

# THE MERTON WAY



# RAINING GOALS

**A**fter a bit of a false start to the season last week we really got down to it on Saturday (17th Sept). First of all we started well with a teamsheet and an edition of the Merton Way and we were able to do that because we have had a great response to our vigorous recruitment campaign over the summer and we fielded six full teams with subs and a few were disappointed.

This is a just reward for all the hard work that the committee and captains have put in over the summer; recruiting, training, communicating and generally working hard to get people involved.

There were some great results on both Saturday and Sunday. The 1s had a good 2-0 win at Ally Pally with Tom Rowe getting both goals in the first half. Down at the Hood the 2s lead by Lofty beat a determined AFC Oldsmiths side 4-2 with 2 goals apiece from Wilgo and Elz. It was good to see that the 1s and 2s with a number of new players, but some younger members too. The 3s beat Norsemen 7-1, Dave Donavan got a hat-trick and 'won' the penalty that Ricardo missed. Away from the Hood, the 4s and 6s lost, but the 5s had a most impressive 2-1 win which was most pleasing of all after last season's difficulties.



Rowe, Herbert & White (aka Lofty): still looking all the same

Also it was really nice back in the bar for some really good pasta and 'apres footy'

On Sunday the Youth section took centre stage with an Impressive set of results. The U15s had a tough time last season but got off to winning ways last week and followed it up with a terrific fight back and penalty shootout win against Doverhouse who are very tough opposition. The U14s drew, but U13s U11s and U9s all won their games. And Steve organised a bit of asocial too with the bar open. So it is not a bad idea to get down there on a Sunday and cheer the lads on and have a drink after.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW

The picture is of our first team in 2003. It included quite a few Kiwis who I believe are now back in New Zealand. I am not quite sure where all the others have gone but there are three people in the photo who played for our reserves on Saturday. Mike Reed would have played but was ill. There is Lofty, Sherbs and Little Jack (now Big Jack Rowe), that is not a bad record. There ought to be a photo somewhere of Lofty, Sherbs, Mustard, Welchey, Neal Davison and Jack all together in 2001/2, some 15 years ago.

Merton F.C. First Team 2002/3  
Southern Amateur League Division 3



Merton FC: back in the day when players looked like footballers

# 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.

# 1s

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## MERTON FC 2 ALEXANDRA PARK 0

**A**lexandra Palace (AP) is a long way from Morden but it isn't the hardest to get to by public transport. That is until, there's a passenger on the line at Warren Street and the Victoria Line is part-suspended. If whoever it was, think they've got problems, they want to try and herd 14 blokes around London every Saturday!

We built in plenty of slack in the meet time (the 3s take note), so even with our detour, we arrived at the ground 50 minutes before kick off. The youthful enthusiasm of the team, yes you read correctly, youthful, meant we were changed and warming up in plenty of time to kick start our season at full throttle... and full throttle we did.

With four debutants in the starting XI and two more on the bench the squad had a fresh look. As all six were under 26, two even still in their teens, it also drastically lowered the average age. Despite the new line-up we started well, with the old hands organising well and leading by example, and it wasn't long before we were putting the AP defence under pressure. It was this pressure that meant AP surrendered possession to Tom Rowe out near the right wing. Tom beat his man, ran into the box, and calmly curled the ball round the oncoming keeper. Midway through the half, no real pressure on our goal, and one-nil up. This was already much more enjoyable than last season.

It wasn't long before we were two up. Milo played a good ball into the left channel and Tom was again one-on-one with an AP defender. This time his strength and power saw off his challenger and after steadying himself he finished well at the near post. It turns out a quiet Friday night in pays off, doesn't it Tom! We dominated the rest of the half without creating many other opportunities but equally not allowing AP any clear sight of our goal. Woody and Tilley dominated midfield whilst Tom and Milo kept us on the front foot.

AP started the second-half better and we were soon on the back foot. We hadn't really got going and then Rat suffered a bad ankle injury and had to be substituted. We reshuffled and AP threw more men forward, but our defence stood strong with Clowesy and Ben in particular making key clearances. Special mention goes to Siri in goal who made some good saves whilst generally being a commanding presence. The half didn't go past without us creating anymore chances and on another day Vanny could have come away with his own brace. However, there were no more goals and we saw out the half to record our first victory of the season.

Well done to the debutants; Siri, Ben, Nick, Milo, Sam and Jonny, who all played an important part. Also a well done to the ref on the day, who's game management and communication was very good. He was particularly good at seeing when a foul wasn't simply a bad challenge, but that the ball was there to be kicked!

**TEAM:** Siri, Ben, Rat, Clappers, Clowesy, Nick, Woody, Tilley, Vanny, Tom, Milo

**SUBS:** Sam, Milo, Jonny

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** Tom Rowe

“I ached from about 30 minutes in, but the smile is big now, great to bounce back from last week.”

**Lofty**

# 2s

## MERTON FC 4 AFC OLDSMITHS 2

**L**ofty demanded Team Handsome 2.0 make Joseph Hood a fortress. The 2s delivered, but it wasn't that simple. It looked like it might be for a while. A cross-field ball bounced up for Wilgo on the edge of the area, 12 yards from the touchline. His half-volley arced from right to left over the goalkeeper and into the side netting. 1-0. Wilgo bagged his second when the Oldsmiths keeper found him in space outside the area minutes later. Merton's skipper advanced, sat the keeper down and knocked it into an empty net. 2-0. half-time.

It was more of the same to start the second half, with Merton's back four an outstanding unit and Sherbs an assured presence in goal. With the tireless, selfless running of Tom Benham up front and James Laughton and Elz menacing on either wing, the 2s looked dangerous every time they broke forward. Tom's hustle in particular was vital to his team's superiority, and so it proved, with the best team goal of the day.

Wilgo won the ball from an Oldsmiths break and set James away down the right. His cross made its way via Tom to Elz, who cut in to beat two defenders before firing home with confidence making it 3-0 to the hosts.

Then came the nerves... Oldsmiths who had already won their first league game were not going to give up easily and battled all the way. Their determination paid off and at 3-1 the away side were back in it. Sherbs made his outstanding save of the day at his near post to counter an Oldsmiths break down the left; he and his defence threw themselves in front of plenty more as the game ticked into the final half hour, but could do little about a powerful header from a corner with 15 minutes to go to make it 3-2.

More chances came Merton's way as the game became stretched. Tom was unlucky not to score at least one. Then, with 10 left, the Laughton-Elz combo - who lit up the match whenever they were on the ball - combined again for Merton's fourth, with Alberto playing the telling ball in for Elz's second to make it an emphatic 4-2 win. A result all worked hard for, particularly the manager.

Lofty had an outstanding game in midfield and organising and managing the team. Wilgo deserved his 'Man Most Handsome' award for his on-field leadership alone, never mind the two goals.



**Elz and Wilgo:** doubling up



**Merton 2s:** one of the number of attacks on Oldsmiths' goal

# 3s

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## MERTON FC 7 NORSEMEN 1

Following a hammering in game week one the 3s turned up seeking to put last weeks torment well and truly behind them. A dressing room full of new and old Merton blood sat eager to get things going. Fantastic timekeeping and mustard like money collecting started proceeding with clear intent to deliver a positive result. A clear dressing room veto on Ryan's thoughts regarding dick of the day & match reporting was quickly decided with shouts of "who does he think he is? club secretary?" echoing in the air. With cliches ringing in everyone's ears on how we will approach this game, each and every player contributed massively to what can only be described as an almost perfect day at the hood. Marred slightly by a very dubious sending off from both teams, more about that later.

With the opposition running late it was imperative that the 3s asserted themselves quickly. Captain for the day Vincenzo chose to go with the wind first half and it seemed like a wise call as Merton quickly found themselves dominating possession with some slick passing on what was a very good pitch following Friday's tsunami. It soon became apparent that this oppo were there for the taking and that we were a lot more focused this week. So we unleashed the reincarnation of Mr David Donovan (also known as Donno, Donny and bloke upfront in mom nominations) Donno caused havoc to the Norseman defence with endless running, chasing down and ultimately a very well deserved hat trick and at least 8 assists, winning a penalty and hitting the post. (So he told me when I subbed him)

The first half went by very quickly and early on an almost fatal passage (which Iain was very unhappy about) of play between centre backs quickly turned into a goal for Merton on the break. Some neat passing in the middle of the pitch sent Andy off down the left who coolly slotted the ball sideways for Donno to get his first. This was followed up by lots of good football throughout the half. Although one pass from Neal in the left back position to Dan at right back caused a brief scare (which Iain was very unhappy about). Dan at right back looked assured and comfortable playing the ball on the ground but was very happy to mix it up and send the ball up the line when needed. Vincenzo and Walshy dominated their forwards and gave very little away with Ricardo solid and willing to push on at left back. Both holding midfielders Neal and Darren (not Daz he is not a washing detergent) generally marshalled that area of the pitch breaking up any small threat caused and managed to control the game with some very decent passages of play from left to right and vice versa. Iain and Andy on both flanks always available and both happy to do their fair share of tracking back which helped the shape of the team immensely. Another attack saw Merton gain a corner and after a quick one two Iain was open around the back post, Neal knocked a ball just a little too long (which Iain was very unhappy about) and the chance disappeared. The second came with a mixture of pinball and quick feet from Neal, Joe (with beard) and Dan with Joe (with beard) neatly tucking home after a peach of a ball from Dan. There was also a penalty won by Donno who was clean through knocked it past the keeper then ran into him and the shouts and appeals were enough to convince the ref it was a foul. Ricardo offered pre match to take pens in search for his hat trick. He stepped up succeeding successfully in missing 3 pens in a row with shouts of LBW from the cricket match going on in the distance! (Although without a video umpire the batsman was given not out!) His frustration got the better of him picking up a cheeky yellow for a tackle soon after.

At this point in the match report there are certainly some worried men reading ... Darcy (or is it Ben? no one

## 6 | MATCH REPORT

knows really), Dan K, Tony, Ryan, Mike Stone and Denyz all secretly thinking that they had better go training this week and they'd be right to be worried as the new Merton blood wanted to stake their claim on places and on this performance I am glad I am not Lofty. The second half kicked off continuing the same theme of dominance. With Frankie coming on at left mid for Ricardo and Joe (without beard) coming on for Joe(with beard)these hungry boars were ready to charge! Straight from kickoff the pressure was applied with Frankie bursting almost literally down the left and finally squaring it only for the keeper to make a solid save at the back post. Frankie and Iain continued to dominate their full backs and with Joe (without beard) bringing some beautiful footwork to proceedings Merton were coasting.

Then the madness came the referee clearly bored he was not in the game enough decided to award a soft free kick against Merton, this resulted in a push in the head, a push back, a bit of squaring up and about 17 handbags. The ref calmed proceedings called both players over who had clearly resigned themselves to a stupid yellow each. only to be shocked the ref went to the dreaded shorts pocket and pulled out the red for both players. In disbelief both players left the pitch hugging, holding hands and vowing to take on the establishment together! Dave Loughton correctly brought me down to earth quickly in the bar telling me that I can appeal if I have video evidence. Unfortunately one player cam was focusing on Paul Walshy's (Welchie's) new fake Puma kings he purchased from Sports Direct earlier that day and the other was still searching for Ricardo's penalty ball in the first half. The game was by no means over though and there was still plenty of work to do and this was done professionally.

Donno getting his hat-trick then getting subbed, Joe (without beard), Frankie and then Ricardo (with the goal of the day) finishing off a clearly desperate Norsman side. These goals were assisted but to be honest I can't remember them as I was too busy sulking on the sideline however you can probably bet money at least one of them was called Joe (with or without beard) or Dan. There was still time for some more yellows from the ref and a goal from Norseman which they probably didn't deserve. All in all a really assured performance from a clearly jubilant bunch of lads. The traditional one step beyond song was introduced to the new blood with Lofty even trying to get in on the act to celebrate a great result and we look forward to a local derby next week with that lot from Carshalton.

Great effort lads!

**TEAM:** Dan, Vincenzo (captain), Walshy, Dan, Ricardo, Neal, Darren, Iain, Andy, Joe (with beard), Donno

**SUBS:** Joe (without beard), Frankie

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** Donno but with some mentions to Joe (with beard) and Andy

**DICK OF THE WEEK:** A very close run contest between Neal (sending off) and Ricardo (pen miss) was sealed by Joe (without beard) who decided admirably he couldn't vote for Ricardo for two games in a row hence my efforts in writing this report!



Merton 3s: Welchey flying



Merton 2s: Dave Donovan, Man of the Match and hat-trick hero

# 4s

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## MERTON FC 1 CIVIL SERVICE 4

**S**o after last week's disappointing result in the opening game of the season, it was time for the 4s to travel to Chiswick to face Civil Service.

Due to a four car pileup at Chiswick Roundabout, there was no option for everyone to park up at Barnes Bridge and walk to the ground. This meant a delayed KO with no chance to warm up.

We were with a few regulars meaning a step up from a few 5s players to help us out, namely Steve, Anam and Dave Golding. Noor Edam was also included in the squad after impressing in training during the week and recommended to us. Chris Outred deputised between the sticks following a 'no show' from our keeper. The joys of Saturday football!

We were on the back foot from the off of honest and Civil Service capitalised on this by taking the lead 15 minutes in. Conceding the goal seemed to give us a lift along with a slight change of positions due to Will picking up and injury with Joe converting to centre half. Arnold also picked up an injury forcing a change with Noor coming on in his place.

We were creating chances, some Dom and Sonny should have easily put away, but it was not meant to be. Five minutes before the break we got a breakthrough. Dom surrounded by a sea of red shirt went to ground with the ref pointing to the spot. Dom picked himself up to slot the ball into the bottom left. All-square going into the break, the hosts were there for the taking.

The team talk at the break was a positive one. Keep doing what we were going before the break and we would get something out of the game. It wasn't meant to be however.

Civil Service peppered our goals with shots from every opportunity and in the end it paid off. Positional errors and tired legs meant that another three goals were conceded. It could have been a lot worse had Chris had an off day in goal but he didn't put a foot wrong, likewise either did Ryan putting in a Man of the Match performance for the second week in a row and making it very difficult for somebody to take the shirt off his back.

We realised that key to playing football is consistency and ensuring that you have the same guys week in week out. Let's hope that going forward players are committed. If not then we can't push forward.

We have a break from competitive football next weekend before our AFA Cup game away to Old Wokingians. Let's hope for a better start in the Cup than we have had in the league. Come on boys!!!!!! T

**TEAM:** Chris Outred (GK), Ryan Burchell, Will Harrison, Steve Burchell, Edward Plaistow (Capt), Arnold Collier, David Golding, Joe Plumridge, Anam Hussan, Sonny Kennedy, Dom Plumridge

**SUBS:** Noor Edam, Chris Dodd

**GOAL:** Dom Plumridge

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** Ryan Burchell



# 5s

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## MERTON FC 2 IBIS EAGLES 1

**D**espite the torrential storms that hit the UK on Friday, we arrived in Chiswick with the pitches in good nick, playing to our Barcelona-esque style. We did, however, arrive in dribs and drabs due to serious traffic around the Mortlake area – rumour had it that a still-drunk Big Chris was still partying in the middle of the road from Thursday night, such was his level of rowdy drunkenness. Not an ideal start.

As the clock hit 7pm, the ref arrived and the game was on. Both teams took a while to get going, feeling like a start of the season clash. It would be Merton, however, who would who would hit first. The ball was played through by Dwayne, agonisingly close to the defender but yet just out of reach. Knowing the race was lost, the defender went tumbling in a manner that Ashley Young would be proud of – dramatic, and screaming as if he'd have joined Clive in his regular “shower fun times” sessions. With Dulanjie just to beat the keeper, he calmly slotted home to put the 5s one-nil up. Cue the probing from Ibis Eagles. They began attacking with some purpose, putting the ball in the box at every opportunity. Luckily, the rear-guard action of Darren & Lenners, men who are used to their fair share of probing, dealt with it stupendously. It was, in fact, the 5s who had the best chance to make it 2, with Dulanjie one-on-one again. Perhaps too confident second time wide, he scuffed his effort which tamely rolled into the keeper's arms. Not too long after, a cruel deflection was to undo our good work. They sent a corner in, which was again very well defended. The ball broke to the edge of the box, where one unfortunate [but very good looking] fellow toe-punted it straight to the opposing player outside the box. He took a touch, and let fly with an effort that deflected cruelly off Lenners for a goal that their pressure arguably merited. Lenners OG, 1-1 at half-time.

We knew that the game was there for the taking in the second half. After another cagey start from both teams, the 5s were to spring ahead again, with a second half substitute instrumental in the build-up. Aaron Ackerman picked up the ball from our own half, playing it through towards the left. Dulanjie managed to latch on to it just before it went out of play, and drove inwards. Too fast for their defense, Dulanjie found himself in front of goal, only at a very tight angle. A keen eye for tight gaps, Dulanjie managed to squeeze it between the keeper and the near post to make it 2-1. They piled on the pressure in order to find an equaliser, however we defended resolutely all over the pitch, resulting in them not creating a clear cut chance in the last 30 minutes of the game. It was only down to Richard thoughtfully deciding that 2 was enough that we did not win by more; maybe less Gareth Bale, more Gareth Gates on this occasion. He'll gladly save them for when we need them, and we played out the 2-1 victory to put ourselves within 4 points of equalling our points total from last season.

Those who bemoan young people for not voting may have a point, as only 3 nominations were received. Such was the difficult task of picking a man of the match, it resulted in a three-way split. Dulanjie wins one for his two goals, Aaron Byrne for his impressive balance between first-half offense and second-half strong defensive work that saw us see out a victory, and Darren Avey for being an immovable object, winning everything in the air despite their bombardment. Many more people are worthy of a mention; Delman and Josh ensured nothing came down the wings, Dwayne and Aaron got good assists, Miguel impressed with his composure in the middle when coming on and Sam in goal managed to deal well with all that came his way comfortably. This was a very strong team performance, on to next week!

# 6s

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## MERTON FC 1 OLD WILSONIANS 4

**T**he 6s started this season campaign with a disappointing loss in the cup, and the score line could easily have been worse but for the superb keeping display by Swanny.

The advantage the 6s have with a group stage cup competition is we get to form our team before the league kicks in – this served us well last season and we have an even better chance this season given the players we now have at our disposal.

This game turned against us in the first twenty minutes of the second half when we changed away from the 4-3-3 that had worked so well in the first half. But the advantage we have is that we now know that the 4-3-3 formation works best for us, and this was the formation when we were our most threatening and when our goal came. We hunted the ball well high up the pitch and Dan Plaistow played in Matt Haswell who finished well.

Going forward I think we just need to be more brave with our play and push higher up the pitch to give our attacking options the best advantage – we do this and I'm sure we will win more than we lose. When we stopped being brave towards the end of the first half and dropped a bit deeper, we gave their players more room and isolated Scott up top, this gave them an advantage that to be fair they took extremely well.

Saturday's game also showed that we can no longer justify carrying players who can't step up, we now have a squad that will enable Kevin to not only reward commitment but to drop players who aren't playing well or who over time show they don't have the ability to complement our team. When you consider that we can add the likes of John, Paul, Mal to the 14 from Saturday, as well as remembering that Steve B, Miguel and Chris stepped up to the 5s. We have a really encouraging squad and I'm sure if we get on a roll we will be a tough team to beat and are certain to challenge for silverware.

**TEAM:** Swanny, Ram, Martin, Kevin, Mark, Tyrone, Adam, Matt, Dan P, Pete, Scott

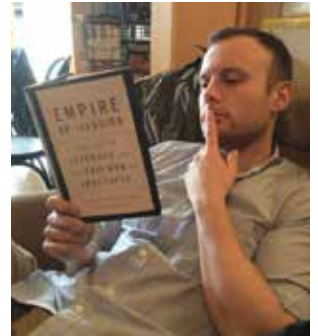
**SUBS:** Dan A, Josh, George

**SCORER:** Matt Haswell

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** Mark Swan (Swanny)

**DICK OF THE WEEK:** Mark Chappell, for being mugged by a snotty teenager in the corner which led to their decisive second goal

# IAIN EVANS



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

As of Friday, I will be unemployed! So any job offers are more than welcome. I'm a quiet bloke off the pitch but can get a little vocal on it.

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

Google, I was looking for a local team and Merton FC was one of the closest to me.

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

Turning up at the wrong ground and having to walk 5 miles to get to the right pitch.

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

Lincoln City FC, it's my local club

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

Not really, I do lay all my kit out on the bed before I put it in my bag as I have a tendency to forget shinpads, spare pants, etc.

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

I just want to enjoy the games, have a laugh and win as many as possible.

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**Player of the season (so far):** Everyone i have played with has played well and I'm terrible with names!

**Childhood Team:** Lincoln City

**Favourite team in the UK:** Lincoln City

**Favourite team outside the UK:** Portland Timbers (MLS)

**Childhood Hero:** Eric Cantona

**Favourite Food:** Pizza

**Favourite Drink:** Cherry Coke

**Favourite Band:** John Butler Trio

## RAPID FIRE

# CLIVE CORRIGAN



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

I'm a miserable git when it comes down to it, having been likened to the old man from Pixar's "UP", ask any of the committee members! (Not a queue for certain individuals to dig about looking beyond my years too). Outside of the club I would describe myself as being pretty laid back and bit of a geek. I currently work as a Sales Exec/Account Manager for a Security company specialising in CCTV.

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

Was informed of Merton FC by current member Chris Outred after a few years out due to uni/work commitments.

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

I think the best has yet to come, but to reel a couple from memory, my goal from the halfway line against Bank of England last season and being voted 5s player and Club Person of the Season.

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

My beloved Arsenal does spring to mind, as to play the possession style of football is something I'm looking for us to do successfully this season (the 5s that is). To pull on the shirt who greats like Bergkamp, Vieira and Henry have done in years gone by. Other than that I'd have to say Crystal Palace, as I have a soft spot for them.

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

At the moment they go out of the window just before KO trying to get things ready, but normally I'll sit there quietly visualising a crunching tackle to pep myself up (sad I know). In the morning I normally have a bowl of porridge, some sort of fruit, a green tea (Mango and Lychee is the one) and about eight glasses of water.

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

Looking to bounce back after a disappointing season, ideally with a league win. We had a good team last season but it wasn't until towards the end we had a regular eleven, which with the success of pre-season we've strengthened on, so I'll be doing everything I can until then. I'd like to get a couple more goals and ensure we don't concede even a tenth of what we did last season.

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**Player of the season (so far):** Hard to say as I think it's too early in the season, we've not even had a game yet!

**Childhood Team:** Arsenal

**Favourite team in the UK:** Arsenal

**Favourite team outside the UK:** Barcelona

**Childhood Hero:** Dennis Bergkamp & Alan Shearer

**Favourite Food:** Curry

**Favourite Drink:** Spiced Rum & Coke

**Favourite Band:** Currently playing George Ezra, but Bloc Party is my usual ring

# RAPID FIRE

# U11s

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## **MERTON FC 3 CLAYGATE 1**

On a beautiful Sunday morning U11s with a full squad including 4 subs for 2nd week in a row.... were ready to take on Claygate.

We started a little slow and went a goal down.... the boys were reminded of training ....pass and move.....set and take.

We bounced back with a great team goal and Cormac scoring a goal with his left foot curling like a boomerang into goal.

Passing then just continued and it looked like a field of buttercups as we swarmed all over Claygate goal.

Steve smashed in a goal....like a torpedo from a sub... locked onto target and BOOM!!

Zion got 3rd goal and was on fire throughout the whole game... showed trickery and zap.... smash grab ball flew into net of his finesse finish on his left foot.

We march on and once again great team bond and parents.... we love you guys.

Next week we travel Hampton Rangers.

**Report by:** David Laughton

# U13s

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## MERTON FC 4 HOOK YOUTH REDS 1

The first cup game of the season! Merton FC at home vs Hook. We all met at Joseph Hood at 9:15am, everyone got there nice and early, and we all were ready for action! We warmed up for 45 minutes before we kicked off.

So at 10:30am, the thriller started! We got off to a good start within a couple of minutes where we dominated the opening exchanges. At about 15 minutes in, McKenzie scored a wonder goal, top bins! Roughly two minutes later the opposition scored with a header from a corner, very unfortunate. Hook began to apply pressure along our back 4, however they were no match for us. The half-time whistle was blown with the game all-square.

The second half kicked off and straight away we were on to them. We gave them no time on the ball and as a result we scored, Keiron was the goalscorer, making it 2-1 to Merton! The ball rolled off the centre spot yet again, straight away we were applying pressure to them. We kept on attacking until we put a ball into the box where their defender got the touch and scored a own goal, unluckily for Marcus our striker as he could have slotted it away.

The game died down for a couple of minutes however after a few substitutes we were back into it. The ball was moving around Hooks' box, a couple of shots we had at their goal were deflected, but eventually Evan slotted it home making it 4-1. After the goal, Hook started to attack our goal and with about five minutes left, Hook got a couple of corners, we cleared them well, except for one that trickled away from our keepers hand and was cleared off the goal line from our centre-back Freddy.

That was it the full-time whistle was blown a heroic victory for Merton! What a spectacular performance from our squad.

Great game!

**Report by:** Freddy Camilleri (centre-back)



Merton U13s: team line-up at the Hood

# U15s

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## MERTON FC 4

## DOVERHOUSE 4

(MERTON WIN 4-3 ON PENALTIES)

After what can only be described as a great game of football, that Merton eventually and deservedly won on penalties. After the most shocking of starts (3-0 down in the first 9 minutes), changes were made to attempt to rectify the situation. Our team must have made such an impact, the usual start strong; don't concede quite obviously worked!

Nine minutes in, our goalkeeper comes to collect a cross and gets challenged. Caught with the elbow of the striker and ball ended up in the net. First change and unfortunately Louis didn't take any further part in the game. Changes were made fifteen minutes in to try and fix the mess we found ourselves in, and boy did the players put a shift in!

We finally pulled one back, with Jake firing in from a well delivered Bradley cross.

After creating a lot of chances it was 3-1 at half time. A slight rollicking at half time to get them going for the second half. Carried on where we ended, lots of the ball and creating chances.

We got a deserved second goal from Jaime Esteban, who done a fine job in goal for the first half. Replaced by Tommy. The third goal was a penalty by Marcin. Good work in midfield and coolly finished spot-kick.

After our hard work we gifted them a goal out of nothing, their only attack of the 2nd half. And it was 4-3 to Doverhouse. We kept battling and created the chances as we did in the first half. We finally got our equaliser from another Esteban goal and it stayed 4-4 for the remainder of normal time. We created enough chances to win the game but couldn't take them.

**Penalties:** nerve jangling penalties that determined the result. Merton scoring all three with Esteban saving two penalties, giving us the edge. Unfortunately, we missed our fourth, but coolly dispatched the fifth to win the penalty shootout.

A deserved result from the game, but a tough test from Doverhouse.  
We tackle Three Bridges in the next round!

Well done to all the boys, great courage!

Thanks to Marcus for running the line and Pippa for taking the photos.

Claire for happily taking over Pitch Marshall role which is working well.

Carry on the hard work boys!



Merton U15s: team line-up at the Hood



Merton U15s: before going off injured

# 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. Am I the only person who has never seen anyone slip on a banana?
2. I have realised that relationships are like workshops. The man works and the woman shops!
3. If women can read minds, every couple of seconds Man would get slapped!
4. The thicker your thighs are, the more space you can lay snacks on your lap
5. I'm not weird, I'm a limited edition
6. Before you criticise someone, walk a mile in their shoes. That way you're a mile away from them and you have their shoes.
7. I don't run away from hard work, I'm too lazy to run
8. I made my Facebook name "Benefits," so when you add me now it says "you're friends with benefits"
9. When does it stop being partly cloudy and start being partly sunny?
10. If a baby's leg pops out at 11:59PM but his/her head doesn't come out until 12:01, which day was he/her born on?

**TV OF THE WEEK:**

Newzoids – ITV

**SONG OF THE WEEK:**

Please Don't Go – Joel Adams



# WHO'S WHERE AND WHEN

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## SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2016

**1s**  
**MERTON FC v OLD FINCHLEIANS**  
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 15:00

**2s**  
No Fixture

**3s**  
**MERTON FC v CARSHALTON**  
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 15:00

**4s**  
No Fixture

**5s**  
**ACTONIANS ASSOCIATION v MERTON FC**  
Gunnersbury Park – 13:00

**6s**  
**MERTON FC v CARSHALTON**  
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 13:00

## SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2016

**U9s**  
**MET POLICE REDS v MERTON FC**  
Imber Court Sports Club – AM

**U11s**  
**HAMPTON YOUTH v MERTON FC**  
Kingsfield – AM

**U13s**  
**BEACON HILL JUNIORS v MERTON FC**  
Hindhead Playing Fields – AM

**U14s**  
**MERTON FC v ROCKS LANE**  
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – AM

**U15s**  
**MERTON FC v BEDFONT EAGLES**  
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – AM

**MERTON FOOTBALL CLUB**

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