewis, supportive as ever from the sidelines, was screaming for the pass to EJ – magnificent after the earlier defensive snafu – DQ duly obliged by giving it to Chaz instead. Chaz could've scored straight away but decided to turn a defender before doing so. And why not? Why. Not.

That was more than enough for man of the match, although special mention must go to Adam Crawshaw in centre midfield who had an absolute stormer, often closing down the entire opposition on his own (and loudly demanding some assistance while doing so). Todger of the Tag? Step forward Alex Herbert, for turning up late with the kit. Again. He's on for the hat-trick on the 14th.

Line-up: Alex Herbert, Gabriel Draghici, Conor Murphy, Alan Clowes, Paul Pearce, Joe Grew, Chaz Martin, Dan Rist, Chris Rayner, Lewis Ackerman, David Quainton. Subs: Adam Crawshaw, EJ



6S

MERTON FC 11 Old Wilsonians 0

Talk during the week was to keep the sixes feet grounded after the resounding win against the fives the previous week. We knew from previous games against Old Wilsonians that we expected a tough game against a good club, so formations and tactics were discussed in the days leading up to the game to try and get the best out of us.

The Saturday arrived and with the usual players running late (George!), the returning gaffer was of course stressed out. The late arrival of the ref also rose stress levels even higher.

With a starting 11 of Merton's number 1 Swanny in goal, defence of Andy, Chappell Grant and Reece (yes the gaffer dropped himself!), midfield of Callum, George, Ty and Gresty with a strike force of Nick and Tony up top. The bench consisted of Trey, LOCKE!!!!!! and Pete.

With the pre match talk dominated of how tall the oppo were over and done with it was time for the game.

Well all I can say is WHAT A PERFORMANCE from the sixes. We got off to a flier and were 4-0 up within 15 minutes or so – goals from Nick, Tony x 2 and Chappell (who nearly missed!).

I can honestly say that we were having a red letter day and everything we tried seem to work.

Further goal in the first half from Callum and Tony saw us with a 6-0 half time lead.

Half time team talk was that of not being to cocky and playing the Merton way and not to humiliate the opposition (in terms of arrogance!).

I can't remember exactly how the second half went – but it was pretty much the same. More goals from Tony, taking his tally to 6 in the game. A goal from Pete and the goal of the game from Trey (lovely strike in the top corner!). The final score was 11-0. I'm not sure what was wrong with Old Wilsonians this week as they seem to be off the pace and hardly threatened. I am also guessing that as the 7's beat the lower team by the same score, they may have had a shortage of players (much like Merton this week).

It was nice to get a result whereby we were so dominant and take all of our chances for once.

Next week it is away to Actonians so let's hope we can get another positive result!

Man of the Match:

The whole squad played really well and this was our best game this season! There were nominations for Mr Goal Machine Tony (obviously) but the overall majority voted for Andy at right back who had a solid game and is turning into a great find for the sixes!

Dick of the Day: clear winner – Callum. Missed from one yard and tried a scorpion kick as didn't want to ruffle his hair and head the ball.



Pictured: Merton FC Quiz Night



ANOTHER GOOD WEEKEND AT THE HOOD

The season seems well under way now. And all our teams in both adult and youth sections are competitive in their divisions and it promises for a good season. It would be really nice to win something and a good few of our teams especially the 6s are placed to do this. We have also had our first social function and the Quiz night was a great success.

On the pitch we had some good results with only the 1s disappointing with a home defeat to the Civil Service. I went with the 2s to HSBC with their wonderful facilities. The pitches and clubhouse were in great shape and our boys put on a good performance winning 4-2 after extra time. The 3s had a great win at Nottsborough where it is very difficult to get anything. 5s had a good win and 6s and 7s both won 11-0.

Thanks are also due to Steve Burchell who is stepping up as our Discipline Officer and guys we really don't need to overwork him.

The Quiz was won by Team Handsome aided and abetted DQ and CJ. It was good to see a good number of our new members entering in to the event so wholeheartedly. It was also good to see the Legends table with some of our past players and supporters flying the flag. I think the success of our Happy Hour and Cocktails had something to do with this aswell. This particularly influenced the Music round which turned into a Karaoke

free for all. So thank you and well done to Sherbs, our quizmaster and our bar staff who worked so hard on the night happily to keep up with some serious drinking in a very enjoyable evening.

There are more events to come. Starting with the Vets v OWCs vets on Saturday 21st October. Always an event when Jim Perrin brings the OWCs down to the Hood. It is a 12.30 KO and we are still looking for a few players to add to the squad!!

There are three home games on Saturday (3s, 4s and 5s) and four youth games on Sunday. The pitches have been cut and remarked and look good. The weather forecast is for 23 degrees and sun and the Dodge is restocking the bar. So it could be another good weekend at the Hood.



7S

MERTON FC 11 Old Wilsonians 0

Finally the league fixtures start, after the SALC concluding with 1 win, 2 losses, 6 goals for (4 for Billy) 11 against!! Were now amongst our own. Although it's the newly formed 6th Division, it's more or less the same teams from last term, which we finished a strong fifth for a newly formed squad. This season, there's talk we want top 3 minimum. So today, we need a good start

We welcome back OW8'S, a team we comfortably beat in the SALC 4-0 and twice beating them 3-1 last season, it's a good game to bed in a few new faces

Going with the standard tried and tested, 4-4-2, we have Darren Fitzgerald volunteering to go in goal. With Josh, Tom, Martin, Steve making up the back 4, Luke M, Chris D, David & Ram as the midfield and Billy and his new boots, accompanied by Ryan up front.

Now, generally when doing a match report, there's a certain amount of 'padding out' to be done, so that you can get across the type of game that went on... however, this time, more will be missing than can be remembered, as to how the team played today....!!

Yes, it was a poor side that we was up against, and the old cliché of 'you can only beat what's in front of you' can be rolled out. But it was the manor that the 7s went about the job. Ruthless... and with more composure, this could have been a Merton record for a team win (No idea what it currently stands at, but Im sure we would have been close...)

So...

1-0 : Games under way and in less than 2 minutes, David collects the ball, travels pass the OW8's midfield, slots a ball between the defenders which Billy latches onto at pace, and calmly slots near post

2-0 : A move that started from the left back, shuffled around to the right wing, with Josh and Luke linking up, towards the 18 yard box, Josh & Ryan with a neat 1-2 into the area for Josh to dispatch a low far corner shot

3-0 : Corner from Billy to the far post, David winning the aerial battle and knocking down to Ram who controls and volleys over the static keeper

4-0 : Good work from the defence, passed out towards Luke M who curls a defence splitting pass forward for Billy to footrace the back 4, calmly slotting pass the advance keeper

5-0 : Billy with a near post corner, evades the defenders and drops centre of goal, Ram is ghosting in at 'pace' to slam home an unstoppable shot

Half time, and there's not much you can say or change at this point and you feel for the guys waiting to get on the pitch. But the talk is about making this count, getting the goal difference up as that's what lets us down last season... just with the one change, Luke who's improving with each game makes way for 'Kieran' for a debut on pitch.

6-0: Took a while, the opposition stood firm for 15minutes until Ram slots in Ryan for a 1v1.

Change made – Ram off for Scott and a change to 4-3-3,

7-0 : Soon after, the ever energetic Ryan once again is on his heels after a neat pass from Kieran and skips pass the OW8's back four to dispatch his 2nd

Change made – Steve off for Dan, Martin goes left back, Dan Centre

8-0 : Billy put through by David and he races clear, only for the keeper to get a good hand on his shot, which falls to Ryan to complete his Hatrick

9-0 Kieran down the right wing, Crosses, Billy leaves for David on the 18 yard, defender closing down gets lobbed with a back heel flick, David through on goal and as the ball drops, scissor volleys into the roof of the net

10-0 Ryan robs the OW8's centre back and dispatches his 4th and our first ever double figure score is achieved for the mighty 7s

11-0 Kieran once again have all sorts of fun down the right wing, doubles up with Josh who with still 25/30 yards to go, accelerates into the box and drives a fierce low shot into the far corner again...



This concludes the goals, however, a few notable events that also took place, Luke in midfield had a few good moments, one notable when being closed down by two players, calmly left the ball to run through his legs, leaving them both static and out of position, only to have no one backing him up. Chris coming back after from what someone said was a spell of old age (but clearly not the oldest in this squad!!) had a good baptism alongside David in the centre of midfield with some good strong work from the pair of them

First half and 5-0 up, David breaks up a OW8s attack, he dispatched a through ball for Ryan to latch onto, forced out wide and towards the corner flag, Ryan cuts inside and draws the keeper out, Billy having no problem keeping up with play waits in the penalty area before making a quick run as Ryan slots the ball across the goal line...

Unfortunately, Billy and his new boots manages to get to the ball just at the point it takes a bobble (not many saw this... but I'm sure it happened!!) and from 2 yards..... YES, 2 YARDS!!!! Hits the crossbar!!

There's not many players that can score 2 goals, set up 3 and still walk off the pitch gutted, and feel like they let their team down, but to be fair, the young lad was first to 'Man Up' and take the DOTD award for that little miss hap, Don't worry Billy... were sure you've got more goals in you this season, and there's that other old cliché "you've got to be there to miss'em"...

So a job well done, a poor side put to bed by a team that showed, on their day, they can play some great football, now the trick is to take this form deep into the league and make a good fist of it.

Next week we are away at the unpredictable Old Blues 3rd, a team that has a few good and bad results already, and any team playing at home must be regarded as a threat. None the less... only a win is expected from the management as they look to go on a long unbeaten run

MOTM: Ryan.... Not only 4 goals and a few assists. But once again, never stopped running. Again, mentions for the other scorers, notably Josh "Mr Ever reliable"... 2 goals and another strong performance at right back. Billy, 2 goal 3 assists... but will be remembered for the 'Jug Avoidance' shot... (See below)

DOTD: Billy.... For blatant 'Jug Avoidance' ... 2 Yards young man... 2 Yards!

Team: Darren, Josh, Tom, Martin, Steve, Luke M, Chris, David, Ram, Billy, Luke Scott, Dan, Kieran



MERTON FC 5 Old Salesians 3

Having been humbled 6-1 by Old Salesians in the first game of the season at the Hood, the return fixture, and a chance to avenge that dismal performance, had come round remarkably quickly. The setting - Tennysonians Sports Ground - was an idyllic one, and the weather was just about playing ball too.

There was just one thing missing... a referee. Having made contact with said individual, he'd claimed shortly before the scheduled KO time of 14:30 that he was "just 5 minutes away". However, this claim became increasingly dubious as the minutes ticked by. Come 3 o'clock, Mike - who was very conscious that this fiasco was starting to dent his Happy Hour drinking time - stepped up to ref. A rusted spare whistle was sourced, along with a belated chase for a mobile phone to keep track of time. And eventually, it was all systems go.

Merton started the game beautifully, shored up by a very solid back three, and Akram in the middle to break up play. But the most impressive bit of all was the willing to play the ball around on the carpet, and with plenty of enterprise to boot.

The breakthrough came courtesy of some good buildup play, although the finish from Adam - with his first 2 touches of the ball - was simply exceptional: a Cruyff turn, followed by a clinical left-footed finish.

Somewhat against the run of play though, the oppo equalised, with Merton not being able to clear their lines, and allowing a cross to come in that was duly dispatched. 1-1.

But rather than let the heads drop, Merton reasserted their dominance on the game, and soon reaped the reward, with Dom slotting home another smart left-foot finish. 2-1.

Then came the first of a number of referee blunders. Merton won a corner, but what followed was one man head-butting another. The 20 other players on the pitch, along with a sprinkling of spectators and their dogs, all saw it clearly. The ref, however, did not, and despite some (deserved) abuse that followed, it remained 11 v 11.

The salt was then very much rubbed in Salesians' wounds. The first in slightly farcical circumstances, as the ref pointed to the spot prematurely after a handball, despite Aaron being through on goal with what would have been an advantage, and slotting it home. But they had to come back for the pen. Fortunately, the ref's blushes were saved, as the little maestro blasted it into the bottom-right corner.

Then, just a minute later, Aaron was at it again, this time put through cleverly after some lax defending from the home side. 4-1 at the break, and Merton were well worth every bit of it.

With still no sign of the official ref, Mike continued to don the whistle for the second half. Merton knew that if they scored next, the game would be very much in the bag. But, for some reason, they were slow out the blocks, and just under 10 minutes in, Salesians punished them - albeit in maddening fashion. A probing, swinging corner was delivered to the back post, and the simplest of headed finishes was applied, with not a single Merton player anywhere near him. Very poor indeed, and at 4-2, it was now game on again.

Even more so in the minutes that followed, as Salesians squandered a number of good chances (although in one or two cases, they may have been the beneficiaries of some missed offside calls).

But with Merton just starting to get a bit jittery, that man Aaron stepped up to the plate again to complete his hat-trick - this time another clinical finish after some good interplay. 5-2, and game won.

The final minutes were all Merton too, with a number of chances going abegging. There was also time for one last moment of farce, as the goalkeeper dived in on an approaching Akram in the box. He tumbled over, and the referee pointed to the spot, much to the bewilderment of all involved. Even Akram, who quite reasonably pointed out that he hadn't even appealed for the spot kick. With that, the decision was reversed - all very professional officiating, really.

With literally the last movement of the game, Salesians then won a free kick on the edge of the Merton box, and what followed was a quite-remarkable strike that flew in the right edge of the goal, sending the ole onion bag bulging. Very pleasing on the eye, even if it was the oppo.

Even more pleasing was that it meant the referee could finally call time on proceedings, and some celebratory drinking could commence. Deservedly, too. This was another fine performance from this rapidly-improving team. If they play like this every week, they definitely aren't going to lose too many games.

MOTM: Akram

DOTD: Joe Plumridge



MERTON FC 2017-2018 EVENTS



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, fozzball 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 Statistics

Golden Gloves

Name	Clean Sheets	Pen Saves	1 Goal Conceded	Points
Siraj Durrani	1	0	1	4
Darren Fitzgerald	1	0	1	4
Mark Swann	1	0	1	4
John Gridley	0	1	0	3
Kieran Lee	1	0	0	3
Sam Singer-Ripley	0	0	1	1
Mike Gubby	0	0	1	1
Alex Herbert	0	0	1	1



Pictured:

Keepers of the week for a second week running, Mark Swann (Right) & Darren Fitzgerald (Centre) collect clean sheets. Siraj Durrani (Left) is now joint top with these two.



Merton Statistics

Top Goal Scorers

Name	League Goals	Cup Goals	Total Goals
Tony Chaplin	9	0	9
Billy Golding	2	4	6
Nick Englefield	5	0	5
Adam Collings	5	0	5
Aaron Loftus	5	0	5
Dom Plumridge	3	2	5
Ryan Burchell	4	0	4
Denys Zhurbiy	1	3	4
Own Goal	3	0	3
Callum Fisher	3	0	3
Richard Gibbs	0	3	3
Chaz-Lee Martin	0	3	3



Pictured:
New top scorer Tony Chaplin (Right).
Billy Golding (Left) moves up to second place.



Merton Statistics

This Week's Goal Scorers

Name	League Goals	Cup Goals	Total Goals
Tony Chaplin	6	0	6
Ryan Burchell	4	0	4
Aaron Loftus	3	0	3
Chaz-Lee Martin	0	3	3
Ram Mahbubani	2	0	2
Billy Golding	2	0	2
Josh Kean-Hammerson	2	0	2
Adam Collings	1	0	1
Dom Plumridge	1	0	1
Mark Chappell	1	0	1
Dave Golding	1	0	1
Jonny Graham	1	0	1
Trey Mambeko	1	1	1
Pete Obeng Adu	1	1	1
Nick Englefield	1	1	1
Callum Fisher	1	1	1
Lewis Ackerman	0	1	1



Pictured:

Aaron Loftus with a hat-trick (Left).

Mark Chappell (Centre) scores his first goal.

Lewis Ackerman (Right) doubles his tally for the season.



Merton Statistics This Week's Heroes And Zeroes

Name	Total MOTM Awards
Ryan Burchell	1
Chaz-Lee Martin	1
Andy Williams	1
Akram Choudhary	1
Jonny Graham (Tied)	1
Craig Usher (Tied)	1

Name	Total DOTD Awards
Alex Herbert	1
Callum Fisher	1
Joe Plumridge	1
Billy Golding	1
Ivan Gladkow	1



Pictured:
Hat-trick Heroes Ryan Burchell (Left) and Chaz-Lee Martin (Centre).
Still waiting for his Uber, Alex Herbert (Right).



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.

Get in touch with Mike for more info.



**Coming
Soon!
Under
Construction**



WHO'S WHERE AND WHEN

SATURDAY 14th October 2017

1s
NUFC Oilers v MERTON FC
Away - 2pm

2s
Old Owens v MERTON FC
Away - 2pm

3s
MERTON FC v Carshalton
Home - 2pm

4s
MERTON FC v West Wickham
Home - 2pm

5s
City of London
Home - 2pm

6s
Actonians Association v MERTON FC
Away - 2pm

7s
Old Blues v MERTON FC
Away - 2pm

SUNDAY 15th OCTOBER 2017

U-9
MERTON FC v Hampton & Richmond Boro Yth Stags
Home

U-10
Sutton United Yth v MERTON FC
Away

U-12
Whitton Wanderers Eagles v MERTON FC
Away

U-13
MERTON FC v Staines Town Juniors
Home

U-14
MERTON FC v Twickenham Tigers
Home

U-16
MERTON FC v Met Police Yth Reds
Home



SAM'S SHOWER THOUGHTS

I'VE RECENTLY GONE DEEP IN MY MIND AND THOUGHT OF OBSCURE AND WONDERING THOUGHTS

1. Isn't the seashore a really bad place for sally to sell her seashells?
2. If there was a picture of every Joe in the world we'd finally be able to see what the average Joe looks like.
3. Dog food flavors are marketed to hungry humans.
4. Feet are just hands that got the short end of the evolutionary stick.
5. "Similar" is a synonym for synonym and an antonym for antonym.
6. Can fish swim backwards?
7. Shoes make you high-grounded.
8. If cow defecates in Indian street is that holy shit?
9. You never truly appreciate the ability to breathe out of your nose, until it's gone.

Food of the Week:
Pulled Pork

Netflix Movie of the Week
The Night Before




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 new season. For better value take advantage of the bundle packs.

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



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



NEW Matchday Shirt

Short Sleeved Training Shirt from Joma.
Quickdry Lightweight polyester training shirt
option for personalisation
Price: £12.99

MERTON FC FOOTBALL CLUB

