

# THE MERTON WAY



# MINUTE OBSERVED

**F**ootball was not the most important thing on Saturday at the Hood as the club was honoured when Chris came with Nick's friends to spend time with us at the club and mourn with us the passing of his brother and our friend. All our teams and visitors observed a minute's silence before the game and Ally Pally, our 3s opponents offered their condolences to all in a most respectful manner and we are grateful to them for their compassion. Michael Todt, our secretary is discussing with Chris and some of the 3s as to how best we can commemorate Nick at the club.

The results over the weekend were generally good. The 1s drew with HSBC and kept their good run going. The 4s 5s and 6s all had good wins but the 2s lost a game away at Weirside that by all accounts they had enough chances to win.

The Youth section is going from strength to strength and the three home sides all won on Sunday.

We have heard from the SAL that the Merton 7th team has been accepted into the League and will play their first league game this Saturday. This will be real achievement to have recruited enough members for an extra team when so many clubs are struggling.

# 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 would like to apologise to all the people I have not yet offended.  
Please be patient, I will get to you shortly!
2. Am I the only one who calculates how much sleep I can get before going to bed?
3. You know you're girlfriend's mad at you when she starts off her sentence saying "I just find it funny how"!  
Because there's a 99.9% chance she did not find it funny
4. I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize
5. Singing in the shower is all great until you get shampoo in your mouth and then it becomes just a soap opera!
6. Common sense is like a deodorant. The people who need it most, never use it!
7. Last year, I asked Santa for the sexiest person ever for Christmas.... I woke up in a box
8. I figured out the other night that alcohol doesn't make you fat. It makes you lean... againt tables, chairs, floors and walls
9. Hey Mel, you're the cheese to my macaroni ; )

**TV OF THE WEEK:**

The Young Pope – Sky Atlantic

**SONG OF THE WEEK:**

24k Magic – Bruno Mars

# QUIZ NIGHT

THE RETURN OF THE 'THAT'S THE MERTON QUIZ' WHICH TAKES PLACE AT THE HOOD NEXT SATURDAY. AFTER THE RIP-ROARING SUCCESS OF LAST YEAR, AND WITH SHERBS AT THE HELM AS QUIZMASTER, THIS ONE PROMISES TO BE EVEN BETTER. AND THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT THERE IS STILL SPACE. PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE DETAILS BELOW TO GET YOURSELF PENCILLED IN....

## THAT'S THE MERTON QUIZ RETURNS

SATURDAY 12TH NOVEMBER  
JOSEPH HOOD RECREATION GROUND  
6.30PM-10.00PM (MAX OF 6 PER TEAM)

£10PP INCLUDES FISH & CHIPS OR SAUSAGE & CHIPS OR HALLOUMI & CHIPS

### CATEGORIES INCLUDE:

THE YEAR THAT WAS, SPORT, FOOTBALL, MUSIC, FILMS,  
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE, PICTURE ROUND AND MORE!

### TEAMS AND THEIR CAPTAINS RESERVED SO FAR:

MERTON U-11S, 13S & 16S GREAT WORK FROM MERTON YOUTH!  
1S (SIMON CLAPPERTON)  
2S (RYAN GREASY)  
3S (NEAL DAVIDSON)  
4S (ED, TODDY, CHRIS +2)  
6S X 2 TEAMS (CLIVE CORRIGAN)  
6S X 1 (KEVIN LOCKE)

## ARE YOU IN A TEAM? WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE IN A TEAM?

SPEAK TO YOUR TEAM CAPTAIN OR MAKE YOUR OWN TEAM AND  
CONTACT SHERBS @ SHERBERT82@HOTMAIL.CO.UK OR BOOK VIA  
THE EVENT SITE ON FACEBOOK.

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/EVENTS/1788708864677417/](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/EVENTS/1788708864677417/)

PLEASE CONFIRM WITH YOUR CAPTAINS WHAT FOOD YOU WOULD LIKE ON THE  
NIGHT DURING HALF TIME OF THE QUIZ SO WE CAN ORDER CORRECTLY.

# 1s

## MERTON FC 0 HSBC 0

After a 0-0 draw to EBOG last week at the Hood, the Merton men donned their yellow kits again at the Hood for a match up against HSBC, who were promoted last year from the Senior 3 division. Most of the Merton men arrived to the Hood at 12:45 sharp for their first 2pm kickoff of the season. The team welcomed back veteran defender Rat, who had been injured in the first game of the season. Vanny, still side-lined with a lingering hamstring injury, led the warmups and locker-room banter. He informed the team of HSBC's recent form, stating incorrectly that HSBC had defeated EBOG by two goals, knowing all too well that this would psyche the guys up after last week's draw to EBOG.

Before kickoff, a minute of silence was held to remember the tragic death of Nick Papanastasiou, who was a beloved Merton player and friend. Both teams stood opposite each other at the center circle for a minute of reflection. The Merton players wore black bands around their right arms as tribute to Nick and his loss to the club.

Merton had the first chance of the game as young James, making his first start for the 1s at left wing, (hopefully first of many) found himself on goal early after crossing up the HSBC right back inside their penalty box. Despite a solid look at the goal, HSBC's keeper made a diving save on James' shot. This was Merton's best chance of the first half and one of the best of the match.

Both teams played extremely physical football and neither took a clear advantage early. The ball was in the air more than either would have liked, but Merton's strong midfield trio of Tilly, Woody, and Will Low, won a majority of these aerial contests. However, the team lacked composure early and fiddled away a number of would be chances that could have turned the game Merton's way.

HSBC overcompensated for their inferior skill with physical play and tried to rattle the Merton side with a bit of trash talking. The trash talking started out quite benign, but later in the first half after a clean tackle



Merton 1s: the 1s remember Nick



Merton 1s: spot the ball competition

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by Chaz in Merton's box on a frail number 9, the trash talking escalated quickly to ugly exchanges of words, late tackles, and face-to-face square offs. Unfortunately, this made an already sloppy match, sloppier and resulted in a number of skirmishes, which culminated in Kearnsey's red card around the 80th minute. He will miss three matches.

Despite a disappointing result for Merton, in which the team could not capitalise on its chances, there were a number of bright spots. Merton was close to scoring on several occasions. In the second half, Chaz sailed a squarely hit header just wide right off of a corner and Charlie, in typical solid form, had a number of shots on goal, most notably, a volley that was saved by their keeper. Els, a late substitution for right wing Milo, gave the team a much needed spark off the bench and demonstrated his speed and skill on the ball by running around defenders and nearly taking it to the house a few times. Manny and Brauner came off the bench in the second half for James and a gimpy Rat, respectively, and kept Merton fresh. The team will follow up on Rat's injury after training on Wednesday.

In spite of the match's poor standard of play, the defence held strong and limited HSBC to just a handful of chances. Per usual Siri was stellar, though not needed nearly as often as in the past two matches. Siri did make his presence known in the first half with a diving stop of an HSBC header from the six yard box off of a free kick from a few yards outside of the top right of the 18-yard box.

In the past three matches, Merton's defence, led by Siri, have held the opposition to just one goal. Even with the team's defensive effort, Merton has been held scoreless in those three matches and has managed just two points to show for it. With some offensive fire power in Vanny returning shortly from injury and hopefully Tom Rowe later in the season, the team should make for a formidable foe and a tough team to face in league play.

Through six games, Merton sits 5th in the table with 9 points, only two points behind HSBC, who are 2nd with a game in hand. This would have been a huge victory that would have catapulted Merton to 2nd in the table. Merton was the better side and will be ready for HSBC next time.

Next week Merton heads south to the Charterhouse School for a second round AFA cup matchup against Old Carthusians, who play in the Arthurian League and are one of only a few English clubs to win both the FA cup and Amateur Cup. There is no doubt that Merton will be up for this one.

**TEAM:** Siri (GK), Kearnsey, Chaz, Clappers, Rat, Will Low, Tills, Woody, Milo, Charlie, James Laughton

**SUBS:** Brauner, Els, Manny

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** Will Low was voted man of the match for his dominating performance in the middle

**DICK OF THE DAY:** Kearnsey's red card earned him dick of the day, despite 4 votes for Vanny.



**Merton 1s:** are both skippers getting told off?



**Merton 1s:** another attack in vain

# 2s

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## MERTON FC 0 WEIRSIDE RANGERS 1

**W**eirside pulled off a robbery right under the noses of the Met Police (FC) to snare all 3 points at Imber Court. This was an emotional day for Merton, sporting black armbands and holding a minute's silence to mark the tragic passing of fellow boar Nick Papanastasiou last week. Merton started the game in Nick-esque fashion, with high energy and intensity, and might have had their first penalty a couple of minutes in when Dan skinned his man and was clipped on the line as he cut into the box. The game ground to a halt as everyone turned to the referee for his decision. Was it a pen or a free kick....? Neither, apparently, and the game went on. More bemusement followed as Merton's back 4 stepped up and confidently called offsite. No whistle.... and what seemed like half an hour later the ball was walked into our net with Big Jase setting off in hot pursuit of the ref which may have contributed to him twanging his groin 10 mins into the 2nd half.

Weirside's next real chance (of 3 in the match) wouldn't come until the last 5 minutes of the game. In the interim, almost everybody in yellow tried and failed to notch. First, Joe Grew flicked a header against the angle of post and bar. Then Pearcey was clipped in the box and went down quicker than an AC/DC groupie. Free kick awarded for diving. Then a Weirside defender blocked a cross/shot in the box with his hands raised above his head like an umpire signalling a six. No pen, despite a free-kick being awarded for the same thing in midfield 10 minutes later. As a sort of interlude from the succession of missed chances, Stoney put in a good old fashioned chopper on his opposite number, who moaned about it for the next 15 minutes to anyone within earshot. Sadly that didn't include the perpetrator as Mike had crocked himself and limped off straight after. Gresty followed a couple of classic amateur football moments (treading on the ball in the centre circle and shanking a cross out of play from the corner of the 6-yard box) by somehow managing to kick the ball over the bar whilst laying on the goal-line. Then his header in midfield put Dan clear through on goal, but the keeper saved bravely to send Merton into the break a goal down.

Merton pushed forward in the second half, finding joy from Cookie and Alex Goodwin pinging balls in behind the full backs. Pearcey was inches away from connecting with Dan's cross from the right and then he headed wide from 6 yards on the end of Rayner's. More good work down the right saw Dan stab a shot agonisingly between the post and Gresty. Lots of chances, but it much work for the keeper. That changed when Jordan rose like his Liverpool idol John Barnes (the player; not the awful pundit/channel 5 football presenter) but his header from the edge of the box was brilliantly tipped onto the bar. Cometh the hour mark, cometh DQ from the bench, making his Merton return after a succession of injuries/sexual harassment claims. And it's fair to say he looked a little rusty with his first effort, blazing high over the treeline from 10 yards out. He got much closer with his second though, a header nodded down at the back post, bouncing back off the upright and being scrambled away. Next up was Lofty, unleashing a fizzing piledriver which infuriatingly swerved back in towards the keeper and into his midriff. Weirside did have the odd foray into Merton territory, mostly mopped up by Stoney and Cookie at CB and the Alexes at full back. When they did carve out the chance to put the game to bed, Sherbs pulled off a wonder save, leaping at full stretch to palm the ball round the post. Merton's final chance came when Cookie surged



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forward and was scythed down on the edge of the box. Up stepped Alex G who bent a sumptuous free kick up and over the wall.... and inches wide of the near post. With that, the final whistle blew and the game was lost. The failure to score continued deep into Saturday night, but that is another story.

So a frustrating result and a game Merton really should have got something from. But to be honest it pales into insignificance in the context of this week.

**TEAM:** Sherbs, Alex King, Ben Cook, Big Jase, Alex Goodwin, Mike Stone, Gresty, Joe Grew, Rayner, Pearcey, Dan Kelly

**SUBS:** Lofty, Jordan, DQ

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** Alex Goodwin who just pipped Alex King, hitherto unmentioned in this match report because there were so many misses to get through.

**DICK OF THE DAY:** Pearcey

# 3s

## MERTON FC 1 ALEXANDRA PARK 3

This weekend's game was led by a minute's silence to remember to Nick Papanastasiou a top guy and true boar who sadly passed away whilst on his travels in Vietnam. Both teams showed there respects by engaging in a minutes silence prior to kick off.

Merton lined up with a 4-4-2 formation designed to move the ball quickly up the field to utilize the pace and flair of Glenn combining with the strength of Denys to ensure we could create chances to get an early goal against an in form Alexandra Park who have been bothering the top end of the table so far this season. The game kicked off with Merton under pressure in the first 10 minutes with a number of chances falling to Alexandra Park's right winger and striker with nothing coming to fruition.

Ricardo was forced off early on in the first half with a suspected injury to his ankle with Frankie coming on from the bench to push into left midfield and Andy dropping to left back. The game was fairly end to end with a number of chances for both sides materializing in the first half with most play coming down the wings for both sides yet neither side could convert until late in the first half where Alexandra Park scored the first goal of the game despite goalkeeper Dan doing his best to keep the chance out.

As the second half kicked off Merton were pressing from the midfielder to get an early goal back with a couple of chances flying over the bar or being comfortably saved by the goalkeeper. The second goal of the game came for Alexandra Park from a corner in which in some poor judgement from Frankie coming off the past far to early led to the opposition able to head home with ease at the far post. Merton looked to be struggling to get back into the game at this point with few opportunities a sub was made in which Elz was brought on after playing for the 1's and taking on a forward role at the expense of Denys. Almost with his first touch from a cleverly worked quick free kick Elz tapped in from the back post and Merton were back in the game. As Merton continued to press the team was switched to a 3-4-3 formation in which seemed to help



Merton 3s: minute's silence observed for Nick



Merton 3s: Yellow boar's downed by men in orange

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pile the pressure on to the opposition with chances presenting themselves more frequently than any other point in the game it looked like Merton would be able to get back into the game.

With a few minutes to run a late flurry from Alexandra Park saw their right winger forge a run into the box and an attempted tackle by Tony who had been solid at centre back the entire game saw the Alexandra Park player go down and a dubious penalty awarded. The initial effort was saved well by Dan with the follow up turned in by Alexandra Park which led to the final score of the game at 3-1.

Although not the result that the 3's had wanted to honor Nick's memory the game was played in good spirit with the opposition after the game going and paying their respects to Nick's family and friends who had come down to watch and support the game.

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** Glenn and Nick

**DICK OF THE DAY:** Frankie

# 4s

## MERTON FC 5 CIVIL SERVICE 0

It was a sombre week for Merton Football Club, with the tragic passing of Nick Papanastasiou. All teams wore black armbands and observed a minute's silence before their matches as a mark of respect. It certainly put many things into perspective.

That said, for a steadily improving Merton 4s outfit, it also provided ample inspiration to put in a good performance, and to try and go a small way to honouring Nick's memory. Civil Service were the oppo, a team who had already beaten Merton 4-1 earlier in the season, but the hope was that, on home turf, things would go differently this time around.

And, unlike pretty much every game this season, Merton came out of the blocks flying. The hunger was there for all to see, 50-50 challenges, duels, and second balls were all going the way of the mighty Yellow, and, to boot, they were even keeping it on the deck and playing football. Chances accrued too: Ryan Burchell narrowly blazing over the bar while both Dom and Sonny had a few half chances in the box.

But for all Merton's superiority, the goal stubbornly refused to come, and Civil Service nearly pulled a fast one at the other end, as a long-range effort ricocheted off the corner post.

It would have been a grave injustice - not entirely out of keeping with the story of the season - but Merton soon went up the other end and put things right. Some excellent build-up play saw Soony receive ball to feet, and, from the left-half of the box, he swotted it into the right corner with aplomb. 1-0.

One very soon became two. Dom beat the offside trap to get on the end of a through ball, and, as he rounded the keeper, the gloveman bundled him over with a woefully mistimed dive. The ref had no choice but to point to the spot, Dom stepped up, and duly dispatched it into the bottom left corner. 2-0, and the lads were buzzing.

Key to the performance already was the clever use of rolling subs, and one of those, Noor, turned provider for the third. His delivery from a corner was right on the money, and Sonny's volley from close range was never going to miss. 3-0. Scenes. Johnny Gridley said it best at that moment: "Pinch me, I'm dreaming."

At the break, there wasn't really much to say, other than to keep it up. To not switch off. To keep the hammer down. This is a team who've conceded a three-goal lead before, so remaining clinical was crucial.

And, by and large, they did just that. Everyone to a man, subs included, did their job superbly, and the visitors barely got a kick. The fourth goal took about 15 minutes to arrive in the second period, but it was a beauty. Dom did



Merton 4s: both sides pay their respects

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extraordinarily well to beat the offside trap again, and somehow carved out a cross from the byline. Waiting in the wings was Danny Gridley, and from point-blank range, he duly smashed it into the roof of the net. 4-0. Unbelievable.

You could probably make the argument that Merton's intensity dropped off a bit thereafter. But not by much. Civil Service might have scored from a free header at a corner, while on another occasion Kieran came off his line to collect a through ball and got lobbed - waywardly though. He made amends anyway with a fine reaction save from a volley at a corner.

That was about as good as it got for the away side though, and in truth it was Merton who had the greater chances. Jake, making a welcome return, unfortunately fluffed his lines when it may have been easier to score. Both Dom and Sonny missed some late chances too.

But the icing on the cake eventually arrived with a few minutes left on the clock. Once again, it was composed build-up play which set the foundation, and Dom latched onto a through ball. One on one with the keeper, there really was only going to be one outcome, and he calmly dinked it into the left corner for his second and Merton's fifth.

That's right. 5-0. And a perfectly just scoreline really. The final whistle went soon after, and the boys rightly rejoiced. What a thoroughly comprehensive and impressive performance this was from start to finish. Special mention to Kieran for playing 180 minutes on the day without conceding (he kept a clean sheet for the 6s too), but this was as good a team performance as you're likely to see.

Savour the moment, and remember what this feels like lads. Let's make sure this isn't a one off, and sets the tone. Because a memorable season awaits if this sort of form continues.

**TEAM:** Kieran Lee (GK), Ed Plaistow, Mike Todt, Joe Plumridge, Will Harrison, John Gridley, Chris Outred, Dan Gridley, Ryan Burchell, Sonny Kennedy, Dom Plumridge

**SUBS:** Noor Emad, Robert Tye, Jake Hewett

**SCORERS:** Sonny Kennedy (2), Dom Plumridge (2), Dan Gridley

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** Will Harrison

**DICK OF THE DAY:** No one. Can't give it after a game like that

# 5s

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## MERTON FC 2 POLYTCHNIC 0

Chiswick is fast becoming a home from home for us this year, and we made the long, arduous and at times torturous journey down for the third time this season having taken maximum points from the first 2. We arrived early [apart from this weary match reporter travelling down from Manchester] and were suitably warmed up before the game – slightly worrying was the tired faces after the mildest of exercises but we started quickly nonetheless.

In the early stages of this game we seemed to be set on writing the wrongs of last week and were pressing and defending as a collective. It took around 10 – 15 minutes for us to create our first real chance, with the ball breaking to Andy Bitmead who turned and ran at the defence. As he approached the 18 yard box, he carefully stroked the ball towards goal with his left foot. The ball beat the keeper, but agonisingly for the 5s struck the foot of the post and rebounded perfectly for their defence to clear.

The 5s were immediately on the offensive again though, and the ball was played over the top for Dulanjie to chase. It seemed a lost cause with the defender having such a head-start, and in truth the defender should have had total control of the situation. It seemed he was put off by the whole of their team demanded he put the ball out for a corner; either that or he was in deep contemplation over what to have for dinner later. The houndish Dulanjie sniffing an opportunity managed to catch the defender and swing a long limb around the defender and prod the ball past the keeper. He claims it was a leg, however without video evidence it remains uncertain which limb did make contact – all we know is that the 5s were 1 up and Dulanjie maintains his rich goal scoring form.

Speaking of Rich, he was the next to come close. As a result of some excellent interchange between Rich, Dulanjie and Andy, the ball was laid back to Rich 20 yards from goal. His ferocious effort dipped and



Merton 5s: both sides pay their respects



Merton 5s: Dulanie doubles up

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swerved but unfortunately, marginally too late to ripple the back of the net. A fine effort though – surely a matter of time!

In fairness to the opposition, they reacted pretty well to going a goal down and got themselves into the game. We defended resolutely in spite of the pressure, limiting them to long range chances that were effortlessly caught by Sam in goal. The one time he was worked meaningfully was when their forward latched on to a through ball, however was met by Sam who was quick off his line and narrowed the angle to make it impossible for the striker to slot it past him. That save was to be the only good save of note that he was forced to make, but he made it comfortably.

Apart from a difficult header for Dulanjie that he narrowly mistimed, the first half ended without much more excitement. The second half saw the 5s defence dominate, leaving Sam in goal redundant – he may as well have brought one of the new “ipad” devices and watched final score whilst chilling with a can of Carlsberg. At the other end, we were continuing to create chances, however they were mostly half chances and we struggled to score the elusive second goal. That is until the final couple of minutes, when Dulanjie picked the ball up just outside the box, turned and rifled a shot that deflected off the defender and beat the hapless keeper to end the game at 2-0. Own goal, perhaps? We will give Dulanjie the benefit of the doubt on this one.

And thus the flying 5s soared to a heroic victory off the back of a terribly disappointing result last week. We performed well as a team and most players came off notably exhausted, with Gibbo in particular moving as limply as a cat that had been run over by a double decker bus. Everyone performed well & deserves a pat on the back. The man of the match award though was given to

Delman, who was unbelievably solid throughout, outpacing all of their forwards to literally run rings around them. Other performances of note were the remarkably solid Steve and Clive at the back who did not put a step wrong, Dwayne and Aaron whose pace caused Poly’s back line no end of problems, Gibbo who was combative in the centre of midfield with Ackers and Andy getting on the ball and dominating possession, and the impressive Dulanjie who added another 2 to his impressive tally for this season. Well played lads, let’s do our best to take this into the next game.



**Merton 5s:** what a fine bunch



**Merton 5s:** Man of the match Delman celebrates in the bar

## 6s

## MERTON FC 2 SOUTH BANK CUACO 0

**F**resh off of the back of this season's first win, the Sixes welcomed South Bank back down to the Hood for the early kick-off. A little too early for some, with Paul turning up just moments before the start, keeping traditions alive and well. John would be so proud.

There were some enforced changes to last week's winning team, with Chris unavailable and Swanny having that back of 90 year old. In came Anan hungry for minutes on the pitch, and Kieran, thirsty for... well we all know what Kieran is thirsty for.

After the usual drill sergeant like levels of motivation from the gaffer, and finer tactical pointers ("Give the ball to the young lads", "Kieran, if you're seeing three balls just stop the middle one"), we were ready for blood.

The first half was a tight affair, with both teams playing some decent football, but neither team making the breakthrough. Merton did get some luck though with South Bank losing a player to injury, and thus having no subs for the rest of the game. No we had to take advantage to of this and test the tiring South Bank legs.

At this point it should be noted that the defence were particularly playing a blinder, holding a compact, but high defensive line, and winning first balls left, right and centre. South Bank's dangerous forward line were getting frustrated. George was having the best game of is Merton career.

The only real trouble to speak of was a couple of misunderstandings between the back four and the stand in keeper. The defence left, what they thought were, a couple of easy balls for the keeper. But with Kieran on the look out in case any WADA testers turned up, he was slow off of his line. Luckily we made it to half-time without any disasters. 0-0.

Fresh legs were needed up top, so on came Paul and Scott. The less said about Ram's brief, but brave, cameo the better.

The pressure was all Merton. Corners, free kicks and long throws were all flung into the box, but still no break through.

Finally the break through came. Paul made a strong run into the box and was sent tumbling to the ground by the keeper. Blatant penalty surely?! All eyes went straight to the referee, who remained impassive. In the confusion Scott found the ball at his feet and found the back of the net. 1-0 Merton.

Merton continued to have the best of the play and soon enough all eyes were again on the referee,



Merton 6s: started off the day remembering Nick



Merton 6s: Adam presses the oppo, Pete's not interested



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demanding another penalty. Scott found himself in a position to shoot and tried his best to bend the ball into the top corner. His best wasn't all that good. The ball was flying miles wide, but for some unknown reason a South Bank defender threw a hand at the ball. This time even the ref couldn't deny it.

Now the arguments begin. Who will take it? The usual suspects are all interested. Pete. How many did you miss last season? Ty. Not the way you've been taking free kicks today. Kev. No chance gaffer. So up stepped Scott, in the midst of fine goal scoring run. He did his best to miss it, he really did. He hit it straight at the keeper. But he fumbled the ball, and bang, 2-0.

All Merton had to do was see out the remaining minutes of the game, and do nothing stupid.

South Bank had nothing left to give and their frustrated forwards had no answer to Merton's experienced and robust defence. It ended 2-0.

A second straight win and the 6s find themselves third in the league. Bring on next week and Alleyn Old Boys down at the Hood.

**TEAM:** Kieran, Kev, Chappell, Beanz, George, Adam, Anan, Ty, Callum, Trey, Pete

**SUBS:** Scott, Ram, Paul

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** Unanimous this week. Nothing and no one got past George at right back this week.

**DICK OF THE DAY:** It could've been Ram for his brave effort whilst playing ill (hungover). It could've been Paul for his phenomenal time-keeping. But this week Adam was literally Dick of the Day. A dick so popular that even one of the opposition players had to have a feel.

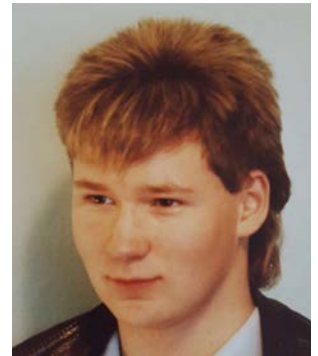


**Merton 6s:** Scott on the double and showing his love



**Merton 6s:** Pete rises highest

# STEVE BURCHELL



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

Outside of the club I have been a Policeman for 27 years and a dog handler for 16. (Don't worry I am always off duty where football is concerned) I had the honour of being awarded National Police Action Dog Team of the Year last year so must be ok at my job. I also run a dog training, walking, sitting business Surrey K9 Training (Thanks for the free advertising) I am very busy with work but still arrange things to get down to football almost every week. Advice to youngsters play as long as you can because you will miss it when you get old like me!

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

I started at Merton as the team I played for folded, I still played Mid-week and decided to take up refereeing. I answered an advert for a club referee and started reffing Merton teams every week. I missed playing at the weekend and realised that the standard was still one I felt I had something to offer. Joined up and the rest is history 7 years later I have played for 4's, 5's and 6's currently on loan from 6's to 5's!

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

Best moment at Merton was walking out on the pitch in the same team as my son Ryan making his debut at 16 (ish) couldn't have been a prouder moment and I am in awe of the fantastic young man and player he has become (much better than me and I take no credit for that).

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

If I could play for any team obviously the mighty SPURS would be up there (I'm used to disappointment) but I would have to say England! I would belt out the anthem and wear the shirt with pride and passion in the mould of Stuart Pearce or Terry Butcher not the prima donnas who think they are bigger than they are nowadays. Rant over!

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

Pre-match routine got to be the pre-match dump! Remove excess body weight and avoid those embarrassing skidmarks!

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

Now I seem to be on permanent loan to the fives my hope for the season is that the team continue in the rich vein of form and team spirit we have and go on to win the league!

**Player of the season (so far):** Ryan Burchell

**Childhood Team:** Spurs unless you count I played for Hales Hornets in little league!

**Favourite team in the UK:** Tottenham Hotspur

**Favourite team outside the UK:** Barcelona (been to the stadium, a great set-up)

**Childhood Hero:** X-Men (cartoon version)

**Favourite Food:** Steak, extremely well done

**Favourite Drink:** used to be Becks, now a nice Speckled Hen

**Favourite Band:** The Script, but love all sorts of music

# RAPID FIRE

POSITION: STILL WORKING IT OUT

BIRTH DATE: 13/11/1991

BIRTH PLACE: ROMFORD, ESSEX

PREVIOUS CLUBS: NONE, RECENTLY  
MOVED ACROSS FROM PLAYING RUGBY

# ANDY LEWIS



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

Hi everyone, I work for BT (like many Merton players) and live in South London, having recently departed my homeland of Essex. My degree is in Sport and Exercise science so completely irrelevant to my current job, but sport has always been something I've been passionate about and I've played loads over the years. I would describe myself as fairly self-deprecating most of the time, layered with sarcasm and the occasional witty comment.

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

I was introduced to the club by my good pal Mike Stone, who used to work with me at BT.

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

I'd say this is to be confirmed, but perhaps our dramatic penalty shoot out win in the cup a few weeks back. I bottled it and didn't take one but we were all very happy.

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

Probably anywhere in the MLS for the weather and money.

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

Nope, other than lots of stretching these days since tearing my hamstring not that long ago.

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

On a personal level I'd like to simply know my best position and be comfortable knowing what I'm doing on an 11-a-side pitch. As a team we've had a tough start but I think we are good enough to push up the table before long.

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Player of the season (so far): N/A

Childhood Team: Romford & Gidea Park RFC

Favourite team in the UK: West Ham United

Favourite team outside the UK: Flamenco??

Childhood Hero: Jonny Wilkinson

Favourite Food: Curry

Favourite Drink: Premium Lager

Favourite Band: Oasis

# RAPID FIRE

# U13s

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## MERTON FC 4 WORPLESDON RANGERS 3

**T**oday Merton FC played Worplesdon Rangers in a action packed match. Before the game started there was a minute silence for a Merton adults player who had sadly died in a traffic accident.

When the match kicked off, there was lots of runs and plays are happening at both ends of the field. Then Worplesdon Rangers get a free kick on the halfway line and there taker smacks it forward and it bounces over the keeper. 1-0 to Worplesdon rangers. Later on the other team gets a corner it comes curling in and one of the Merton defenders headers it into his own net. 2-0 to Worplesdon Rangers . Although Merton were 2-0 they still had fight in them but Worplesdon went on the attack again and scored making it 3-0 after only 15mins, not a good start.

Later on Marcus got the ball and ran Through the defender and made it 3-1.

Straight after Marcus received the ball and ran with it and he couldn't be stopped then he shot and it went in 3-2 to the opposition, the come back was on. After attacks at both ends of the pitch and saves from both keepers . Merton did a few passes then got the ball out to Marcus and then he put the ball in the box to Theo who then smaked a left footed volley straight into the bottom right hand corner. Everyone cheered and was impressed of what a good goal it was to level it at 3-3.

Half-time, Steve gave the boys a talk and told us what we need to do.

The second half kicks off and lots of chances happen at both ends both defences had there work cut out for them.

Their keeper takes a goal kick and it falls to Evan who smacks it straight over the keeper it was a excellent goal. Later on the opposition looked like they were going to equalise, but then the linesman said offside as the striker put the ball into the net.

The final whistle blew and it ended 4-3 to Merton.

Everyone worked hard in the match, but the Man of the Match was Marcus.

### Match report by

Jack Harrington (left back/centre back)



**Marcus:** Man of the Match

# U14s

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## MERTON FC 11 BEDFONT EAGLES 0

**O**ur Under 14s held their 7th league game at 'THE HOOD' against Bedfont Eagles again after meeting them in 2nd Round of the Invitation Cup Away from Home knocking them out 4-1. Immediately from the start you could see the confidence flowing, with the U14s dominating possession straight away creating a host of chances in & around the opposition area. 10 minutes in Dwayne Clarke opened the scoreline with a tidy finish! great assist by Mattia Salardi cutting inside from the left & rolling it across the 6 yard box.

Christopher Sindika top goalscorer for the 14s was quick to score the second with a long range effort! The first half was a solid despite the opposition trying their best to retain possession but the 14s seemed to be superior displaying great passing ranges across the pitch and players quick to regain the ball when losing it. This followed right through the second half with the match ending 11-0.

Probably U14s strongest display as a TEAM! The scorers were Mattia Salardi with (2), Dwayne Clarke (3), Alfie Waters (1), Boris Mijalcev (1), Chris Sindika (2), Jamal Semambo (1) & Marcus Scotland (1). Congratulations to Jamie Berry 2 clean sheets in a row.

Merton U14s still sit top of the league with 19 points with 7 games played! A Great confidence boost for the next fixture in the 3rd round of the Invitation cup against AFC Ewell! (Away).

# U15s

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## MERTON FC 4 WHITTON WANDERERS 2

**O**n a cold, foggy morning Merton tried to continue the good performance from the following week against Kingstonians.

We started extremely strong, moving the ball around at ease and dominating the play. It was only a matter of time; when we scored our first goal. Both strikers battling for the ball, Bradley finally taking control and rolling it underneath the keeper. Lead fully deserved and this saw the team grow in confidence and kick on in the game. We continued to pressurise Whitton when they had possession making it difficult for them to get out of their own half, Bradley capitalising again and scoring his second of the game.

We continued to keep our shape well and moved the ball around confidently, gaining praise from onlooking parents from the game behind us. The boys at this point looked extremely confident on and off the ball and continued to play with a confidence that they had developed the week before.

Whitton had a corner, and from the corner we hit them on the break. Bradley having the confidence to turn and run at the back line and finish past the on rushing keeper. 3-0 and Merton looking very strong.

Big smiles all round and this was looking like it was going to be an excellent day for the side. Whitton began to get a foothold in the game but didn't really test Esteban, who volunteered to go in goal for the first half.

Half-time and it was a clear message of continue what we had produced in the first half.

Second half began and we had to make changes, one being Tommy in goal. Changes to the team effected the flow of our game and we began to look sloppy and panic on the ball. The message wasn't getting across to settle down on the ball and don't panic!

Whitton grabbed a goal back after some sloppy defending from our back line, allowing Whitton player to get himself out of a tight space with 3 players surrounding him.

Frustrations grew and Merton couldn't get their game going again, sloppy passes, tackles and general all round play affected the flow of Merton.

We reverted back to Sam and Bradley up top and it paid dividends - Sam finishing off a neat move to secure the game.

Great first half performance, sloppy second half, but a win.

Wanted to mention the impeccably observed minute silence for Nick from the adult side who sadly passed away in the week. The players are proud to wear the badge, as was Nick. Thank you to Whitton for respecting this and joining us in the respectful minute.



Merton U15s: warming up on a foggy Sunday morning

# MARCIN



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

After a friend told me that Merton were having trials last season, i joined the team because of them.

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

Winning my first award last season.

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

I would play for Real Madrid or Arsenal because I enjoy their styles of play.

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

Not really - we sit in changing rooms before the game and listen to music.

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**Player of the season (so far):** N/A

**Childhood Team:** Arsenal

**Favourite team in the UK:** Arsenal

**Favourite team outside the UK:** Real Madrid

**Favourite Food:** Chinese/Thai

**Favourite Drink:** Any

**Favourite Band:** Any

# RAPID FIRE

# WHO'S WHERE AND WHEN

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## SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2016

**1s**  
**OLD CARTHUSIANS v MERTON FC**  
Charterhouse School Playing Fields – 13:45

**2s**  
**MERTON FC v OLD BLUES**  
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 14:15

**3s**  
**ACTONIANS ASSOCIATION v MERTON FC**  
Old Actonians Sports Club – 13:45

**4s**  
**BANK OF ENGLAND v MERTON FC**  
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 14:15

**5s**  
**MERTON FC v HSBC**  
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 14:15

**6s**  
**MERTON FC v ALLEYN OLD BOYS**  
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 14:15

**7s**  
**MERTON FC v CARSHALTON**  
King George's Recreation Ground – 14:15

## SUNDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2016

**U9s**  
**MERTON FC v WOKING COUGAR COLTS**  
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – AM

**U11s**  
**CARSHALTON ATHLETIC GREENS v MERTON FC**  
Away – AM

**U13s**  
**SHEEN LIONS PRIDE v MERTON FC**  
Away – AM

**U14s**  
**AFC EWELL v MERTON FC**  
Away – AM

**U15s**  
**WHYTLAFE WANDERERS v MERTON FC**  
Away – AM



**MERTON FOOTBALL CLUB**

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