

The Merton Way



2018 – 2019 season

Issue 6

10th November 2018

The Merton Way



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Note from the Chairman

After a couple of weeks convalescing, essentially doing nothing I was well enough to re enter planet earth. We'll planet football actually and took myself off to the Hood last Saturday. We had three home games; The 5s kicked off at 1pm against old Wokingians in the cup. But the two 2pm kick offs were the 3s against old Salesian's 1s, and the 1s playing a league game against NUFC Oilers, a relatively new team to the SAL having joined some 3 or 4 years ago and have been pretty successful.

They draw players from Nottingham university old boys in London. It was a tough fixture for the 1s and as it turned out a good game to watch. I was able to watch a bit of the 5s game first. I thought we were on top but in the end lost 2 1 conceding an early and late goal. The first 15 minutes of the 1s game was dominated by 'the oilers' who were well organised and confident. We had a few narrow escapes and I have to confess that I felt a little pessimistic about the outcome. But we got into the game and went ahead with a breakaway taken very well by George. Soon after they equalised when our set piece broke down and they broke upfield and scored a rather well taken goal. But we went in at half time 2 1 up as Jamie scored the first of his brace. We played a lot better in the second half and the oppo became frustrated. Jamie and George's pace was unsettling their defence and we now had the wind. Before Jamie scored the third we had the luxury of missing a penalty. We conceded a second goal at the end but this was a great all round performance with everyone playing their part. It was all the more creditable as Clappers, our organiser and leader, was sidelined with an injury, although to help out he had kept for the 2s in their early kick off at old alleyns. That is the attitude and contribution that has helped build the club. It was also good to see that we had a good few new players in the 1s all looking as if they were the right side of 25 with a good few years ahead of them and good footballers too.

It was pretty good in the bar after the matches. It was good that some of the 2s has come back to join In and all our teams were well represented and no doubt stayed for the TV footy.

So it was a very successful return and I thought it was really brilliant the way the 3s and 5s were having some great apres footy even though they had lost. I left feeling very optimistic about the club and that feeling has endured. I will be at the Hood on Saturday coming.



The Social Boar-terfly



RACE NIGHT – SATURDAY 10TH NOVEMBER
Yee hah! it's like going to the races but indoors, and (hopefully) cheaper! There's a special price for the ladies! £10pp

POSTPONED!... NEW DATE TBC...



XMAS JUMP OFF –

NOW SATURDAY 1st

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

-	1s	3	V	2	NUFC Oilers
-	2s	3	V	5	Alleyn Old Boys 3s
-	3s	1	V	3	Old Salesians 1s
-	4s	1	V	4	Poly 6s
-	5s	1	V	2	Old Wokingians 5s
					<i>Tiago</i>
-	6s	0	V	3	Old Wilsonians 9s
-	U14s	6	V	3	Lyne FC
-	U13s	5	V	0	Rock Lane Youth
-	U10s	3	V	2	Raynes Park Vale Blues



This week's fixtures

League	HSBC	V	1s
League	2s	V	Weirside Rangers Reserves
League	Old Wilsonians 3s	V	3s
League	4s	V	No game
League	5s	V	IBIS Eagles 5s
League	Old Wilsonians 8s	V	6s
League	U14s	V	Redhill Youth Athletic
League	Twickenham Tigers Blacks	V	U13s
League	U10s	V	Woking Cougar Blues



1s 3 – 2 NUFC Oilers

The 1st team have had a difficult start to the season with many challenging away days, depleted squads and tough cup draws, so it was refreshing to have a week off, be back at the Hood and to look around the changing room to see a strong mix of boars regulars and marquee summer signings.

However, the optimism was short lived, with the opposition NUFC Oilers (off the back of two wins a draw in the league) seemingly not having read from the same script. Within minutes the Oiler's had created their first chance, breaking through the midfield, before drawing a smart near post save from the recently called up Serbs. From the resulting corner their number 14 had a free header at the back post which hit the bar twice. For the next 20 minutes this was the pattern of play. Oiler's pressing high, Merton giving away possession, Oiler's shoot - Sherb's saves, Oiler's corner - free header no14 - Sherbs save. Repeat.

Sherbs having been called up from the 2's due to an injury to our normally 'very quiet' regular keeper, made five or six goal saving stops in the first 20 minutes and kept the boars in the game. His performance was Hugo Loris esq (think World Cup winner not the Spursy lad).

A counter attack led by Rat, a driving run down the wing by attacking forward George and some fantastic no 9 hold up play from new signing Jamie led to Merton going one nil up against the run of play. George with the goal and Jamie with assist.

With the Boars having not only weathered the storm but also snatching a goal Clappers made the call for an early sub and Josh was introduced to anchor the midfield and disrupt their centre forwards. This didn't pay dividends Immediately as Oiler's countered from a Merton corner a pulled a cheap goal back. 1-1.

Before the half was over Merton had got a strong foothold in the game and just before the half time whistle some exquisite play in the centre of park from Woody released George who terrorised their left back before getting off a crossshot which was only half cleared. Jamie latched onto the defensive error and finished, in off the post, to give Merton the lead going into the break. 2-1 Merton. Jamie goal.



1s 3 – 2 NUFC Oilers (cont)

At this point Oiler's heads were gone. A few strong boars challenges early in the second half and the Oiler's were mouthing off. Unfortunately for them, the referee who had good game, did not like it and sent one of their cry babies off for a 10 minute sin bin.

During this period it was time for Merton to kill the game off and what better chance than a soft penalty won by Merton's usual penalty taker and all round nice guy Woody. Of course, nothing in football is that simple and overcame Josh to take the ball off Woody and step up to take the penalty. It was a fantastic penalty ... low, hard, bottom right but I'm telling you now the Hood won't see a better save this season! Ridiculous tip round the post from a clearly in form keeper.

Merton were the better team second half with H and Browner having nullified the attacking threat of Oiler's centre forwards. Jamie, who led the line well all game, bagged his second on about the 75th minute mark when he instinctively pounced on a loose knock down in the area to finish and complete a brace.

Merton shut up shop and were not under much pressure until the 93rd minute when Sherb's went from World Cup Hugo to Spurs Skipper with a soft goal kick straight to their striker who slotted. 3-2 Final Score.

MOTM - Jamie. Two very good goals and an assist.

DOTD - Josh. Saved penalty.

Boars on the march..... contenders by Christmas. Watch this space.





1s 3 – 2 NUFC Oilers (cont)





1s league

#SALSD2



SENIOR DIVISION 2



POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Norsemen	6	6	0	0	23	7	16	18
2	East Barnet Old Grammarians	4	3	1	0	9	6	3	10
3	NUFC Oilers	3	2	1	0	6	3	3	7
4	Carshalton	5	2	1	2	13	13	0	7
5	Bank of England	4	2	0	2	10	8	2	6
6	Alexandra Park	5	1	2	2	8	10	-2	5
7	Merton	5	1	1	3	6	7	-1	4
8	HSBC	4	1	0	3	2	8	-6	3
9	Ibis Eagles	6	1	0	5	7	15	-8	3
10	Old Finchleians	2	0	0	2	1	8	-7	0





2s league



#SALID3



INTERMEDIATE DIVISION 3



POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Polytechnic 3rd	7	6	0	1	25	10	15	18
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	5	2	0	3	7	13	-6	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 1 v 3 Old Salesians 1s

Fresh from a scintillating performance and 5 goals in the previous game, confidence was high that The Boars could record a second win in a row against local rivals Old Salesians. There were two debutants in the squad, Scott McGowan (or Fraser, according to Iain) and Jake Davies (fresh from impressing in last week's interclub game, by nutmegging Woody 3 times). Additionally, Mustard and Ryan returned after their temporary promotions to the twos and Adam Lynch made his awaited return from injury (so fit, that he was playing his second game in less than 24 hours).

The pre-match playlist of "Bands you wish you could be in", garnered some classics from greats such as The Prodigy, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Bon Jovi to some absolute shockers from Busted, *NSYNC and Backstreet Boys. We live in a country where democracy and diversity is rightly celebrated but the downside is that can result in selections that could make your ears bleed. Maybe this is why some opt for lateness, they increase the likelihood of avoiding Iain's phenomenally bad taste in music....

A 4-4-2 line up saw a new CB pairing of Adam and Scott, replacing the stricken Lofty and Stoner, with Mustard and Ryan replacing Nathan and Glenn. The rest of the team from the previous victorious game deservedly retaining their places. The 5s (adopting the "first come, first served principle" – due to their early kick off) had laid claim to The Boars traditional pitch, which left them having to play on the, affectionately titled, "sh1t pitch". A bit of cross wind and low sun were present and this would play its part (more on that later). Credit to the ref, for doubling the attendance figures by bringing his girlfriend. She was a welcome addition to Aaron's dad (whom of course, is always welcome too, in fact, actively encouraged), to put the official attendance at 2. If this carries on, planning permission at The Hood, may be required to build a stand.

A really promising start was made by The Boars, with a dominating first 15 minutes. The ball was retained well with short passing and play that stretched the opposition and good defending from the front by Aaron and Fitz, in terms of hold up play and harassing the defence. Merton's defence looked assured, with Adam and Scott quickly showing real promise as a pairing, both strong, good in the air and on the ball. Whilst there was a lot of good play, there wasn't a great deal of goal-mouth action and neither keeper was particularly tested. Salesians' first real attack resulted in a goal, with a breakaway down the right resulting in a cross being lofted in – the wind gave it a bit more distance which resulted in the ball finding the back post without a Merton player being able to win a header, with the unfortunate Mustard also blinded by the sun (a song by The Seahorses, I believe), which left their forward to head past a despairing Phil Mitchell in goal.



3s 1 v 3 Old Salesians 1s (cont)

A slip immediately from kick off nearly let Salesians in for a second but Iain made a great save. After this wobble, Merton started to return to the play that they'd started the game with and improved their performance, again without particularly threatening the goal. One moment of particular note to Mike Stone on the sidelines, was an incredible lung busting 90 yard run from Mustard (clocked at 27.9 km/h), which involved a one two with Aaron and the deftest of touches to put it past the defender and run around the other side of him. The cross was ultimately cleared but the run very much excited Mike Stone, so much so that in the bar he was talking about "mould your own" again – a favoured conversation between Mike Stone and Mustard. Adam also made a great last-ditch tackle to put off their striker when through one on one.

At half time, the team-talk focused on what we could do to improve but recognising that we'd had good spells. It had the desired effect as within 10 seconds, Merton were level. Full credit to Aaron for winning the ball from their defence, breaking through, looking like he'd taken it a little too wide but then firing a quick low shot in at the near post from about 10 yards. Great finish and it was good to get clarity from Aaron during his celebration that "that's what I'm talking about!". This goal gave Merton confidence and the game was very even for the next 15-20 minutes. However as the game wore on, Salesians started to get the upper hand as Merton's shape become stretched. Special mention to Adam for a crunching tackle that "in my day" would never have been a foul as the ball was clearly won first but it looks like the rules are changing. Neal got booked for some standard dirt. There was good play on the left between Ryan and Barry (and this is something we need to try and make more use of), which caused threatening moments.

With about ten minutes to go, Vin was replaced by Mike Stone and Scott was moved into midfield – this decision inexplicably resulted in Vin getting a DOTD nomination but as evidenced this week, farcical nominations can and do happen. Very shortly after this change, a Salesians breakaway down the right was played into the middle and their striker finished from close range. With a couple of minutes to go, a corner was swung in from the right and their central midfielder lost his marker and executed an acrobatic scissor kick, that defied what looked possible, given his rather stocky stature. There were a couple of late half chances for Merton at the end, but it was too little too late. The game finished 3-1.

In truth, the second half performance didn't justify any other result. The ability to win is definitely within this team and in spells in the game this was evidenced, but as Barry and Neal said between them, we need to play the game to suit our strengths and show more grit / desire to win. We've got to earn the right to win by fighting for every first and second ball. Our best play comes when we play football and defend from the front / close as a unit. When this breaks down, the gaps across the pitch are too big.



3s 1 v 3 Old Salesians 1s (cont)

We go again next week, against a team we're capable of beating. Let's turn the learning experience into an improved performance and a victory.

Team: Iain Evans, Mustard (captain), Scott McGowan, Adam Lynch, Barry Hughes, Sam Slater, Neal Davison, Vincenzo Di Matteo, Ryan Burchell, Aaron Byrne, Darren Fitzgerald. Subs: Mike Stone, Jake Davies.

Goal: Aaron Byrne

MOTM: Aaron Byrne

DOTD: Mustard (double denim)





3s league

#SALJ2S



JUNIOR DIVISION 2 SOUTH



POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Polytechnic 5th	7	5	1	1	17	18	-1	16
2	Civil Service 4th	6	5	0	1	22	11	11	15
3	Kew Association Res	6	3	2	1	19	12	7	11
4	Actonians Association 5th	7	3	2	2	12	9	3	11
5	Actonians Association 6th	7	3	1	3	16	19	-3	10
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	4	0	0	4	4	21	-17	0





4s 1 v 4 Poly 6s

Following Poly 7s visit to Joseph Hood last week, it was the 4s turn to travel to Chiswick for a showdown with their 6s. The reverse fixture ended in a 3-3 draw following a last minute equaliser.

Due to traffic, Dom Plumridge and Michal Elgar arrived with the majority of the first period gone meaning we had a bare 11 at the start of the game. With Billy Lane picking up knee injury within 10 minutes, we were left with only 10 men for the rest of the first half.

Having lost the toss, Merton played with their back to the sun in the first half, something that would not have happened had we won the toss. Unfortunately we didn't and the opposing skipper decided to switch sides.

Having lost Billy early on, our defence had to stand strong and try anything they could to prevent Poly from taking advantage of having an extra man. This was achieved however chances created were limited. Saying that, one of the few chances created resulted in a goal.

Callum picked the ball up on the left hand bye line and delivered a ball into the box which Nick directed into the top right hand corner with his head.

With Dom and Mikey (Elgar) now in attendance and changed, Mikey was brought on to strengthen the back line and Dom partners Nick up top.

Thinking that having the same number of men as the hosts, we would go on to add to our goal tally should we put in the same amount of effort as we did in the first half. This was not the case.

We were now playing into the sun and with us not evening being able to see what was in front of us with the ball at our feet, balls in the air were harder to judge. The opposition picked up on this.

Balls over the top opened our defence up numerous times which results in us conceding 4 goals in the second half.

This was a game that we need to get out of our system quick.

Another downer on top of the result was the unfortunate sending off of Dom Plumridge. Having been wound up by an opposing player, Dom confronted said player and the motion of his head was assumed as a headbutt.

We have a break from action next week before we welcome West Wickham to Joseph Hood.

FINAL SCORE: Polytechnic 6s 4 – 1 Merton 4s SCORER(S): Nick Englefield MOTM: Nathan Harris

DOTD: Dom Plumridge

STARTING LINE-UP: Kieran Lee (GK), Edward Plaistow (Capt.), John Gridley, Denys Zhurbiy, Thomas Murphy, Billy Lane (Dom Plumridge), Roman Bilivitskiy (Michael Elgar), Andrew Minkevich, Nathan Harris, Callum Fisher, Nick Englefield



27.10.2018 4s 1 v 1 Poly 7s

Merton 4s vs. Polytechnic 7s SAL Junior Division 4 South Saturday 27th October 2018

After last week's penalty shoot-out win, it was back to league action for the 4s.

The visitors to Joseph Hood this week were Polytechnic 7s, our opposition in the quarter-finals of the SAL Cup.

Sam Speirs was once again in the squad which a boost was given his performance in last weeks' SAL Cup fixture. We also welcomes Billy Lane who was 'loaned' to us from the 3s.

There wasn't a piece of action that stood out in the first period that was worthy of mentioning in this report however the yellow card that Joe Plumridge picked up for a professional foul turned out to have consequences....more on that later.

The second period however was a little more exciting.

Firstly Michael Elgar, on his first start since re-joining Merton, latched onto a delivery from Dom to put the 4s into the lead.

This lead however was short lived as the visitors equalised 15 minutes towards to end.

Things could have got worse had Joe Plumridge not pulled back the Poly striker with 5 minutes to go. It was a foul that had to be committed otherwise it left a one-on-one situation. As a result, Joe received his second yellow and his marching orders. A fine save from Kieran from the resulting free-kick kept the scores level.

FINAL SCORE: Merton 4s 1 – 1 Polytechnic 7s SCORER(S): Michael Elgar MOTM: Michael Elgar

DOTD: Joe Plumridge

STARTING LINE-UP: Kieran Lee (GK), John Gridley, Michael Elgar, Joe Plumridge, Edward Plaistow (Capt.), Roman Bilivitskiy, Andrew Minkevich, Callum Fisher, Thomas Murphy, Denys Zhurbiy, Dom Plumridge SUBS: Billy Lane, Sam Speirs



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	6	4	0	2	15	13	2	12
3	Polytechnic 7th	3	2	1	0	9	4	5	7
4	Merton 4th	4	1	3	0	7	5	2	6
5	Actonians Association 7th	3	1	0	2	4	7	-3	3
6	Ibis Eagles 4th	4	1	0	3	8	12	-4	3
7	Merton 5th	6	1	0	5	4	14	-10	3
8	Old Wilsonians 5th	3	0	1	2	3	9	-6	1





5s 1 v 2 Old Wokingians 5s

This week provided a nice and welcome escape from the league following some bad results, and an opportunity to try and get a little more used to the new way that we are trying to play. The AFA cup is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get, so we went into the game expecting a tough one.

Great emphasis was placed on a quick start, keeping it steady for the first 10-15 minutes and trying to get our foot on the ball. Before we really had sight of the ball, we were 1-0 down and really shot ourselves in the foot. A botched clearance fell nicely for their player, who chipped Bitmead in goal. Chris managed to reach it before it crossed the line, however his clearance hit their player following In and went in the back of the net. 1 – 0.

From that point on we defended better in the first half, but did not really manage to string many passes together disappointingly. We did have one really good opportunity where the ball was crossed in to Dwayne, whose chipped effort flicked off the post, but beyond that the only thing to celebrate was that we hadn't given away too much and were only 1 down.

The second half was much better; we battled harder, put a lot more passes together [particularly in the midfield area] and looking more of a threat. What remained disappointing was our final ball – the amount of times a through ball was played as the striker was coming short was countless. We finally managed the breakthrough about 10-15 minutes from time. A wicked corner was whipped in by Ackerz, which caused consternation amongst their defense. The initial header dropped down from the underside of the bar, and there was an almighty goal line scramble. I'm not sure whether we hit the woodwork 4 or 5 times, and approximately 4 more efforts were blocked. Eventually the ball fell to Darren, whose finish rocketed into the far corner of the net, much to everyone's disbelief. He celebrated as if he'd just scored the winner in a cup final. That was, unfortunately, to be short lived.

It looked like we thought the job was done, and we switched off from the kick off. A couple of minutes later we found ourselves with a gaping hole at the back. Their player ran into it with the ball, and with all the time in the world, smashed the ball past Bitmead for what would eventually be a winning goal.

This week made for a marked improvement against a team that wasn't the best team we have played all season but was a solid, well drilled outfit.



5s 1 v 2 Old Wokingians 5s

There was only really one contender for MOTM, with Bitmead going in goal for us once again and proving himself as a really good keeper with a couple of good (and eyecatching for the cameras) saves, some very good catches coming out to collect the ball and good distribution. There were a couple of contenders for DOTD, but Lenner won it by managing to turn up an hour and a half late for the game.

Next up is a massive relegation 9 pointer against Ibis Eagles, who are only one place above us with two games in hand and therefore a must-win.





5s 1 v 2 Old Wokingians 5s (cont)





5s 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	6	4	0	2	15	13	2	12
3	Polytechnic 7th	3	2	1	0	9	4	5	7
4	Merton 4th	4	1	3	0	7	5	2	6
5	Actonians Association 7th	3	1	0	2	4	7	-3	3
6	Ibis Eagles 4th	4	1	0	3	8	12	-4	3
7	Merton 5th	6	1	0	5	4	14	-10	3
8	Old Wilsonians 5th	3	0	1	2	3	9	-6	1





6s 3 v 0 Old Wilsonians 9s

You can't help but be optimistic when you're coming up against a team with a similar start to the season as yourselves, Merton 6s have a single point from the opening 3 fixtures, OW9s have none. After shipping 7 goals last week, 6 being in the 2nd half alone, the feeling was more hope that the tide would turn sooner rather than later. With decent numbers throughout the club, the 6s welcome Phil T on loan deal worth a packet of posh biscuits and a milky tea, and Lewes R, who fortunately lived nearby and was allowed out to play by the missy!

A great day for a game of football, apart from the low blinding sun behind the goal and the pitch being situated on such a slope, that someone's 'fitbit' registered the cross pitch warm up as a flight of stairs, and also to mention the divots, we almost lost MQ in the warm up when he disappeared into a crater shouting 'fix bayonets'...!

The oppo seem up for it, openly discussing their chances of a win... this just galvanised the 6s and with the OW9s kicking off, it did not take long before the midfield of Phil and Ricky, imposed themselves on their opposite numbers, harassing every move or attack.

The opening third of the game yielded many chances, the young Lewis being the folly from the old captain up front, testing the keeper early. Lewis feeding a square ball to David, whose first-time firm low shot in to the bottom left corner was somehow kept out by the agile keeper, from the resulting corner, Ricky finds the captain who lost his marker only to see his first-time volley skim the crossbar.

M6s bossing the game have further chances, instrumental play from Phil, who seems to be having all the time in the world to ghost pass the oppo at will and pick out damaging passes, OW9s keeper is by far the busiest and does well with the heavy attack imposed by the 6s

A rare attack is contained by the 6s back four, Steve H picks out David G with a curling cross which drops in behind the left back, controlling the ball with a single touch, DG releases Lewis with a cutting reverse pass to send the speedy forward 1v1 with the keeper and in his stride slots the ball past the advancing number one for a well-deserved 0-1

With all the play, it's hard to believe the games only 0-1, not deterred, OW9s spark in to life and start to have some luck going forward, 6s back four hold firm and when needed, MQ is there to follow up, still on top, the 6s go into the break with the lead, and finally look like playing like a team.

Preying the second half doesn't present the normal capitulation of previous weeks, the half time pep talk is short and sweet... don't f*** up!



6s 3 v 0 Old Wilsonians 9s cont

With the second half on the way, it's the 6s that start as they finished the previous half... well on top. Once again, Phil and Ricky, now with a great understanding, toy with the oppo and even take it turns attacking and defending. The opportunities come thick and fast

From another corner, Steve B curls a ball into the danger area, the resulting shot is palmed away from the OW9s keeper.

Great work from Daban once again results in the OW9s keeper tipping the resulting shot around the post

Good work down the right from Andrew and the ball is worked into the centre, once again David is on hand to power a solid shot across the keeper in the bottom right corner, only to see the wrong-footed keeper somehow get back across the goal and flick the ball round the post!

From the corner, the ball drops into a melee of players, Phil comes out on top and places his shot, this takes a deflection off Lewis (who knows nothing about this) and somehow wrong foots the keeper and bonces between knee and glove to extend the lead to 0-2

Relentless, the 6s keep pressing, with still 20 minutes on the clock, more goals are needed... no, wanted. Lewis once again is set free with a 1v1, but with all the time in the world, fluffed his lines and tamely passes the ball away instead of shooting.

Another corner from Steve B finds David with his back to goal, drops the shoulder, swivels and this time sends a powerful shot top corner, but once again.... The OW9s keeper is equal to the shot and somehow manages to tip the ball round for yet another corner. Steve B, now almost camping at the corner flag, cheekily tries a shot that almost deceives the keeper who fumbles before gathering.

Final 10 minutes and Phil picks the ball up and goes on another merry little run, the ball seems stuck to the laces as he skips tackle after tackle, spots Lewis and with a cumming through ball, Lewis makes no mistake as he powers his shot past the keeper for the match ball and worthy 0-3 win for the 6s.

In fairness, the 6s today was far too good for the host, if they can keep this sort of form up, over the coming weeks, point will be gained, and the impossible top four target could be a reality, next week the 6s are back and being hosted by the OW8s, hopefully and similar score line can be achieved

MOTM: Mentions go out to MQ for his first clean sheet since the last one! Kevin had an outstanding game at left back and even got lost at one point, finding himself in the oppo 6-yard box after collecting the ball well in his own half! Ricky, done the hard work well, Lewis who bagged a hattrick, but could have had so much more, But the outstanding player was Phil, who just looked like he was having a world of fun every time he had the ball

DOTD: First win of the season was a great team effort, and none could be selected, however, the oppos goalkeeper turned out to be a 'of a higher standard' than the squad he was playing in... so he gets my vote!!

Team: Martin Q, Kevin L, Tom J, Steve B, Steve H, Daban B, Phill T, Rick I, Andrew D, David G © Lewis



27.10.2018 6s 4 – 7 South Bank 7s

2-week layoff is never a good thing, but with the current 6s still looking for their first win, maybe the 'international' break is what was needed. We welcome back SB7s who stole the points in the cup league game in the last encounter, coming from 3-1 down to nick a late 3-4 win. With this in mind, the 6s wanted pay back

Casting a look over towards the SB7s, its noted that there's a good few changes to be had, mostly noting how youthful the oppo looked compared to the cup encounter and being reminded that the SB '5s' had no game...!

Still, the 6s welcomed a few of their own players back, still relying on Mr Gloves in goal, at left back Kev makes a rare appearance, even rarer is the sight of Mark Chappell pairing up with TJ in the centre, and Burchell SNR at right back, Mr Merton JNR comes in at left wing, Lyndon and Steve H centre, Andrew D on the right, leaving DG up front with Fitz' stepping up at short notice. On the bench is Riccardo who is returning after 4 weeks from injury

The games start's in traditional way... someone in yellow kicks the ball! The team in blue watch.

The opening 10 minutes is more SB7s with the odd counter from the 6s. The midfield is being bossed by SB7s centre pairing, and with wide pacey players, it's not long before the 6s are on the back foot

On the rare occasion the 6s get forward, some good work from the front 2 see a neat back heel from DG into the path of Fitz who is only denied by the advancing keeper, who also done well to stop a snap shot from DG from 10 yards not to long after. Some further great play down the right see Andrew D hit the by line and wrap his foot around thin air, this ends up in a comical effort to cross the ball, as the winger sends himself into a tail spin, with the ball ending up trickling over the line for a goal kick!!

Although the half is evenly balanced, it's a SB7s counter attack that sees a deflected cross come off Steve B at chest height and finds its way inside the post, very unlucky and on the face of things, harsh to be 0 – 1 down

Halftime sees Ricardo come on for Andrew D (nothing to do with the air cross!), and the start of what turns out to be a frantic half! 6 minutes into the half, and the score is now 1-3!, from what looked like kick off, SB7s strolled down the pitch, unchallenged like a FIFA glitch and slots pass MQ, not so soon after, another poor team effort to play the great game of football sees SB go 0-3 up, even not so soon after, a breakaway sees a high ball pitched up front, Fitz somehow manages to win the ball amongst 3 defenders, still 35 yards out or so, powers his way forward and unleashes a shot from distances that sails over the out stretched arm of the keeper and just under the cross bar, 1-3

The comeback is short lived as less than 10 minutes later, the 3-goal lead is restored, again the 6s doing their best to 'gifted' the game away. 1-4

A rallying cry sees the game swing 6s way, a cleared ball finds DG who controls and shifts the play to Ryan on the left, a nice exchange of passes between Ryan & Riccardo see Ryan hit the by line and cross to the centre, where unchallenged DG heads in to the net 2-4



6s 4 – 7 South Bank 7s (cont)

The frantic opening 2nd half, 25 minutes and 5 goals is still not over, once again its Ryan who receives the ball and flights the ball over between the centre backs for DG to run onto and lift the ball over the advancing keeper for 3-4

Tails up and momentum with the 6s, it's only fair SB7s trolley on forward and ruin the comeback by notching another to make the game 3-5. Undeterred, the 6s do there utmost to increase the score for the oppo, Chappell not only powering 2 shots just passed the post but one also into the gloves of MQ, anyone would have thought he had a bet with Steve B as to who will score the most OG's in a game! This not being enough, there's a hand ball which the pen is swiftly dispatched for 3-6. Concerns are now for Martins back, as the amount of times his had to bend down to pick the ball out of the net is a trifle worrying!!

Still, going forward, the 6s do look like they can nick a few, once again Ryan is instrumental in releasing Fitz, although wide, manages to skip pass the defender and draw the keeper out before rifling his shot into to the top corner for 4-6

Minutes, if not seconds left, 6s get a corner and the hunt for a consolation 5-6 defeat is snatched as the counter is on and SB7s seem to still have enough energy to gallop up the other end, and without a care for poor 'old Martins back, slot number 7 pass him with ease, the ref taking pity on MQ, blows the final whistle and brings the game to a close... 4-7 final score. 10 second half goals... no one saw that coming!

Next week, the 6s travel away to another team that seems to be struggling for results. OW9s. Maybe we should call it a draw and console each other in the bar! Who knows what's next, but it's going to be bloody entertaining!!!!

MOTM: 2 goals apiece for Fitz & DG, but Ryan nicks the teams votes for supplying the ammo (and was also unlucky with hitting a post in the first half)

DOTD: 3rd place, Steve B for a classic OG, 2nd Place, Andrew D for the classic air cross... But the out right winner Lynden for showing no shame in wearing tights during the game when the temperature is still in double digits... CLASSSSIC!!

Team: MQ, SB, TJ, MC, KL, RB, LC, SH, AD, DF, DG © and Ricky!





6s league



JUNIOR DIVISION 6 SOUTH



POS		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	2	2	0	0	4	1	3	6
4	South Bank Cuaco 7th	3	2	0	1	12	13	-1	6
5	City of London 3rd	2	1	1	0	8	4	4	4
6	Old Wilsonians 8th	3	0	1	2	4	7	-3	1
7	Merton 6th	3	0	1	2	6	13	-7	1
8	Kew Association Res	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Civil Service 8th	2	0	0	2	0	5	-5	0
10	Old Wilsonians Ninth	3	0	0	3	2	15	-13	0





U10s 3 v 2 Raynes Park Vale Blues

There were clouds in the sky but the temperature was milder than you would expect for a November Sunday morning at Joseph Hood Rec. Ideal conditions for football. Today's opponents were Raynes Park Vale FC making this a local derby. A lot of the players were known to each other because of school and Saturday teams. As well as the points, local bragging rights were at stake. Maxwell was playing against the team he played for last year.

In the first half, Merton were kicking right to left. The game got off to a scrappy start, possession was turned over by both teams fairly cheaply in the early exchanges. Merton had a couple of shots in the first few minutes but nothing to write home about. When the game settled into a pattern, Merton began to dominate possession. Dave was particularly effective in this period, on one run down the left he skipped passed a couple of challenges and put in a powerful cross to the Raynes Park penalty area. Their keeper could only parry the cross. The ball landed at the feet of Maxwell who smashed it into the roof of the net from close distance. Eleven minutes gone. 1 nil to Merton

Merton were in control and created quite a few chances that should have led to more goals. On another run, Dave dribbled around 3 players had a shot that was saved by the Raynes Park's keeper. Maxwell went close with another shot, Louis did too. The second goal eluded Merton. At the other end, Harry Lake (For Raynes Park) forced Max into a fine save and reminded Merton that they would not have everything their own way.

With 16 minutes gone, Merton wasted a couple of opportunities to clear their lines which allowed Sonny (For Raynes Park) to break through from midfield and bare down on Merton's goal. He struck his shot to the bottom right hand corner. It went in. 1 all. Game on!

Raynes Park's goal lifted them and they were now getting more opportunities in front of goal. Merton were also creating chances and had goal attempts during the 21st, 23rd and 24th minutes of the first half. Raynes Park also went close with a shot that was just over the bar after good chest control and an improvised volley from Harry Dean. The score remained 1 all and the referee blew for half- time.



U10s 3 v 2 Raynes Park Vale Blues (cont).

For the second half, Merton were kicking left to right and uphill. Merton definitely like kicking uphill at Joseph Hood and long may that continue. Within 2 minutes of the re-start Maxwell dispossessed a Raynes Park player and then launched an exquisite lob over Raynes Park's keeper. For a split second, there was silence as players and spectators tracked the flight of the ball. It came down in the bottom right of the goal. An excellent finish! 2-1 to Merton

This was a good period of the match for Merton as they showed that they can play exciting pass and move football. This was exactly how the third goal came about, Merton played out from the back. Ollie found Faris, Faris found Louis. Louis beat a defender and whipped in a cross to the back post, Maxwell met the cross on the volley and tapped in. 4 minutes of the second half gone. 3-1 to Merton

Merton continued to create chances, a Faris backheel set up Maxwell who passed on the overlap and crossed from the left wing for Louis who was arriving at the right-hand post. Louis slid in and narrowly missed adding to Merton's goal tally.

Raynes Park were not finished yet and could sense that they still had chance to get something out of the game. After a couple of failed clearances, the ball fell to Harry Dean (for Raynes Park). He shot to the bottom left of Merton's goal. It went in! 13 minutes of the second half played. 3-2 to Merton

Merton had to put in a strong performance defensively to hold off Raynes Park. Ollie, Joe and Harry were great in this period. Harry put in crunching tackle that stopped an attack and also the momentum that Raynes Park had. With 18 minutes gone, Percy tackled well and went on a run the length of the pitch leaving defenders in his wake. His shot was saved. With a minute left to play, Rio went on a run that took him to the Raynes Park goal. He rounded the keeper but unfortunately put his shot over the bar.

Soon after the referee blew the whistle for the end of the game. Another good win for Merton!

Maxwell was awarded the Man of the Match.

Well done again, boys! Let's keep it going for Match Day 8. Author: Mike Pitt



Top goalscorer

Name	League Goals	Cup Goals	Total Goals
Dom Plumridge	4	2	6
Aaron Byrne	4	1	5
Glenn Pitman	4	0	4
Dave Golding	4	0	4
Ivan Gladkow	1	2	3
Billy Lane	3	0	3
Andy Bitmead	0	3	3
Lewis Riches	3	0	3



Golden Glove

Name	Clean Sheets	Pen Saves	Total 1 Goal	Total Golden Gloves Points	Goals Conceded
Siraj Durrani	1	1	1	7	14
Martin Quinlan	1	0	1	4	19
Kieran Lee	1	0	1	4	14
Simon Clapperton	1	0	0	3	3
Alex Herbert	1	0	0	3	4
Lee Lenihan	1	0	0	3	10



Top assists

Name	Total
Ryan Burchell	4
Glenn Pitman	3
George Brobbey	3
Ryan Gresty	2
James Gray	2
Dom Plumridge	2
Phil Truman	2
Denys Zhurbiy	2
Callum Fisher	2
Dave Golding	2
Sam Slater	2



Meet the newbie – Mo chouikhi

NAME: Mo

TEAM: Merton 4s

POSITION: midfielder

BIRTH DATE: 01/08/83

BIRTH PLACE: Paris

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Mavericks FC

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

I was working as a Fraud analyst for an insurance company and now I'm looking for my next adventure still in the Fraud investigation environment or data analyst. I'm can be a reserved person when I meet people the first time but with time I am a nice and sociable person.

2. How did you end up at Merton FC?

I've seen an advert on Gumtree where the club was looking for players as I wanted to change club I signed in..

3. What do you like most about Merton FC?

the fact there are 6 teams and coaches there are an organisation as well the fact its close to me as well (was part of my decision to come)

good training on wednesday with some technic and physical session.

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

Madrid for the socios for the fact it's one of the team who people from all around the world support.

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

always put my left sock first

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

hopefully 5-10 goals + some assist



Meet the newbie – Mo chouikhi

RAPID FIRE:

Favourite Player (at Merton, or in professional football): Zidane

Childhood Team: PSG

Favourite team in the UK: ARSENAL

Favourite team outside the UK: PSG / MADRID

Childhood Hero: Sangoku

Favourite Food: chinese / indian

Favourite Drink: San Pellegrino fizzy water

Favourite Band: Psy 4 de la rime (french rap)
The Beatles, The Black eyed peas

