

# The Merton Way



**2018 – 2019 season**

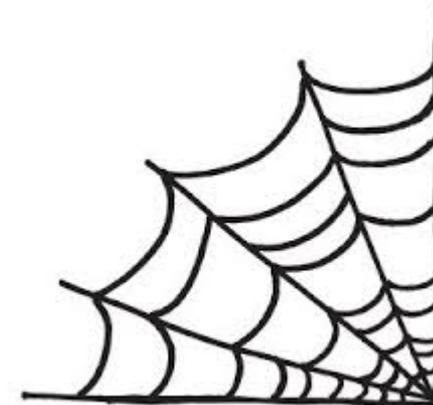
**Issue 5**

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### Note from the Chairman

It was a pretty good set of results last Saturday with only the 1s losing a tough AFA senior cup tie at Old Parks but all our other teams with fixtures had good results.

When I sat down last week to write my piece for the Merton Way I had in mind to go over to Old Parks to watch the 1s and 2s. It is a club I like and admire. It has a good set up and always good to have a drink with Eddie Bow a top SAL man in every way. But I had a very different week to the one I was expecting.

That Monday morning what I thought was a routine assessment at St Georges turned out to be something completely different:

After two hours of intensive tests in the Stroke unit I was in front of a neuro consultant who told me I had experienced a TIA (minor stroke) my carotid artery was 80% obstructed and they were admitting me immediately in order to operate immediately to clear the artery and reduce the risk of a further more damaging stroke. The op was successful and I was discharged on Friday. And what a lucky man I have been. The warning stroke was so mild as to leave no permanent damage and the surgery to reduce the risk of any further so speedy. So I am off games for a couple of weeks.

But I am telling you this for a reason. You are I hope one way or another checking for testicular cancer and soon you should start thinking about prostate cancer. But you also need to think about your diet. Something I have ignored for all your life and most of mine but no more. Cut down on fatty fried foods. Cut back on chips. Less red meat and more fish, the oilier the better. Get veggie and have olive oil and less butter and cheese. It is often referred to as the Mediterranean diet and is much more healthy. I am not sure how alcohol plays into this but I have always believed red wine is beneficial. Don't ignore this and watch your blood pressure not too much caffeine. After my TIA I was still drinking 5 to 5 espressos a day! Unwittingly playing Russian roulette! So think about it.



## **Note from the Chairman**

So I missed the trip to Old Parks but Clapps who went in goal for the 2s sent me this great pic of our boys 'bossing the bar'

Other exciting things that have happened is Ed Plaistow being the last man standing and scooping the pool. A new game is starting up so sign up.

The 1s and 3s have no fixture and Norsemen have pulled their 2s out of their match with us (they haven't paid their subs) so we are hoping to play a club game that Clapps is organising. That should be good.

I hope to catch up with you all soon but take care and watch your diet.





## The Social Boar-terfly



## RACE NIGHT – SATURDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

Yee hah! it's like going to the races, but indoors, and (hopefully) cheaper! There's even Prosecco for the ladies! £10pp

**\*\* DATE CHANGE \*\* DATE CHANGE \*\***

**XMAS JUMP OFF –**

**SATURDAY 1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER**

Hopefully you're all busy knitting your jumpers for this year!!  
Details to follow. Fury fight will be shown in the bar.





### Last week's results

<b>AFA Cup</b>	<b>Old Parkonians</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1s</b>
					<i>Max Carveth (2)</i>
<b>League</b>	<b>Old Parkonians 3s</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2s</b>
					<i>EJ Hypeson</i>
<b>League</b>	<b>3s</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>HSBC 3s</b>
	<i>Glenn Pitman (2), Aaron Byrne (2), Sam Slater</i>				
<b>SAL Cup</b>	<b>Old Blues 3s</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4s</b>
		5	Pens	6	<i>Dom Plumridge (2), Andrew Minkevich</i>
<b>SAL Cup</b>	<b>Actonians 8s</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5s</b>
					<i>Bitmead (3), Matt Nightingale (2), Pete Obeng-Adu,</i>



**This week's fixtures**

	1s	V	No game
League	2s	V	Norsemen Reserves
League	3s	V	No game
League	4s	V	Polytechnic 7s
League	West Wickham 6s	V	5s
League	6s	V	South Bank Cuaco 7s
League	U14s	V	Sheen Lions
-	U13s	V	-
-	U10s	V	-



## Stats

### Top Goalscorer

Name	Total League Goals	Total Cup Goals	Total Goals
Dom Plumridge	4	2	6
Denys Zhurbiy	4	1	5
Aaron Byrne	3	1	4
Ivan Gladkow	1	2	3
Billy Lane	3	0	3
Andy Bitmead	0	3	3

### Top Assists

Name	Total
George Brobbey	3
Ryan Gresty	2
Glenn Pitman	2
Sam Slater	2
Denys Zhurbiy	2
James Gray	2

### Golden Glove

Name	Total Clean		Total Pen	Total Golden	
	Sheets	Saves	Total 1 Goal	Gloves Points	Goals Conceded
Siraj Durrani	1	1	1	7	14
Kieran Lee	1	0	1	4	10
Simon Clapperton	1	0	0	3	0
Alex Herbert	1	0	0	3	2
Lee Lenihan	1	0	0	3	6



## **Old Parks 4 v 2 1s**

More knockout football for the boars this week as they met Old Parks in the AFA cup.

Yet again this meant a commute to Ilford. Is there are an amateur club in the land that spends more time travelling to away games?

Old Parks posed serious opposition from the league above.

Merton with a much changed team from last Saturdays defeat; saw Jack and Cookie come into defence with a rare central midfield cameo for Ivan and Max. Also, good to see another debut as Dan made his first appearance up top.

During a very competitive first half the away side felt hard done by to be 2-1 down at the break. Originally taking the lead from a Jimbo corner and after a few deflections, Max was on hand to slot home from 5 yards. His first goal for the club. However, mistakes in midfield and a rebound from a free kick, meant the home side would be ahead after 45.

Merton felt this game was by no means over and were keen to test their opponents in the second half. Consistently a threat from set pieces it resembled somewhat of an England side from the summer. But it would be a third goal for Old Parks after 60 minutes that left a lot of work to do. And it could have been worse if Siri hadn't made a brilliant penalty save following a handball from Jack that Nadal would've been proud of.

With 20 to play, Max bagged his second with a bullet header again from a Jimbo corner, setting up a great finale. Despite constant pressure and big chances, the home team were still a threat on the break and as they had been all afternoon were clinical when scoring a fourth. Assisted by Jimbos fresh air kick.

Unfortunately, it's another loss for the 1s but with a bye week upcoming, the boys can be refreshed for their next league fixture. Big thanks to Jordan Cox who came back from Manchester to watch but ended up playing 20 minutes 🐾

Motm: Max  
DOTD: Jimbo





## 1s league

#SALSD2



SENIOR DIVISION 2



POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Norsemen	5	5	0	0	20	7	13	15
2	East Barnet Old Grammarians	3	2	1	0	6	4	2	7
3	Carshalton	4	2	1	1	11	10	1	7
4	Bank of England	4	2	0	2	10	8	2	6
5	Alexandra Park	4	1	2	1	8	9	-1	5
6	NUFC Oilers	2	1	1	0	5	3	2	4
7	Merton	5	1	1	3	6	7	-1	4
8	HSBC	3	1	0	2	2	5	-3	3
9	Old Finchleians	1	0	0	1	1	5	-4	0
10	Ibis Eagles	5	0	0	5	4	15	-11	0





## 2s league

#SALID3



**INTERMEDIATE DIVISION 3**



POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Polytechnic 3rd	6	5	0	1	23	9	14	15
2	West Wickham 3rd	4	4	0	0	13	2	11	12
3	Norsemen Res	3	2	1	0	5	0	5	7
4	Merton Res	5	2	1	2	5	10	-5	7
5	Weirside Rangers Res	4	2	0	2	6	11	-5	6
6	HSBC Res	4	0	3	1	5	8	-3	3
7	Old Parkonians 3rd	4	1	0	3	5	8	-3	3
8	Alleyn Old Boys 3rd	3	1	0	2	6	10	-4	3
9	Old Blues Res	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	1
10	South Bank Cuaco Res	5	0	0	5	3	12	-9	0





### **3s 5 – 2 HSBC 3s**

After last weeks fruitless away trip the boars returned to the Hood still looking for there first points of the season.

It was a much changed squad from the defeat to Kew. Mustard, Sam K, Mario and Ryan Burchell earning a call up to the 2s, Sam Speirs heading to the 4s and Sam S R and JV dropping out altogether.

In came the ever dependable Neal Davison and Mike Stone, a bit of attacking quality was Added in the shape of Glenn, Lewis and Niall. And there was the welcome return of Barry Hughes.

Gaffer Fitz opted for tried and trusted 4-4-2 formation that had helped the boars to almost pull of the most unlikely of comebacks the previous week.

The side kicked off with Iain in goal Nathan at right back Barry left back and a centre back partnership of Mike Stone and lofty.

The midfield consisted of Glenn left midfield Sam Slater right midfield and the central midfield pairing of Vincenzo and Neal, upfront the partnership of Fitz and Aaron completed the lineup. Which left the attacking options of Niall and Lewis on the bench.

The boars kicked off and from the outset set about moving the ball quickly and with purpose. The first goal courtesy of Glen latching onto a ball into the left channel that had him in acres of room to pick a pass into the centre were Aaron made no mistake.

From that point the floodgates opened as the boars tore through their opponents at will. Glenn Scored a cracking volley from the edge of the box and Aaron added his second and Sam Slater grabbed a good goal after a great pass from Niall that Beckham in his prime would have been happy with but the best was saved till last with Glenn picking the ball up on the right beating his man and playing the ball into Niall who back headed the ball exquisitely back into Glenn's path, the finish matched the move as he delicately dinked the ball over the exposed keeper.

5-0 !!!!!

Sadly the boars were unable to to keep a clean sheet as a lapse in concentration at the back allowed there left midfielder to squeeze the ball in at Iain's near post just before the break.



### **3s 5 – 2 HSBC 3s (cont)**

The second half was much more of a struggle as a much improved opposition plus tiring legs meant that Merton spent the vast majority of the second half on the back foot. HSBC scored again with roughly 25 to play and will probably reflect that with a bit of better luck and finishing they could have grabbed a point but a combination of the woodwork, a couple of good saves and poor finishing meant that when the final whistle went it was the Boars that had taken the three points.

Possibly the best 45 minutes that the threes have produced in the last 3 seasons.

MoM Barry for a solid first game back.

DoD for Iain inflammatory comments about a fellow teammates manliness.



## 3s league

#SALJ2S



JUNIOR DIVISION 2 SOUTH



POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Polytechnic 5th	6	5	0	1	14	15	-1	15
2	Civil Service 4th	5	4	0	1	15	10	5	12
3	Kew Association Res	5	3	1	1	16	9	7	10
4	Actonians Association 6th	6	3	1	2	15	16	-1	10
5	Actonians Association 5th	6	2	2	2	9	8	1	8
6	Old Salesians	6	2	1	3	21	14	7	7
7	Old Wilsonians 3rd	3	1	1	1	6	2	4	4
8	Merton 3rd	5	1	0	4	13	15	-2	3
9	HSBC 3rd	5	1	0	4	10	19	-9	3
10	Carshalton 4th	3	0	0	3	3	14	-11	0





## 4s league

#SALJ4S



JUNIOR DIVISION 4 SOUTH



POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Polytechnic 6th	5	4	1	0	21	7	14	13
2	West Wickham 6th	5	3	0	2	11	12	-1	9
3	Polytechnic 7th	2	2	0	0	8	3	5	6
4	Merton 4th	3	1	2	0	6	4	2	5
5	Actonians Association 7th	2	1	0	1	4	3	1	3
6	Merton 5th	5	1	0	4	3	10	-7	3
7	Old Wilsonians 5th	3	0	1	2	3	9	-6	1
8	Ibis Eagles 4th	3	0	0	3	4	12	-8	0



## **Actonians 8s 2 v 6 5s**

This game was more than just a cup match, it posed a real question: are we good enough to play in the league we are in, or should we really be playing in the division below? The evidence so far from the season, with only 1 win against 10 men, and a disappointing loss against Actonians' 7<sup>th</sup> team suggested the latter. This was really an opportunity to get a much-needed win and really kick-start our season.

We started quickly, dominating possession and looking like a team that was a division above. We fashioned a couple of early chances and made the breakthrough unusually early for us. A shot right at the keeper hit the bar, and as it bounced out, Matt was there to follow it in to make it 1-0.

We came under a little bit of pressure afterwards, and a mistake followed by bad luck undid our good work. In our own third, our own Chris-tiano demonstrated a moment of pure skill, flicking the ball around their attacking player and ran round him to collect. Unfortunately, in a more Outred than Ronaldo way, it was flicked too far and their player tackled him. The tackle bounced off Chris and unfortunately went in between our two defenders to their striker in the centre of the box. He took a touch, and the mighty Quin pounced. He narrowed the angle and instinctively dived to keep it out. Great save. Unfortunately again for us, the save went right in between our two midfielders straight to the feet of theirs, whose first time shot was just a little too high for Tigz in the box. A long-winded way of saying that it was bad luck, but we were pegged back to 1-1.

Instead of the familiar capitulation that has plagued us this season, we took offense and went back on the attack. We strung a few passes together and before we knew it, the luck would balance itself out. We lost the ball high up the pitch, and the ball got played back to their keeper. He took his time on the ball, and Bitmead spotted the opportunity and pressed the keeper. By the time the keeper realised he was coming, it was too late. The attempted clearance hit Bitmead and flew into the back of the net. 1-1 in the fortunate goals stakes, 2-1 overall to the mighty 5s.

And it wasn't too long before Bitmead doubled his tally. We won a free kick from around 35-40 yards out, and Bitmead thought to have a go. It was a hell of a strike, travelling like a bullet and dipping at the right moment. It did land right in the centre of the goal, however the keeper couldn't climb to reach it and we were deservedly 3-1 up. They visibly pressed before half time to narrow the deficit, with Quin pulled into action once again and a shot cleared off the line, but we hung on to go into the lead with a healthy 2 goal lead.



## **Actonians 8s 2 v 6 5s (cont)**

The second half was an open affair, with both teams having chances. They were shooting from distance, rarely troubling our goal, whilst we carved out a few clearer openings. Our 4<sup>th</sup> goal was far from that, but a classy finish from Bitmead. He picked the ball up in plenty of space from 20 yards out. Knowing that he only had to put power on the shot to beat the keeper, he hit the shot equally as well as is free kick. It did not nestle too far away from the corner to complete his hat trick of the good, the great and the ugly.

The 5<sup>th</sup> buried them, and although not rocketed home, was equally as skilled a finish as Bitmead's before him. The ball was headed across beautifully by Pete, and in one swift move, Matt turned and caressed the ball on the volley into the bottom corner. It was an accomplished, delicate finish from the big man from Stoke.

To round off the affair for us, the ball was played through to Pete who ran onto it without a defender near him. One on one with the keeper, he looked very composed as he slotted it past the keeper to make it 6 – a goal that was rarely non-spectacular from Pete however I am sure he will score many more like that this season. Their consolation was a 20 yard shot which seemed to float over Quin – a bizarre goal to concede but only a consolation in the end.

So there goes it. Goalfests such as these are often hard to remember in their fullest, and harder still to write briefly about. There were some superb performances worth mentioning too. Quin, Steve B, Steve H and Dobs looked completely at home and took to the way we are trying to play like ducks to water. Chris Outred deserves praise for not letting his early mistake get to him and having a confident, flawless game thereafter. Tigz held the midfield very well against probably their best player and Ackerz came on and had a lively 20-30 minutes. MoM nominations for Matt and Pete were well deserved, with both having a significant role in a few of our goals, however MoM went to Andy Bitmead for a very composed performance and a superb hat trick.

MoM: Andy Bitmead

DoD: Chris Outred

Team: Quin, Chris Outred, Luke Newman, Steve Burchell, Steve Harvey, Tiago Carvalho, Dwayne Bedford, Andy Bitmead, Matt Nightingale, Andrew Dobson, Pete Obeng-Adu, Aaron Ackerman



## 5s league



### JUNIOR DIVISION 4 SOUTH



POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Polytechnic 6th	5	4	1	0	21	7	14	13
2	West Wickham 6th	5	3	0	2	11	12	-1	9
3	Polytechnic 7th	2	2	0	0	8	3	5	6
4	Merton 4th	3	1	2	0	6	4	2	5
5	Actonians Association 7th	2	1	0	1	4	3	1	3
6	Merton 5th	5	1	0	4	3	10	-7	3
7	Old Wilsonians 5th	3	0	1	2	3	9	-6	1
8	Ibis Eagles 4th	3	0	0	3	4	12	-8	0





## 6s league

 <span>#SALJ6S</span>		  							
 <b>JUNIOR DIVISION 6 SOUTH</b>		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	HSBC 6th	4	3	1	0	23	6	17	10
2	Old Salesians Res	2	2	0	0	6	1	5	6
3	Bank of England 5th	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
4	South Bank Cuaco 7th	2	1	0	1	5	9	-4	3
5	City of London 3rd	1	0	1	0	3	3	0	1
6	Old Wilsonians 8th	3	0	1	2	4	7	-3	1
7	Merton 6th	2	0	1	1	2	6	-4	1
8	Kew Association Res	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Civil Service 8th	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0
10	Old Wilsonians Ninth	2	0	0	2	1	10	-9	0

