

# THE MERTON WAY



# WE WANT SEVEN!

**A**nother strong weekend, with all teams having squads of 14 and we even got Kieran Lee to North London! An illustration of how good that is was the 5s game being postponed because Polytechnic couldn't field a side, sympathy goes to Polytechnic though as they are running nine teams, and Civil Service 7s dropping out of the league this week.

The question is could we go one better? Are there enough players for seven teams?

Each week we're disappointing players who we can't squeeze in and we've got new players enquiring about joining. To make it work though we need a few more new players and a fair wind with availability. So please don't rest on your laurels, keep asking friends and acquaintances whether they want to join the best club in SW London, and keep telling your wives and

girlfriends that Saturday is for football not them!

The other key measure of success for any amateur sports club is the social side. We've got events lined up every month so keep your eyes on [mertonfc.co.uk](http://mertonfc.co.uk) and Facebook for updates.

I know Christmas feels a long way away but it'll soon creep up, so make sure you've got the 3rd December in your diaries for the MFC Xmas do. Before that we've got "That's the Merton quiz" on the 12th November. This is always an excellent night, even for us thick footballers, and gets booked up very quickly. So please let Sherbs know ASAP if you want to enter a team.

Three youth team games at the Hood on Sunday so if you need to walk the dog, get the baby to sleep or just enjoy hugely entertaining football then get yourself down.

# THINGS TO KNOW

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## RUBBISH

It is important we remember that our home ground is a public park and we need to be careful with our language and also our rubbish.

From this Saturday a dustbin will be provided out on the pitch and please put your empty bottles, tape and trash at the end of the game.

## FIRST AID

We take the safety of our members very seriously and as a Charter Standard club we have to ensure that proper first aid kits with each match and certificated first aiders in each team.

- we need the Manager/Captain to check the first aid kit and ensure it has adequate contents
- any player with any health issues such as allergies/asthma/epilepsy/heart issues should disclose these to the captain before the game. (inhalers are important for asthma)
- We also will be running an Emergency Aid training course in November at the Hood and we need volunteers to sign up for that.

## TRAINING

**LOCATION:** St Mark's Academy School, Acacia Road, Mitcham CR4 1SF

**TIME:** 8pm-9.30pm on Wednesday evenings.  
(please arrive by 7.30pm to stretch and warm up)

**SURFACE:** Astro-turf: please wear appropriate footwear

Each 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 and trains from Victoria, Clapham Junction and Balham.

When you exit the station, walk up Grove Road with the school on your right. Just after the new building, there is a path on your right signposted '**Entrance to Adventure Playground**' which brings you to the pitches.

**CAR:** Acacia Road is off Tamworth Lane. Drive all the way to the end of Acacia Road, with the school on your left, follow the road around to the left and you reach the entrance to the pitches.

# RAM'S HEADS UP

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

1. I've been on so many blind dates that I should get a free dog by now!
2. I realised that I do give 100% at work: 10% on Monday, 23% on Tuesday, 40% on Wednesday, 22% on Thursday and 5% on Friday!
3. Evening news is where they begin with 'Good evening', and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
4. There are three kinds of people in the world. People who make things happen. People who watch things happen and people who say "What happened?".
5. I live in my own world but it's okay. They know me there.
6. Whoever said the grass is green on the other side, obviously knows the water bill will be higher
7. 129% of people exaggerate!
8. The energizer rabbit was arrested the other day, charged with battery!
9. Being British is about driving a German car to an Irish pub for a Belgian beer, then traveling home, grabbing an Indian curry or a Turkish kebab on the way, to sit on Swedish furniture and watch American shows on a Japanese TV.

**TV OF THE WEEK:**

Black-ish – E4

**SONG OF THE WEEK:**

Side to Side – Ariana Grande (feat. Nicki Minaj)

# 1s

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## MERTON FC 0 CIVIL SERVICE 1

### CIVIL SERVANTS SPOIL ALL THE FUN!

**A** mixed start to the day was a good forerunner for the game itself. On the plus side, Milo was on time for his pick up and Chaz and Jonny arrived EARLY. Which suggests Sam might be the cause of their normal lateness! On the other hand Willgo and Clowesy were 25 minutes but again looking for positives they did visit three SAL grounds. Having arrived at Chiswick station in plenty of time they first went to Poly, wrong, then they went to IBIS, wrong, and finally they arrived with us at Civil Service.

On a big pitch we kicked off up a slight slope and into the wind. We settled well but couldn't maintain possession or get in behind their back four enough. This wasn't helped by Vanny going off after less than 10 minutes with a pulled hamstring. It's amazing what missing training can do to your fitness levels.

Civil Service started to get some joy down their right, with Kearnsey being given an uncharacteristically tough time by their winger, and one strong run led to a penalty as Kearnsey pulled him back in the area. He did go down easily mind. After last week's heroics a penalty isn't as bad as it looks these days, and so it proved. An unconvincing penalty was well saved by Siri low down to his left.

This should have galvanised us but it didn't and the half continued in much the same vein. We defended solidly but couldn't make the ball stick up top, whilst the midfield was bypassed. 0-0 at half time and not much for Browner to be happy about.

We were much better at the start of the second half but still got caught up in little battles, that suited their strong competitive style of play, and the game soon drifted into the scrappy affair it had been in the first. The introduction of Browner and James Laughton, with 20 minutes to go, gave us a bit more energy in midfield and creativity out wide and this combination almost brought us a goal as James crossed but their keeper just got in front of Browner to gather the ball.

Just as it looked like drifting to a fair 0-0 Civil Service's centre forward twisted well in the box and drilled a good cross onto the head of the advancing right winger. 85 minutes 1-0 and it looked like our hard work would be to no avail. But then, Willgo was played in down the right, the keeper came out, Willgo lifted the ball over him and towards goal only for the Civil Service centre back to punch it off the line. Penalty and a red card.

With a minute to go could our come from behind luck be in again. With Woody on the penalty it certainly felt good but alas this time he changed his mind mid run and put his kick over the bar. This was virtually the last kick of the game and we lost 1-0.

This was a good test for a new look team and one we need to learn from. We got muscled out of it most of the game and were a bit naive with fouls for and against.

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**TEAM:** Siri, Clowsey, Chaz, Clappers, Kearnsy, Will Low, Woody, Willgo, Vanny (Milo 8, James Laughton 71), Charlie, Jonny (Browner 65)

**SUBS:** Milo, James Laughton, Browner

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** Charlie Hockless (Siri was solid again and Chaz further enhanced his reputation)

**DICK OF THE DAY:** Woody (it wasn't close)

# 2s

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## MERTON FC 2 SOUTH BANK CUACO 3 (AET)

**A** late (handball-assisted) goal deep in extra-time handed Merton their second cruel cup defeat in three weeks.

Lining up in a 4-3-3, Merton were determined to try and play high up the pitch and press the opposition. This approach yielded some early dividends as Merton won the ball in the opposition half and Darcy set Dan running into the box. A last ditch tackle from a covering defender relieved the danger at the cost of a corner, although the South Bank keeper ended up being clattered by Dan and needed some treatment.

However, on a big pitch and against an opposition side showing plenty of commitment to passing their way out from the back to a pair of tricky wingers, the pressing game proved more easily said than done as the half progressed as South Bank consistently fed the ball wide and tried to overload the Merton fullbacks Connor and Gabs.

This approach brought the reward of the opening goal - albeit with the aid of a somewhat controversial decision. South Bank worked the ball down the right wing, bypassing first Rayner and Connor by taking the ball off the pitch and then beating the covering Pearcey. Ignoring the appeals for a throw in the winger picked out his player in a mostly empty box (with half the defence by-passed on the touchline) and their striker provided a classy finish, angling a header into the far corner from 7-8 yards to make it 1-0.

Rather than spur Merton into action, the goal instead served to bring the visitors more confidence and it was South Bank that began to dominate territory and force Merton back. It was almost two from another cross, but keeper Dan did brilliantly to palm a header on to the frame of the goal. Lofty then made a change to bring on Elz for Gabs, with the ever versatile Joe Grew moving to rb from a wide forward position.

As South Bank tried to force a second, Merton responded with a brilliantly worked goal of their own on the counter. A South Bank cross was cleared and fed into Dan just inside his own half. Dan laid it back to Joe, before taking the return pass and bamboozling (think 60% skill/40% spawn) his marker with some quick reactions and playing the ball inside to Andy. The ball was quickly worked across the pitch and Rayner arrived on the overlap from the opposite wing, striding into the box to slot inside the keeper. A lovely calm finish to cap a great team goal, making the game all-square.

Merton had a couple of half chances to take the lead as the game became more even - most notably a brilliant improvised volley from Darcy on the edge of the box that clipped the bar. However, it was the visitors who restored their lead just before half time. Another counter-attack and cross saw Cookie manage only to head clear to the edge of the box, and the attacking midfielder had time and space to pass coolly into the corner giving South Bank a 2-1 lead.

The second half was a less open affair as Merton tightened up and the visitors perhaps sat a little on their lead. Despite some great trickery from Elz on occasion down the left, in truth not much happened until the closing quarter of the game as Merton slowly but surely upped the intensity and forced South Bank deeper and deeper. A series of free kicks and corners saw a few scrambled clearances and some potshots from

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distance. Lofty made the call to go to 4-4-2 with Pearcey joining Dan up top as Merton piled on the pressure.

Then, with just 5 minutes remaining, the breakthrough came. Elz and Dan chased a clearance down and pressurised the nervy oppo defence. Elz blocked the initial attempt at a clearance and Dan the next, and a calamitous collision saw Elz emerge with the ball on the edge of the box and feed in Rayner. Once again he slipped the ball in at the near post on the angle, megging the keeper to boot bringing the game back to 2-2, and with approximately five minutes to go, Merton believed they could go on and win it.

With only one team now in the game, South Bank fended off a string of attacks, most notably gabs having a long distance and goal bound strike blocked. Extra time ensued and the next 15 minutes were more of the same as Merton camped in the opposition half.

A series of corners were desperately close to being turned in. Then more good work in midfield saw Pearcey played in; his cut back agonisingly close to being turned in by Dan at the far post. By this point Merton players were down all over the pitch with cramp/injuries/general exhaustion and as the second fifteen minutes began, the home side were starting to flag a little.

South Bank forced a couple of corners as penalties loomed, and with three minutes to go a goal-line scramble saw Connor clear off the line, only for an oppo player to palm the ball back into the danger area for a teammate to prod home. Merton were livid (well, those of them who saw the handball), but the ref gave it having not seen the offence and South Bank regaining the lead.

Merton gave it one last push for a third equaliser; forcing a corner with seconds to go, but it was not to be and a second cup exit in three weeks was the result.

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** Alex, an almost constant threat down the left.

**DICK OF THE DAY:** Gabs for a couple of ambitious/suicidal dribbles in his own box deep in extra-time at 2-2!



# 3s

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## MERTON FC 0 BROOMFIELD 3

**A**fter a good result last week the 3s sleeted another good result at the Hood. Kick off was delayed by 5 minutes as the oppo had a couple of players still finding their way from Enfield.

The first 10/15 minutes or so Merton were on top, working hard, pressing high up the pitch and making it tough for Broomfield to get in to any kind of rhythm.

Having said that the boars failed to really get the passing game from the week before going although Tony the captain was making his views known on the pitch.

The 4-3-3 formation was proving to be going okay and it was a pretty even first half if the truth be told. Ricardo and Walshy the left and right backs respectively were looking after their wingers and Jack and Tony organising the team from the back winning the headers every time the oppo lumped it up to their forwards.

Mustard, Neal and Alberto all working hard in the midfield three taking it in turns to press the ball and move up to support the forwards.

Ian and Glenn (not sure if its one n or 2) were given a license to support Donno (whose boots were outrageous by the way – bright pink).

After about 20 minutes or so and Merton restricting the oppo to long range efforts Merton sustained some pressure on the Broomfield goal. Good work from Glenn (with 2 n's) on some good attacking play on the left as he teased the oppos right back and what seemed to have been making things happen. Ian worked hard on the right hand side of the pitch and played some neat football with Neal and before sending the ball over the top for Donno to latch on to, only to be given offside. Some fans on the touchline argued with the ref as it was impossible to see anything with those pink boots dazing everyone's vision.

Three consecutive corners led Mustard to act like a man possessed. Glenn whipping in several good corners with Walshy and co getting nowhere near them as usual, the ball bouncing off everyone like a ping pong ball and eventually falling to Mustard. He smashed it each time low and hard and again it boomeranged back to him but eventually slicing one wide of the post.

Broomfield lived through that bit of pressure and Mustard was penalised for another handball but this time in their penalty area. The Merton lads found the funny side.

He then also repeated the incident again whilst blocking a shot from the oppo as he chased down their midfielder shooting from the edge of the box but this week no penalty was given.

Towards the end of the half Broomfield get a corner. Whilst everyone was marked they cross the ball on to our 6 yard box where their player heads the ball home. 0-1 Broomfield.

It was a scrappy goal, another set piece we didn't attack or deal with but the header looped over Fitz and one of our lads on the post couldn't reach it. It is worth noting that Fitz pulled off a couple of great saves.

Second-half we made a few changes in personnel and formation.

4-4-2 with Ian moving to centre Midfield with Neal. Frankie replaced Alberto as a winger and Denys came on for Mustard but playing up top with Donno.

Frankie's instructions were simple... run at their full back and connect up the play. Denys to hold the ball up.

We began okay second half we started to create a few chances but never really got in behind them.

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Except when Tony (I think) pinged a ball about 30 yards over the top when Glenn controlled like Messi with his left foot and shot across the goalkeeper from about 10 yards out. The keeper pulls off a worldy and knocks it around the post with his shin. Pressure was again mounting and whilst we were not showing our true quality we were doing our best to grind out a result. .

Soon after this the oppo countered and spent several minutes in our half where their winger skipped around Mustard who battled hard to catch him before Walshy dived in and gave away a pen. 0-2 Broomfield.

Heads began dropping, but we only had ourselves to blame.

Frankie continued to upset the oppo by acting like a raging bull and chasing everything and leaving a foot in here and there. In doing so though he got injured (ankle) and the boars were forced to take him off.

Mustard came back on for what seemed like moments before Frankie decided he was fit again and wanted to go back on. Vin pulls Mustard off **AGAIN** who seemed extremely upset to have been asked to be subbed again. Walshy also goes down and hobbles off after a possible broken toe.

Another shake up required, Mustard and Alberto back on and Jack off (that's a player coming off, not someone relieving themselves!)

With a new formation 3-4-3... Ricardo is asked to push on and does a good job of providing a more direct route. Neal was booked after having a disagreement with Tony and taking out on their midfielder with a lunging challenge. Ian got a yellow for grabbing the oppo players face (accidentally)

Right near the end of the game and with our lads having to go up field and gamble Broomfield broke forward, Ian was our last man back but being turned inside out before their bloke passed it in to the top corner to give Broomfield an unassailable 3-0 win.

Bad result, but we didn't really deserve anything if we are honest.

**TEAM:** Fitz, Ricardo, Jack, Tony (capt), Walshy, Glenn, Mustard, Neal, Alberto, Ian, Donno, Denys, Frankie

# 4s

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## MERTON FC 5 WINCHMORE HILL 2

**T**he Merton 4s. 4 games. 4 heavy defeats. That's how this grim 2016/17 campaign had started. But, as with any wretched run, there is always the next game to break the cycle. This week it came in the form of the Cup, which presented an excellent opportunity for a much-needed win.

The oppo were Winchmore Hill, a club who, although seemingly hundreds of miles away in the deep, dark North, had an awful lot in common with the 4s. Bottom of the Div 2 Minor league, and without a win themselves, they were effectively Merton's northern equivalent.

Sniffing a chance, the manager made an inspired call to gather the team for breakfast in Morden, with the boys travelling up together in a sound display of team spirit. Other inspired calls were made too. Danny Gridley was pushed back to a sweeper role in a back five, which would work a treat. Additionally, Scholesy also commissioned brother Colin as an extra set of managerial eyes, with plenty of experience to call on and valuable tactical advice to impart.

Anyway, onto business, and the game kicked off with Merton in a buoyant mood, for once taking the game to the oppo from the start. The defence looked solid, and midfield and forwards were pressing Winchmore with purpose. New finds Joe and Cam were looking particularly handy.

Then Winchmore got a corner out of nothing. No fear though, because Merton had spent more than half an hour practicing defending these before the game. So they had it covered, right? Wrong!!!

In came the delivery, Mike could only deflect the header rather than clear, it popped off their striker (or off Danny Gridley, the panel is undecided), and into the net. 1-0 Winchmore.

Merton then responded well against visibly inferior opponents. But once again, said inferior opponents won a corner out of nothing. And yep, you guessed it, said inferior opponents scored again - this time off a second ball.

If it wasn't so galling, it would be comical. This is a team who conceded just once from a corner all of last season. That figure is at least 7 already this time around, and now here they were, 2-0 down, against a team who'd barely had a kick.

They needed a goal to get back in it, and fast. It did take a few minutes to arrive, but eventually the magic of Dom Plumridge proved too hot for Winchmore to handle. Some good build-up play put him through, although he still had plenty to do. But a delightful toe poke slid past the keeper's right hand, and thankfully ruffled the onion bag.

### 2-1 – GAME ON!!

After what had actually been a fine performance, parity at half time was the very least Merton deserved. And with just two minutes to go until the break, Dom was the man to deliver it. Once again, the result of some fine Merton interplay, a ball over the top, and then Dom putting in a truly clinical finish when one on one with the keeper.

2-2 at half-time then, and, for once, an upbeat chat. This one was there for the taking, and they knew it. The game resumed, Merton now into the sun, but no matter. Winchmore had a shot from the kick off - a

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dismal one at that, and it was arguably their last shot of the day. It was all Merton thereafter, and it felt like a mere matter of time before the third arrived. No prizes for guessing who scored it either. Dom once again with plenty to do, but coming in from a tight angle, finished it with pure finesse. 3-2 then, Merton were bouncing, and now Dom had the match ball (and jug of beer) firmly in hand.

But he wasn't done yet. Just minutes later, a goal-mouth scramble ensued, with the Winchmore defence at 6s and 7s, now absolutely rattled by a vibrant Merton. It won't go down as Dom's most majestic goal ever, but he showed the most desire in amongst a sea of bodies to eventually scramble the ball over the line.

4-2. 4 goals for Merton. 4 goals for their superstar. Dom then departed the pitch to a warm ovation from his teammates. Well played lad. Yet despite Dom's brilliance, there was much more to this performance as a collective. Clive had been tremendous at right back, Danny Gridley superb in defence, while Cam and Joe were both real finds.

The game felt all but over, although there was one more scare in waiting. Noor was unfortunate to be called for a high boot in the box, and a dubious penalty resulted. Yet the penalty taker never looked confident - and Kieran did. He held his ground, the dive almost redundant in the end, and he gathered the feeble effort cleanly in his midriff. 4-2 it stayed.

And just to put the icing on the cake, Merton found time for one more, and it was Cam who turned provider for the fifth goal. Luke, helping out from the 5s, had been on the park for just a couple of minutes, and was perhaps higher up the pitch than normal. But he was at the ready for a delightful through ball from Cam. He then gathered it on the run, and, despite being hassled by a defender, calmly rounded the keeper to slot home Merton's fifth (and his first since 2012). Talk about an impact sub. 5-2.

Merton had a few more half chances in the final minutes, but, importantly, gave nothing away at the other end. It rounded off a rampant performance, one that typified all that had been discussed during the crisis meetings over the previous weeks. This is a highly capable bunch of players, and they knew it. All that was needed was a bit of confidence and self belief. That can only be gained from a win. And they delivered it on Saturday in emphatic style. Let's hope it will now be a launchpad to bigger and better things.

**TEAM:** Kieran Lee (GK), Ed Plaistow, Mike Todt, Dan Gridley, Will Harrison, Clive Corrigan, Noor Emad, Chris Outred, Joe Underwood, Cameron Brooks, Dom Plumridge

**SUBS:** Luke Newman, Anam Hassan, Chris Dodd

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** Dom Plumridge

**DICK OF THE DAY:** N/A – great performance all-round

# 6s

## MERTON FC 2 OLD BLUES 4

I'm not sure if you've heard the news. It seems that last week some kind of virus swept across the South London area, causing men everywhere to suddenly become under-the-thumb and unavailable to play football on a Saturday. Please send get well cards, flowers and your best wishes to 6s stalwarts Kev, Chappell, Ty, Matt, Ram, Pete, Dave, Paul and Swanny. Get well soon boys!

Luckily, with Merton bursting at the seams with players this season, a massively depleted squad was filled out with some new faces. In came George, Callum and Trey, injecting pace into the squad and bringing the side's total age down by about 400 years.

With the normal management team away Dan P and Beanz became the new gaffer and captain, and were given the difficult duty of breaking the team selection to the boys. With such holes in the starting eleven to fill, some players were making their Merton debuts and some players had to fill unfamiliar positions (sorry Scott).

Despite being a team of strangers it was surprisingly bright start by Merton, generally dominating 1st half proceedings. On a massive Old Blues pitch Merton found space to play the ball around. Playing out from the back and finding space on the wings, Merton created chance after chance, but a combination of good goalkeeping and poor conversion meant that the opposition held in there.

On one particular spell of possession a cross managed to miss everyone, except the Old Blues full back who managed to start a quick break up the pitch, and all of a sudden we found ourselves 1-0 down against the run of play... heartbreaking!!

Changes needed to be made at half time to keep legs fresh and the new management team stressed that we had been unlucky, and if we kept playing the same way we'd quickly be back in the match. Cue Old Blues getting a second goal about a minute after the restart. A speculative 30 yard shot found stand in keeper Mike off his line.

Heads began to drop and we lost our way for 30 minutes of the second half, struggling to get hold of the ball and to reproduce the positive football of the first half. Old Blues, on the other hand, grew more and more confident. With so many defenders in the match squad, and with the new young lads playing really well up top, substitutions needed to happen at the back. This led to some confusion, which Old Blues exploited with a long ball game, and soon found themselves up to a 4-0 lead.

At this point, playing only for pride, Merton began to find their feet again. We kept possession better, moved the ball quicker and began to find space behind the Old Blues defence. George, Callum and Trey showed no fear for such young lads and gave an experienced Old Blues defence horrible trouble.

With the game seemingly dead, Merton found themselves with an innocuous looking free kick from 30 yards. George did brilliantly to hit a venomous shot that beat the wall and the keeper to bring it back to 4-1.

Merton kept playing and we were making incisive breaks into the Old Blues box. Again George found himself in possession, and with a tired looking Old Blues defence in front of him had a go. Cutting in from the left he beat one, he beat two, he beat three, he beat... well I lost count really, I was bloody knackered and got Merton back to a two-goal deficit.

The game was nearing to the finish, but we were still going for it. If we were only chasing one more we might have had a chance, but 4-2 was surely too big of an ask, wasn't it? With us chasing the game and George on a hat-trick and stuck out on the wing, there was really only one decision acting manager Dan P could make... Yep, take George off for the last five minutes and not let him get too big for his boots.

The chase was too big of an ask. If how much everyone was knackered at the end is any indication, it was a very good effort. Despite the result there are lots of positives to take. Chris and Adam put in a massive shift

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in the centre of midfield, Josh was a revelation at left back (sorry Ram/Kev), and the youngsters have a very bright future at Merton.

**TEAM:** Mike, Josh, Beanz, Dan P, Scott, George, Chris, Adam, Callum, Trey, Malcolm

**SUBS:** Dan, George, Martin.

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** Any other day a few names could've been here, but for two brilliant debut goals I have to give it to George.

**DICK OF THE DAY:** All is forgiven Scott, you moody b\*\*\*\*d!

# ED PLAISTOW



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

I'm a Quantity Surveyor who works for a multi-discipline Cost Consultants based in Croydon. I class myself as a hard worker who is willing to put the time and effort in all I do to succeed.....even with Merton!

**2. How did you end up at Merton FC?**

I used to play in the Price Georges Youth Football League in Morden for a team called Tooting Eagles (managed by Clive Roberts who some might know from his time at Merton). After competing at U16 level it was time to move on with a number of us, including my brother Dan Plaistow. We were selected to represent the league against Merton. I'm not sure if it was the 1st XI we were competing against, however we did manage to win! I liked what I saw and the camaraderie of the players and I haven't looked back since.

**3. What was your best moment in your MFC career till now?**

I would have to say leading 5th XI out in a SAL Cup final. Unfortunately we lost in extra-time albeit against a strong Polytechnic side a number of leagues above us!

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

Would have to be the mighty reds of Manchester! Been a fan literally all my life.

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

Funnily enough I have none!

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

Unfortunately we were relegated last season, so this season improvements need to be made. On paper, we are in an easier league, however with the first few results you would think otherwise. We are working hard to determine where we are going wrong and I have no doubt that once that first win comes that it will be one of many and we will hopefully be title challengers. A good cup run would be a bonus too!

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**Player of the season (so far):** N/A  
**Childhood Team:** Manchester United  
**Favourite team in the UK:** Manchester United  
**Favourite team outside the UK:** Don't have one  
**Childhood Hero:** Paul Scholes  
**Favourite Food:** Indian  
**Favourite Drink:** Jack Daniels & Coke  
**Favourite Band:** Red Hot Chilli Peppers

# RAPID FIRE

# MALCOLM KANDULU



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

I am simple with my days, try to make it through work and socialise as much possible. A bit of gym, run a basketball club. I am passionate about music, I produce, rap, sing and write.

**2. How did you end up at Merton FC?**

A friend of mind Paolo suggested coming to gain fitness, loved the people and stayed.

**3. What was your best moment in your Merton FC career till now?**

First goal at pre-season. I remember walking on the pitch hanging as hell!!!

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

Sutton United, it's my local pro team. I'd be honoured to!

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

Yes, I go to the pub for a full English with Kieran

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

Try to keep fit to cover most of the season, get in some extra goals as well.

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**Player of the season (so far):** Alex Iwobi

**Childhood Team:** Arsenal or Italy

**Favourite team in the UK:** Arsenal

**Favourite team outside the UK:** Italy

**Childhood Hero:** Roberto baggio

**Favourite Food:** Oriental

**Favourite Drink:** Whiskey

**Favourite Band:** Jay Z

## RAPID FIRE



# U13s

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## MERTON FC 14 ROCK LANE 0

**T**his League game was and is going to probably be our easiest. Rock Lane did have one or two good players, but as a team they were not complete. We took advantage of that in the first half, passing well, using tactics from training and playing as a team. In the first half we scored 6 goals, the scorers were Theo with 2, Isaac with 2, Justin and Kieron.

The second half we did not play as well (Passing/positioning wise), but we did score another 8 goals, the scorers were Theo, completing his hat-trick with another 3 goals, Marcus coming on and scoring 3, Justin and Nikoy. In the second half, Steve took a player off to make it more fair.

Ten minutes into the second half and we started losing shape and played very messy, just aiming for shot on goal. Approximately ten minutes before the final whistle, we decided to play possession and to not score anymore, we gathered our shape a bit and started playing nice passes and some good football.

So the match overall was OK, had some good and bad moments with our performance, yes we did win, but I think Steve and I want to see some more thought going into the game and start playing as we train. The match had only one injury with the number 3 from Rock Lane getting a nose bleed. Apart from that both teams were very respectful and the sportsmanship was very nice to see. Rock Lane are a very nice bunch of players. I would give the Man of the Match to Justin, as he played outstanding in centre midfield, which is not where he usually plays as he is a left/right midfield, but Steve and I loved the way he played there.

**Mario**  
Assisant Manager



**Justin:** Man of the Match performance



**Theo:** finds the back of the net with five goals

# U15s

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## **MERTON FC 1 HANWORTH SPORTS 4**

Difficult result to take this week, especially with the game evenly poised 1-1 with 8 minutes to play!

A solid start to the game and it was a close game between two evenly matched teams, with chances being at a minimum throughout the first half.

A couple of close chances for Hanworth and they took their first clear opportunity and took a 1-0 lead. We carried on battling and creating space but could not find the opportunities to score a goal.

Solid performance continued into second half, creating marginally more chances but that was the theme of the game. Limited chances throughout, it seemed like it had 1-0 written all over it!

We managed to grab an equaliser from Jake D and looked like we could nick a winner. However, another sloppy goal gave them a 2-1 lead.

Our heads dropped and gifted them two further goals, leaving us with a 4-1 defeat. The game certainly did not reflect the score-line.

Heads up and go again.

Up the Merton!

# WHO'S WHERE AND WHEN

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## SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER 2016

**1s**

**MERTON FC v EBOG**

Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 15:00

**2s**

**MERTON FC v NUFC OILERS**

Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 14:30

**3s**

**OLD FINCHLEIANS v MERTON FC**

Old Finchleians Memorial Ground – 15:00

**4s**

**MERTON FC v WEST WICKHAM**

Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 15:00

**5s**

**MERTON FC v SOUTH BANK CUACO**

Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 13:15

**6s**

**OLD WILSONIANS v MERTON FC**

Old Wilsonians Sports Ground – 15:00

**7s**

**MERTON FC v CROUCH END VAMPIRES**

Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 13:00

## SUNDAY 23 OCTOBER 2016

**U9s**

**MERTON FC v CARSHALTON ATHLETIC**

Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 11:00

**U11s**

No Fixture

**U13s**

**MERTON FC v OLD COULSDON COLTS**

Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 11:00

**U14s**

**AC FULHAM v MERTON FC**

Away – AM

**U15s**

**MERTON FC v KINGSTONIAN YOUTH COLTS**

Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 11:00

**MERTON FOOTBALL CLUB**

Joseph Hood Pavilion, Joseph Hood Recreation Ground, Martin Way, Merton, London SW20 9BU