

THE MERTON WAY



TAKING STOCK

The youth section is firmly established now with Five teams (U9s, U11s, U13s, U14s and U15s) representing the club and playing their home games at the Hood on Sunday mornings. We are well on our way to fulfil our ambition of having all ages covered from U8s to U16s with nine teams. This has been achieved with a lot of hard work and commitment from Steve Dewsbury and all his managers. This is more than just a long-term recruitment plan for the club.

What are we trying to achieve with a Youth Section?

- We are trying to encourage the growth of the 11 aside amateur game.
- Teaching our players how to play football with all our managers and coaches having at least FA level 1 coaching qualifications and certificates in Emergency Aid and Child welfare.
- Teaching them about the Respect campaign; respect for referees, the opposition, the managers and the club and its equipment and all the necessary discipline and responsibility in being a member of a team.

- Providing competitive organised, and well administered football in a socially supportive environment.
- Teaching them how to enjoy all that amateur football has to offer.

But it is more than about football.

- We want them and their parents and family to enjoy the camaraderie of Merton Football Club.
- To participate fully in its social and footballing events.
- We want the players to want to progress through the club playing for the adult sides when they are old enough.
- We want them to learn how to enjoy everything amateur sport has to offer and learn how to win and lose with grace and enjoy the game and friendship.

Obviously, we have to charge for this as it is important that the adult section should not subsidise the youth section and we have obtained modest sponsorship and grant aid for the section.

A lot of work is going into the youth section and you ought to come down to the Hood on a Sunday morning and see how it is going. It is an uplifting experience.

THINGS TO KNOW

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.

VALUABLES

Please **DO NOT** leave any valuables in the changings room, and if a key is not available, take all belongings out to pitch side in your own kit bag or a team valuables bag.

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!!

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

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. Having a dirty mind makes normal conversations interesting.
2. My girlfriend's crazy, and when you think you've reached the bootom of her craziess, there's a crazy underground garage.
3. I have recently realised that my brain is like the Bermuda Triangle... Information goes in and then is never found again
4. This is me every morning:
Me: I really can't stay
Bed: But baby, it's cold outside.
5. **Sister:** "OK, what did this dress say to you?"
Me: Err.... beware of crazy woman who talk to dresses?
6. I was in the gym the other and was admiring my six pack so much, but have decided to protect it with a layer of fat!
7. **Me:** I like your teeth!
Man on bus: Thanks! :)
Me: They remind me of a song.
Man on bus: What song?
Me: Black and Yellow, Black and Yellow!
8. I don't trust joggers. They're always the ones who find dead bodies... just saying!

TV OF THE WEEK:

The Missing – BBC1

SONG OF THE WEEK:

Rockabye – Clean Bandit

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/

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



SEASON REVIEW

BY RYAN GREASY

Do not adjust your computer/mobile device/scrap of paper you are reading this on... Merton has a cricket team! The latest incarnation of summer sporting excellence saw Merton FCCC turn out for 4 evening T20s over the course of summer 2016, winning 3 and losing 1. The green shoots of a cricket team were sewn in the Hood bar, where talk of certain members pissing off to South Africa during the football season to watch England crush the hosts spurred numerous claims of “I used to play a bit of cricket/I fancy a go/I have nothing better to do with myself once the football season is over” and suddenly we had a cricket squad. Here is the season review:

MERTON FCCC (83-1) BEAT TOTIE (82) BY 9 WICKETS

The first lambs up for the slaughter were TOTIE, one of Ryan’s other teams. Starting with 10 while Lofty was doing his best tramp impression - wandering around Hampstead Heath with a bag of tinnies in hand, Merton bowled first and skittled the oppo for just 82. Nick Papanastasiou backed up his big talk of bowling prowess throughout the winter with a commanding spell of new ball bowling (1-20), but most memorable were his fielding antics. In the very first over a straight one was hit back at him at a nice catching height which he shelled upwards over his head. The non-striker looked on in disbelief as the ball bounced and rolled into the stumps and he was run out without facing. That was followed by a very tidy catch at slip, before dropping an absolute dolly on the fence shortly after.

Lofty finally joined the party and chucked a few medium pacers down which were hard to get away, but not as hard as Clappers’ super-stodgy pies delivered like bouncing bombs which died in the soft pitch and were impossible to get off the square. Panic set in and wild swings saw wickets tumble, particularly at the hands of ringer Dave who returned incredible figures of 4 wickets for no runs off 8 deliveries as TOTIE were all out for 82.

So a friendly total for the MFCCC boys to chase. Step forward everyone’s favourite South African, Mike “BIG MIKE” Todt, who launched a series of humungous sixes onto the roof of the school next door and into the park, sending bystanders scattering to all parts. Once Mike and fellow opener (ringer) Tom had each retired on 25*, Welch steered the team home with a series of comical 1s, 2s and even a 3 which left his somewhat rotund batting partner calling for the pitch-side oxygen tank.

MERTON FCCC (163-9) BEAT TOTIE (112) BY 51 RUNS

Next up were Wimbledon United CC, Sherbs & Browner’s Sunday team (images from the game enclosed). The 5.45 start time came and went with just 3 Mertonites present so the toss was manufactured and Merton were graciously invited to bat first. Gratitude came by





way of a sensational display of destructive batting, starting with Clappers, after a couple of boring sighters, launching a pair of sixes onto the road beyond long on with his twig of a bat. BIG MIKE managed to hole out to the only fielder on the off side, but Tyson, Rat, Clappers (returning having retired on 25*) and Sherbs kept the run rate up around the “carnage” mark. The runrate-ometer had no scale for what followed: Tom Rowe launching the ball to all corners and notching his 25* off just 8 balls, 50% of which were maximums.

163 was always going to be a challenge to chase down, and Browner showed no mercy by demolishing the opener’s stumps in his first over. Ty picked up the 2nd and Clappers managed to get one of his bombs to actually bounce rather than roll along the dirt, but Bronwer’s butter fingers gave the batsman a reprieve. Skipper Ryan was involved in an innings-long battle with Sherbs over field placings, arguing that putting every man back on the rope was a tad unnecessary with all these runs on the board. So Sherbs was hauled out of the attack by way of punishment and replaced with the unknown quantity of Welch, who claimed he’d never bowled before. His first ball landed perfectly on Glenn McGrath’s dime, and his second took a wicket sparking scenes of unbridled joy, laps of honour, ticker tape parades etc etc. All 10 outfielders got a bowl as the skipper shuffled his pack, Rat the pick of the bunch swinging the ball nicely to bamboozle the tail-enders. Less successful with the cherry was batting hero Tom Rowe, but he produced a champagne moment in the field, pouching a worldly at mid-on diving full stretch to his left and even earning a honk of approval from a passing motorist who really should have been looking where we was going. WUCC in the end put on a creditable 112 but there was never any danger to the Merton Men.

MERTON FCCC (131-8) BEAT LU ENGINEERING DEPT (73) BY 58 RUNS

Only 3 Mertonites turned out for this one, aided by a host of ringers, but the scoresheet shows a Merton FCCC victory so we will claim it. Put in to bat, ringers #1 and #2 got the innings off to a strong start before a tardy BIG MIKE strode out to the middle, played a couple of blocks and then opened those square shoulders and hooned another few sixes into the trees and the beleaguered school roof on his way to his second 25* in 3 knocks. Ringers #3 and #4 slapped a few more boundaries until one was run out by a sensational direct hit from the alarmingly-competent mystery saffa in the opposition ranks. Said saffa was then thrown the ball and cleaned up Ryan, ringers #6 and #7 with a display of pace bowling that Dale Steyn would have been proud of. The sight of the keeper standing 30 yards behind the stumps on such a slow pitch, with the additional protection of a long stop directly behind him, told you everything you needed to know about this lad’s pace.

Not to be outdone, Merton’s own paceman Nick opened the second innings with a sensational 3-over



Merton FCCCs: must have been a hole in the bat



Merton FCCCs: out or retired... either way, Ty looks village



spell that yielded just three runs. Swinging the ball away and in to the batsmen at will, throwing in the odd yorker and grinning from ear to ear throughout. This was cricket at its best, played the right way, and really was something to see. How he didn't take a wicket we will never know, and tragically we will never get to enjoy such a display again following Nick's tragic and untimely passing which leaves holes all over the club, not least at the top of our bowling attack.

BIG MIKE then delivered a truly awful display of leg spin with two overs that seldom saw the ball land on the pitch, was hugely expensive, but somehow contrived to yield two wickets and backing up the old adage that "filth gets wickets". Ringers #2-5 mopped up the other wickets and "Merton" added another comfortable win to the record.

PRINCE CONSORT XI (126-6) BEAT MERTON FCCC (115) BY 11 RUNS

Talk of The Invincibles proved to be premature as Merton fell at the final hurdle between them and a perfect 4-0 season. PCXI won the toss and chose to bat, spotting that Merton were somewhat light on the ground, and made hay in the first few overs as loose bowling and gaps in the field got them off to a good start. Making his MFCCC debut, Sam Harvey bowled with extreme pace but, ahem, loose control. Lofty showed him how it's done with hardly any pace and a dubious action that generated 3 quick wickets. And it could have been 4 when Kev Locke grassed a skier in the deep in the first of a series of fielding mishaps that swung the momentum back PCXI's way towards the end of the innings. Despite Rat and Sherbs' tight swing bowling at the death, a target of 126 looked imposing against the PCXI attack on a massive, damp outfield. First ball saw BIG MIKE struck on the pads in front and a vociferous appeal for LBW turned down due to the enormous stride that meant impact with the ball was just outside the non-striker's crease. Kevin Locke played some nice strokes including a glorious late cut for 4. No such aesthetic pleasures down the other end, as Mike scratched his way to 20 before he was out to a screaming caught & bowled. Kev holed out shortly after to signal the start of a procession to/from the pavilion (park bench). Ryan, Will Low and Rat arrested the slide, Will timing a sumptuous straight drive along the ground for 4 first ball, generating questions of the skipper as to why he was hidden so far down the order. Rat had a wedding to protect his face for, but still hit some dashing shots before Welch was run out by probably the greatest distance in the history of cricket, and Merton ended up 11 runs short at the end of the 20 overs.

All in all a positive season for men in yellow, in white. We'll aim for another 4/5 after-work T20s and one Sunday game next summer so if you're interested in turning out speak to Ryan Gresty or Mike Todt and we'll get you involved in 2017.



Merton FCCCs: next future England captain... not!



Merton FCCCs: Sherbs & Rowe lead us to victory

1s

MERTON FC 1 OLD CARTHUSIAN'S 4

AFA CUP CHANCES END WITH A BIG BANG!

Merton certainly won't remember, remember this particular 5th of November with much fondness following defeat against a well versed Old Carthusian's outfit in the AFA cup.

Despite the majority of the team having their blissful Friday night's sleep broken by Emillio's late night whatsapp search for a stud tightener, the team (rat aside) successfully followed Clappers' detailed directions to the picture perfect Charterhouse School in Godalming.

For a variety of reasons, Merton were missing some regular playing members but were buoyed by the return of Matt Boshier for his 1st appearance of the season. Ivan Gladkov was also welcomed back to the fold following his recovery from a slight hamstring strain.

Despite a swift 5k hike from the changing room to the pitch and a warm-up completed with good intensity, the match started badly for the Boars. The unfortunate demise of the public school fagging system meant that there were no ball-boys present to retrieve the ball as it trundled towards Godalming High Street immediately from the kick-off. When the ball did eventually return, a cross from the untracked OC left back caused mayhem inside the Merton 18 yard box and was rifled home with aplomb to give the hosts an early lead.

For the next 10 minutes Merton struggled to get a foothold in the game, whilst the movement of the OC midfielders and forwards impressed greatly. Though the hosts had a good amount of the ball, slowly and surely the men in yellow gained confidence and started to pass the ball with greater conviction whilst limiting the hosts to few clear cut chances. Midway through the half the unlucky Gladkov had to be substituted through injury once again, with the impressive Emillio replacing him. Leading Sports Injury expert Peter Browne later confirmed that the unlucky winger was suffering from a 'lump on the ankle'.



Merton 1s: audition's for the next Littlewood's catalogue



Merton 1s: Siri warming up

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Despite having little opportunity to get on the ball, Charlie & Johnny worked impressively hard up front and created a couple of half chances accordingly. It was this hard work that enabled Charlie to link up with Emilio on the right hand side and curl a beautiful strike inside the far post from 20 yards to level the game five minutes before half time and send the Merton support (2) into raptures.

The second half saw Merton hold a good shape and gradually frustrate the hosts with Sam & Nick providing additional valuable cover to the back four, whilst the introduction of Boshier and his subsequent pace provided a different outlet for the team. OC continued to have the majority of the possession whilst creating some decent half chances which were thwarted by Siri & Browne went close from a Merton corner. The game then swung the way of the hosts with 10 minutes left when Clappers was adjudged to have pushed the OC centre forward inside the penalty box. The OC player certainly made the most of any supposed contact but the referee who had frustrated the Merton players for most of the afternoon quickly pointed to the spot. Siri managed to lay a glove on the ball but to no avail and suddenly Merton had to chase the game. As they pushed up the pitch Browne was left 1 on 1 and was pulled back by the OC forward. Astonishingly the referee gave a free kick to OC and though it was defended well a free header from the resulting corner made it 3-1 and goodnight Vienna. The final minutes saw Merton get frustrated with the referee further when an offside was missed prior to another penalty being awarded (correctly) against Clappers for pulling inside the box. The penalty was scored and the game finished 4-1 which was very harsh on a Merton side who worked tirelessly against a very good side who will have eyes on winning the trophy.

After the game, the players were presented with hot food and squash by their upmarket hosts. A flapjack was also provided which looked fairly plain but was actually packed full of oatey goodness yet remained moist and soft, something that is far from easy to achieve on such a bake. With the inclusion of some dried raspberries or chocolate chips this would have been a genuine delight.

Next week sees the men in yellow travel to the Old Blues in another cup encounter. Whilst the return of some regulars and the depth in the squad will certainly provide Captain Clapperton with some selection dilemmas, it would appear that the injured Gladkov will be missing once again along with Kearns who starts his 3 match suspension. In light of this suspension and as part of the clubs commitment to growing community relations, local TV and radio stations have been asked to post regular adverts informing the women of West London that the Trump supporting Kearns is likely to be in the vicinity for the next few Fridays nights.

TEAM: Siri, Rat, Clappers (capt), Browne, Kearns, Gladkov (Emillio), Sam, Nick, Rayner, Johnny (Boshier), Charlie.

SUBS: Emilio, Boshier

MAN OF THE MATCH: Peter Browne, impressive performance on a pitch that didn't suit his playing style.

DICK OF THE DAY: Clappers gave away 2 penalties and stole 2 mini rolls after the game. Van got 2 votes.



Merton 1s: aerial challenge



Merton 1s: intro's prior to the game

2s

MERTON FC 4 OLD BLUES 1

This is not a misprint. After a frustrating few weeks with not a point to show for it, Merton finally got the result they had been threatening with a hard-fought but ultimately thumping victory against Old Blues. And, more importantly, set the record for the most Alex's in a team.

With a surfeit of attacking options available for the first time in a few weeks, Merton reverted to a 4-3-3 formation designed to get the best out of the Merton 14. James and Alex G lined up either side of Dan upfront, with a returning Andy Ross joining Ryan and player-manager extraordinaire Lofty in the middle of the park. At the back Pearcey moved back to centre back after two games playing much further forward, reunited with Cookie at centre back with Alex and Clowsey at fullback in a strong Merton XI. Lucky charm Alberto (1 appearance, 1 win this season) was on the bench with some borrowed shinpads, alongside Alex Welch (returning from injury) and Tom Benham (who made an ultra-middle class return as he sauntered late into the changing room with a cup of coffee).

Lofty had emphasised the importance of getting on the front foot, pressing high up the pitch and forcing the tempo, but perhaps a little exhausted by the triple-combination of the Gresty 5k run warm up, the referee showing up 15 minutes late, and a Clowsey sprint drill just before kick-off to keep us "sharp", instead Merton found themselves behind early-doors. Alex G blocked an Old Blues cross from close range with the ball hitting his hand from all of 18 inches and the referee awarded a free kick for handball. Harsh, but to be fair the ref continued to apply this interpretation throughout the game so can't argue with the consistency. From the resulting free kick, the ball escaped everyone and ended up drifting into the far corner. 0-1, and not the start Merton were looking for.

The goal at least did seem to stir Merton into life, and with the front three all threatening to get in behind and the midfield trio starting to dominate, Merton began to threaten. From their first corner Lofty whipped in a beautiful delivery that Dan of all people headed in (with his forehead, no less!), but the celebrations were cut short as the referee decided someone had pushed the keeper elsewhere in the box. A second harsh decision had Merton feeling rather disgruntled, but Merton continued to push for an equaliser and were rewarded on the half hour mark.

After a scrappy passage of play in the middle of the pitch, a lofted through ball down the middle saw Dan turn his marker and race on to the ball. The keeper (clearly a centre back as he spent all game way off his line and kicking/passing at every opportunity) had a rush of blood to the head and went for the interception a full 35 yards from goal. Dan displayed rather uncharacteristic composure to keep the ball away from the keeper, twist and turn the covering defender and then curl the ball past him into the now empty net. Said composure was then somewhat rattled as the ball curled back only slightly, clipped the inside of the post, ran across the line, hit the other post....and then finally rolled into the bottom corner. Phew. The record books shall nevertheless show a 30 yard finish into the bottom corner. Both of them. 1-1.

Having equalised, Merton were not stopping there and continued to press. James Laughton had his man on toast for much of the half and was proving a fantastic out-ball, his pace and trickery more than compensating for him giving away a few inches (and stone) vs his opposite number. One foray saw James

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free down the right only for his shot to fizz just high and wide of the upright, although perhaps the cross might have been the better choice in this instance! However, this was quickly forgotten as James won a free kick just inside the opposition half and from this Merton took the lead. The free kick was only half cleared as Dan made a nuisance of himself, James whipped the ball back in, and Alex G showed great awareness to knock the ball down for Lofty to hit on the volley just inside the area. The strike was clean, and despite a small deflection the ball was always goal-bound. 2-1 and a great goal.

Into the second half, and with no changes yet, Merton looked for a third goal to try and kill the game. It almost came immediately, as a beautifully shaped through ball from Lofty saw Dan latch on to it and sprint clear of the covering defender. This time the finish wasn't quite there, the keeper scrambling clear after an initial half stop. At this point, Old Blues were coming into the game more, and starting to threaten, and Merton were struggling to keep the ball. Sensing the time for fresh blood from the bench, Lofty rang the changes. Tom replaced Dan, and Alberto came on for Lofty as the game entered a nervy period. Old Blues were in the ascendancy but resolute defending from Merton meant no clear chance was offered up, with Cookie also throwing in a few trademark runs coming out with the ball, and the midfield making challenges when needed. Then, on the counter, a third goal. Andy got his head up to feed James in the channel, and as the ever eager keeper raced to try and intercept James coolly flicked the ball over and past him into the corner. 3-1. Three quickly became four, when Tom received the ball with his back to goal just inside the box, and then in the blink of an eye span and smashed the ball past the stunned keeper before anyone could react. Great to see Tom back and in the goals.

At this point Old Blues continued to go for it with nothing to lose, threatening most down their right. Alex Welch came on at left back and immediately looked right at home, calmly defusing more than one attack. Dan returned to replace the injured Pearcey (solid throughout) as Merton saw out the game without too many alarms. Apologies for the lack of Sherbs, and the back 4 in general in this report; it just shows how solidly unspectacular they were - and that is a compliment!

Next up, league leaders HSBC, and Merton go into the game in fine fettle after this convincing win.

MAN OF THE MATCH: James Laughton, a constant and classy menace down the right

DICK OF THE DAY: The thieves who robbed some of the team when we returned to the changing room. Talk about taking the shine off...

3s

MERTON FC 3 OLD OWENS 2

Again I have the pleasure of writing another match report due to this stupid rule someone (me) made about the dick of the day writing them!

However I don't mind getting dick of the day when actually I got it for taking one (not a dick) for the team. The oppo broke and I had a choice ... let him go and risk a dangerous attack or protect my back four and absolutely chop the fella in two I didn't need to think twice about that. The ref thought it was a yellow but as he ran towards me clutching his top pocket he realised (unlike my team mates) I had very little option but to do what I did and instead said "calm down a little".

The vote was closely contested though with Glenn who received a few votes for not being able to use google maps correctly. In fact the votes stood at 3/3 until Dan who was looking for his lost keys (which in hindsight very few of us actually helped with the search) entered the bar with roars of "have you voted yet?" Coming from the crowd of blood thirsty boars who were clearly waiting for an outright Dick!

Dan at this point could not give a flying **** about who had won/lost the vote quickly jotted down two names and cited me for the above mentioned tackle. (Which again I had no choice over, was protecting my team, didn't get booked for and stopped a very dangerous attack. But I won't say anything, a vote is a vote and I respect that. I respect it a lot!!!)

Back to the actual match report....

It was a long trip north for Merton 3s but with great hope. With everyone finding their way to the ground pretty easily except for Glen (who continues to have trouble with modern technology and the concept of Google Maps).

The lads were eager to ensure the long trip north would not be a waste of time. With some boars having a round trip of more than 100 miles this certainly was a need to take some points Home kind of day.

We knew instantly we would have no excuses today as the surface was beautiful and we had pride of place on pitch 1 directly outside the clubhouse.

We started with a solid looking 4-4-2 formation but soon found ourselves overrun in the middle of the park. Their three in the middle took control of the game and we were immediately put under pressure. We couldn't find our feet and with a lot of hectic passing, long balls and scrappy tackling the oppo sensed early on that we were a bit weary from our long journey. We were put under immense pressure with a distinct lack of possession early on but the oppo lacked any significantly dangerous fire power and our bodies were put on the line to sniff out and advert an early goal.

After about 20 minutes a free kick was given just forward of the left back position, a delightful cross picked out a player round the back post who rose high and above the defender(me) to powerfully head home the opener.

A quick formation change moving to more of a 4-5-1 formation really helped us get our confidence back. We started moving the ball quicker and using Denys who lead the line immensely all game and Glenn looked a lot more comfortable and dangerous out on the right. We started to play some football and test the goalie and net behind the goal with a few pop shots. The most significant effort was a free kick pushed over the bar

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from Glenn which two yards either side would have been a beauty. The team were playing better but there was no doubt the oppo were pushing for a second. Again a few half chances fell their way but resolute heart on your sleeve type defending generally doing the job.

Just on the stroke of half time another dangerous attack left their striker 1v1 with our keeper Dan who quickly came off his line to close down the angle and make himself big, the striker under pressure hit it hard straight into Dan's face and deflected wide for a corner. It was a superb stop by Dan's face which his brain, arms and body had absolutely no idea about.

The half-time chat was about work rate, second balls and relaxing on the ball a little. A straight swap with Andy coming on for Jordan the team set up to continue their 4-5-1 formation. This was a totally different start to the half, we took the game to Owens straight away and pushed a little higher up the pitch. With high pressure Owens started to lose the ball on a regular basis and with Andy proving to be a real handful Merton started to dominate the game.

A wayward through ball left Vincenzo with time to clear up... he took a look up and saw Glenn on the right hand side and played a delightful ball over the left backs head into Glenn's stride. Glenn immediately sensed a goal and rounded the keeper to draw level. The young side of Owens lost their head a little at this point and we continued to grow in confidence. Dan in goal was plucking balls out of the air at every opportunity and we were really using our wide men well. With Iain being dogged and oozing class in the middle we looked firmly on top. Once again Glenn peeled off the left back (who by this point must have wanted the game to end) and latched onto another peach of a ball from Dan. The keeper came steaming out trying to replicate Dan's first half save only for Glenn to coolly lift it over him and finishing sweetly. 2-1 up! Confidence was high and the second sub was made with Fitz coming in for a straight swap for Me. There was some debate as who should come off with Darcys name being mentioned but an executive decision was made and thank god we did.....After another few promising attacks and solid defending we got a free kick on the right, this was beautifully swung in by Dan and met by Darcy who rose like a salmon to cushion header the ball as slow as possible across the goal onto the post and in, some say shit goal and possibly. The first time ever a dotd vote given to a player for scoring a goal!

3-1... Now to see out the game. OO knew now they had to up their game and started to exert pressure however the defence stood firm until 15 mins to go when their striker danced a merry jig through the defence and slotted home. Maybe we should have defended better, maybe it was a good goal. Nonetheless it was backs to the wall stuff, with periods of dangerous play always threatening OO and pushing to kill the game again we managed to secure a deserved three points.

A great result with wild celebrations with the winners song being played in the shoe box changing room which all enjoyed! A well deserved Man of the Match to Glenn, but there were also other top performances from Both Dans, Denys, Andy and Iain all had 8/10 performances.

Dick of the day??? You having a laugh? You jesters

MAN OF THE MATCH: Glenn

DICK OF THE DAY: Neal

4S

MERTON FC 1 BANK OF ENGLAND 2

Bank of England. What a treat of a venue! For this scribe, it was a first, and a privilege to set foot on such facilities. Banished to the 'worst' pitch of the lot, according to locals, Merton were greeted with a superb surface, conducive to good football. Unfortunately, the referee was an old foe, and it was taken as given before the kick off that Merton would be up against a 12th man of sorts. How true that would prove.

The game got underway, but almost immediately, there was a setback. Joe, who'd been in superb form in his new position of centre back, pulled up injured. It was a big blow, and although Danny Gridley was a more than capable replacement, it meant his enormous influence was lost in midfield.

And it showed. Bank of England were making all the early running. Although clear-cut chances weren't necessarily coming thick and fast, Merton simply didn't seem to be at the races; barely winning any first or second balls.

But about midway through the first half, that all changed on a dime. With one of their first attacks of the game, Merton unlocked the defence with some excellent build up play, and a fine series of passing put Dom through. Their defender realised the game was up; put in a lot-ditch tackle, mistimed it, and over Dom went. Stonewall penalty, and even the ref obliged by pointing to the spot.

Dom duly stepped up, and rolled it in with consummate ease. 1-0. Barely deserved, but Merton weren't complaining. The goal gave Merton a massive lift, and they then took control of things from there. Down the right, Frankie did a superb job in both defence and attack. Ryan Burchell was right on his game in behind him, thus not allowing Bank of England a sniff. Things were equally solid down the left, and, best of all, Kieran was commanding his box with aplomb - coming off his line and confidently claiming any and every through ball on a skinny surface.

At the other end, chances and half chances were plentiful. Numerous free kicks were won in good positions with Dom causing havoc upfront, while sustained pressure in their box just didn't quite see the ball go to feet when needed. The best chance fell to Mike. A great cross from Chris was met with a well-struck header. However, their defender cleared it off the line to prevent the two-goal cushion.

Nevertheless, 1-0 up at the break, Merton had every reason to feel like three points were in the offing. They had control, but the key would be to score another, and make the game safe.

The second half got going, and for the first 15 minutes of it, the two sides roughly cancelled each other out. There wasn't much in the way of goalmouth activity, but Merton were still looking rock solid at the back.

Then, Frankie suffered an unfortunate muscle strain, and had to leave the field. And it marked a notable change in momentum of the game. Perhaps the central midfield ran out of legs a bit too, but suddenly Merton retreated and invited wave after wave of attacks from the oppo. It wasn't even counter-attack football: Merton simply weren't able to get out of their half, and Dom cut an isolated figure upfront. The ref certainly didn't help matters; ostensibly with an axe to grind against Merton, and the decisions blatantly all started going one way.

Yet for all of the barrage of pressure, Merton were standing tall. Everyone to a man was working their socks off, and, bar a free header from a corner, Bank of England actually failed to carve out any real chances. Certainly

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not from inside the box anyway. It just felt like one of those games the Yellows were going to see out.

But with about eight minutes to go, calamity struck. Merton just about dealt with a long throw in, but the oppo retrieved the ball and swarmed the Yellows' box. Under immense pressure, Chris hustled their striker and just about stuck a foot out. Of course, there was no contact whatsoever, but it was enough for the opponent to spring himself into the air with a dive straight out of Hollywood.

Never a pen, but at the same time, with the referee having by now very clearly set out his stall, there was an air of inevitability about which way the decision would go. The spot was pointed to, another one of their strikers stepped up, and the ball was buried in the right corner of the net. Nothing Kieran could do. 1-1.

It was a devastating blow, but, heartbreakingly, worse was to come. About three minutes later, Bank of England were on the attack again, and their winger sent in a devilish cross. As he had done all game, Kieran called it loud and clear, and looked set to claim it. Unfortunately, the ball skidded awkwardly, and, after initially having it in his grasp, he fumbled, snatched, and then knocked it over his head. The ball nestled in the net. 2-1.

It was cruel on Kieran, who'd had a tremendous game until then. It was crueller still on Merton, who had put everything into defending their lead, and looked on course for a deserved victory. But with just minutes left on the clock, they now looked beaten, and weren't able to conjure up a response. The final whistle went shortly after, and the dejected lads departed the field.

There were some initial inquests after the game, with the manager correctly pointing out that we'd gone on the defensive far too early, and not strung any passes together in the second half. But that was quickly followed up with the many positives which could be taken from this heartbreaking result. The lads had given it everything, and, for 80 minutes, had the measure of a team which would have thrashed them just four weeks ago.

Two unfortunate late goals - one of them highly dubious - didn't change that. This is a team very much on the up, and increasingly difficult to beat. Now it's time to convert that into consistent results.

TEAM: Kieran Lee (GK), Ed Plaistow, Mike Todt, Joe Plumridge, Will Harrison, Frankie Kaligorou, Chris Outred, Dan Gridley, Ryan Burchell, Jake Hewett, Dom Plumridge

SUBS: Noor Emad, Chris Dodd

MAN OF THE MATCH: Ryan Burchell

DICK OF THE DAY: Chris – very unfortunate

5s

MERTON FC 3

HSBC 1

As the days draw darker much earlier, a “nip” comes through the air. By “nip” of course i mean a chill in the air, rather than the “delightful” (never a word associated with) naked lee time. This meant an early kick-off much to the dismay of Aaron Byrne and Josh, who i’m sure wanted that extra five minutes to snooze.

Nevertheless Saturday means one thing, and one thing only - Matchday.

This week, minor changes were made to the team due to the unavailability of a few and late appearances. With Tom out injured (whom we wish a speedy recovery), Anam given a taste of the 6’s mirth and Darren suffering the woes of Henry VIII, an opportunity arose for a recent addition to the Merton family, Tiago Carvalho. Now before i go further i must dampen any excitement, by stating that this is not the Tiago Carvalho of recent Euro Final success - albeit recruitment this year has been equally successful.

After a lengthy warm up from our tenacious manager, the 5s were ready to go, as not to repeat our last home fixture with an unfortunate result. Our counterparts however did not seem to be at full steam much to our fortune, starting with only 10 men. From the first touch of the ball, the 5s were very much on the front foot with Dulanje looking to drive forward and expose modest defensive line. Much to his misfortune, a string of questionable offside decisions went against our favour. After 15 minutes the deadlock was broken. You’d normally do well to bet on Dulanje or Andy to have caressed the ball into the net, but for a change a Merton journeyman was on the scoresheet. whipping a ball in from the far right Aaron Ackerman opened the scoring with a cross which flummoxed a nervous stand-in ‘keeper. I’m sure time spent with the 4’s last season played a part as we are all familiar with Ed’s “shots” which misdirect everyone, including the man on the ball. All the same, 1-0. The next goal came not long after, but could have been sooner had Dwayne’s shot found the inside of the far post , instead bouncing out to be cleared. A combative performance from the central players in midfield and defence, saw the ball was rolled out to Luke on the left flank who could play a speculative ball for Dwayne to run onto. As he looked up, Dulanje seemed a viable option on his right, but instead noticed the opposition keeper deciding he fancied jogging out towards the middle of the pitch. Perhaps the triangle button was stuck on his controller. This left an open goal for Dwayne to slot into, which unlike at training, he did with ease. 2-0. The final goal came from captain of the day Steve Burchell. A whipped in corner from that man Ackerman looked to be a guaranteed goal for Clive, but was bowled in by our equally bald skipper. 3-0. HSBC looked to come back into the game, as their 11th man turned up, but the whistle blew for half time.

The second half brought a couple of changes with Clive and Tiago coming off for Aaron and Josh. After a case of pinball the ball fell to a HSBC player who duly delivered a goal. I’m sure next week, we’ll help Sam build a cushion for the Golden Gloves award. The phrase “a game of two halves” is commonly overused in our field, but unfortunately for us this certainly was the case. With Dulanje efforts to time his runs being wasted by constant calls of offside which were duly given, HSBC looked to press. This half was not so much the performance we were looking to have given some of the impressive displays so far this season, but we held on to the result and look to learn from this and continue to grow.

Man of the match initially went to Tiago, with 3 votes, while Steve and Clive both received two. By the rule of being in the bar to receive the award the default recipient was our experienced skipper of the day, Steve Burchell.

6s

MERTON FC 5 ALLEYN OLD BOYS 4

Another home game on a chilly day for the mighty sixes and with back to back wins under their belt, expectations were high against a physical looking Alleyns side.

It wouldn't be a match report without mentioning our fallen midfield hero John who still has a sprained wrist from too much.....fifa! Get well soon buddy!

With everyone arriving nearly on time, things were looking positive and with a quick warm up and team talk from the skipper we were off and running.

From the off Merton were playing some sublime football and creating numerous opportunities to put the ball in the net when disaster struck!

A slight lapse in concentration from the skipper left him with a decision to make, take out the onrushing striker or let him pass and score. Well, I don't need anyone to tell me I made the wrong decision and Alleyns went 1-0 up.

The good thing about football is that when you make mistake early on, you get a chance to make amends. Almost immediately after going behind, Merton had a corner. A beautiful ball was put in by Chris and with the skipper out thinking the defenders by moving one way and other (tits one way and gut other!) he leaped like a salmon migrating up river and thundered in a header and the Merton fans (Matt) went wild in celebration. 1-1!

From then on Merton dominated and created some great chances to take the lead. Finally, the pressure told and with Paul nicking the ball off the defender, he squared it to Pete who slotted in for his first goal of the season and finally his reward for some great play in recent weeks! 2-1 Merton

With the wind on our back we played some great football and should have been out sight, but Alleyns remained in the game. With half time approaching, we were awarded a dubious corner! Pete took it and with the help of the wind it was going in directly but Tyron decided to touch it with his arse or thigh and turned it in to give Merton a 3-1 lead at half-time.

After the break and with a few fresh legs Merton decided they didn't want to play football anymore and maybe thought the game was won. How wrong we were! With the wind getting stronger and now in our faces it was playing havoc with the newly acquired professional match ball and Merton struggled to clear their lines! Beans was jumping way to early and heading fresh air (sorry Beans, had to try and give you stick for mocking me in the last report!). He had a good game really! Anyway, Alleyns had a change of personnel and now seemed to be playing players in their most dangerous positions and causing the back four havoc! They scored straight away with a good solo goal and we were thinking the worse.

With attack after attack the Merton defence and goalkeeper repelled most efforts with some great tackles and great saves from Michael.

With Alleyns pouring forward looking for an equaliser, Merton went up the other end scored on the break! Dan taking a pot shot and the ball swerving over the keeper. 4-2 Merton and surely we couldn't throw this away! WRONG!! Back came Alleyns and they scored again with a well placed wind assisted effort in the bottom corner. 4-3!

At this point Merton were really struggling and an equaliser looked to be on the cards! Merton were first thankful for the woodwork and then a superb one handed save from a point blank header by Michael! This was the kick up the arse we needed and now with the wind dying in the late afternoon sunshine, Merton retained control of the game and started to create chances. First Pete went close and also a shot from Chris was saved well. With a few minutes left Trey chased down a hopeful pass by Paul, beat the offside trap and the keeper to score his first goal for Merton! 5-3 and surely that was the end of that! WRONG! There was still

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time for Alleyns to score a superb consolation to make the final score 5-4 to Merton. A truly great game and would have definitely been match choice on sky!

I would like to say the sixes are gelling really well now and with the injection of youth confidence is starting to come back! The first half was the best I have seen a sixes team play in a long while and we should have been four or five goals clear!

As I write this, numbers are high again for selection this week and unfortunately will have to move a few players around as to make both the sixes and sevens competitive. If I move you around don't feel you have been dropped, but I want to give the sevens the best chance possible of surviving and this means we all may have to move around from time to time – all I am doing is trying give everyone football so bear with me!

Now man of the match, could honestly say everyone put a shift in! Special mentions go to Callum who had a great game with some superb touches and direct play. Chris for his non-stop running and his shots which are finally getting closer to the target! But this week it has to go to Paul – he was brilliant, two assists and broke up play well and was on time so well done him!

Dick of the Day was a hard choice, it could have gone to a number of players – Beans for missing every header this week (it was the new balls fault!), Chappell for going down injured again (fourth week in a row!). But this week I am giving this to Tyrone!!! Claiming a goal that was going in already direct from a corner off your arse/thigh from half a yard is not in the spirit of the game – poor form (tin hat on when he reads this as he will moan all week!!!!)

Let's get another win next week!

TEAM: Michael, Josh, Beans, Chappell, Kevin (Capt), Callum, Tyrone, Chris, Paul, Trey, Pete

SUBS: Adam, Aman, Dan P

MAN OF THE MATCH: Paul

DICK OF THE DAY: Tyrone

NICK VAN WENSVEEN



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

I moved over to the UK from Australia about 18 months ago after graduating from university. I started on the graduate scheme at BT and now find myself working as a Product Manager for BT Sport. Outside of work, I am usually planning my next trip as I love to travel.

2. How did you end up at Merton FC?

I had Mike Stone give Clappers my number after witnessing some magical skills at 5-a-side.

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

Scoring a very scrappy penalty in a shoot-out win over Bank of England in the cup.

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

Tottenham Hotspur – childhood team.

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

I usually like to get to the ground early (I don't think this has happened once since I started getting a lift with Siri) and try to get my hands on one of the few medium sized jerseys.

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

Promotion back into Division 1.

Player of the season (so far): Heung-Min Son (not biased)

Childhood Team: Tottenham Hotspur

Favourite team in the UK: Tottenham Hotspur

Favourite team outside the UK: Borussia Dortmund

Childhood Hero: Dennis Bergkamp

Favourite Food: Paella

Favourite Drink: James Squire 'The Chancer'

Favourite Band: Two Door Cinema Club

RAPID FIRE

JORDAN COX



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

I moved to London last year and work in HR for TfL. I get involved with anything in and around London and play a variety of sports. Hopefully I can say I'm a friendly lad having met some fantastic mates already.

2. How did you end up at Merton FC?

Gresty. Played with him for the London transport team and got me involved with Merton training.

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

It was only my first league game last Saturday having been injured for the start of the season, so I'd say learning the clubhouse rules as they will come in handy in the future. Also the club polo shirt proved to be a great taking point in the Wandle, even on Halloween.

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

Liverpool. It's a shame not to see a local lad in the current starting line up as the supporters really get behind them no matter what.

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

I used to demand the number 4 shirt as it was my first number when starting football but I've moved on. None for now.

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

At this moment, I need to get my fitness back and hopefully contribute towards a good run of games to get the 2s/3s up the table to make it exciting come the end of the season.

Player of the season (so far): Phil Coutinho

Childhood Team: Liverpool

Favourite team in the UK: Liverpool

Favourite team outside the UK: Monaco

Childhood Hero: Jamie Carragher

Favourite Food: Chinese

Favourite Drink: Estrella

Favourite Band: Arctic Monkeys

RAPID FIRE

U9s

MERTON FC 4 WOKING COUGAR COLTS 1

On another lovely sunny morning at the hood the under 9s arrived eager and ready for action after the half term break to face a very good and established Woking Cougar Colts in our first festival league match.

Woking kicked off, we gave them no time on the ball, gained possession and had the first shot on goal within a minute. The game settled and the teams proved evenly matched. First time for ages we had a full squad of 10 and rotated players regularly keeping up the tempo and pressure until we finally broke the deadlock with a goal from Sam 1-0 Merton. Woking pulled back an equaliser with a very well worked goal with virtually the last kick of the half. 1-1 at the break.

In the second half, we came out with three positional changes and started to control the game, a goal from Darius put us 2-1 up and then the final switch of the game Presley came in as centre forward, who put away two more. The final score ended up 4-1 to Merton. A fantastic team performance with every single player shining bright, a really good entertaining match.

Sam's dad awarded the man of the match to Presley, but again anyone of them deserved it, and his most memorable moment was the whole game.

Mention to Woking who had a 40 minute drive to play us, great team, fantastic coaches, very pleasurable day, look forward to playing them again.



Merton U9s: arms length away



Merton U9s: the hosts look to get on the front foot

U11s

MERTON FC 4 RAYNES PARK 2

On a cold sunny morning we arrived ready to take on our appointments from Raynes Park in a arranged friendly as sadly Carshalton FC were unable to field a team and with drew from original fixture.

After we had moved all goals from club house to the far-side of the park, I had personally felt warmed up (knackered to be honest).

The opposition manager had asked if one of his lads could wear a hat and if we could be careful on tackles on him, he had just recovered from Leukemia and this is when you know how lucky we all are and a full dose of reality comes to mind.

We started poorly again and switched formation, but went 2-0 down although it could have been worse if Thomas in goal had not pulled off some great saves... “well done Thomo”.

At half-time we had a firm word with boys, reminded them of teamwork and need to pass and move and win every tackle! 100% or come off the pitch was the cry.

The good news is this kicked start what only be described as a brilliant second half Merton performance, everyone began passing – Zion picked up 2 further goals and Steve and Rohan also got on the scoresheet.

The movement was unreal, the mighty yellows roared like lions and hunted down the prey of Raynes Park, with no where to hide we charged – we ran – we leaped – the fans went wild – coach summoned more – referee kept running and no one from Merton FC wanted the game to stop.

Well done Team! Great Tactical decisions from Steve (coach), Commander in Chief leading his troops to victory, “you can wound us, but you will never ever bring us down for long”.

Next week we are at home to Esher FC Colts, lets have another great turn out.

Massive thanks to parents helping set-up and close down – we love you and we value you.

Report by: David
(Joint Coach)

U13s

MERTON FC 5 SHEEN LIONS 0

On a cold sunny Sunday morning we arrived at Sheen Lions ground. Before the match we had no referee, but luckily their assistant manager agreed to step up to the challenge so game on.

An excellent performance by all the team. We looked well organised and hungry for the win. We were all in a positive frame of mind, after last weeks win.

The tactics from Steve were to play one-two touch passing and press them. We pressed them hard and had one or two opportunities on goal before Justin's goal arrived.

We continued to press the other side, showing quick good passing and communicating well with each other. It wasn't long before Marcus used his pace and skill to score our second goal. Sheen Lions were hungry for a goal but our defence stood strong to get challenge.

Our third goal came from our striker Marcus, from a deflection of a Sheen Lions player. But a well deserved goal all the same.

Our calm tactical passing continued leading to our fourth goal my first for Merton FC. Evan passed me the ball, passing their player, I put the ball into the top left hand corner. With the first half whistle being blown shortly after.

Steve's half-time talk was to keep passing and work hard as a team.

The second half started. Sheen Lions started with a more aggressive pace looking for their first goal. We continued to pass effectively and kept up the pressure. It was a half that our defenders were made to work hard, but stood up the pressure well. Justin scored his second goal of the match from out of the area striking the top left corner to make the score 5-0.

Great match, lets move onto the next round.

MAN OF THE MATCH: Freeeeeedie

Match report from: Hugo (right wing)



Hugo: scoring his first goal for Merton FC
(Photo credit: Samia Tossio)

U14s

MERTON FC 1
AFC EWELL 2

The U14's met AFC Ewell in the invitation cup 3rd round on Sunday, and made a quick start via Bruno who latched onto a great through ball and finessed his shot to the top right hand corner of the goal. Despite being one-nil up, Merton could never get a grip on the game, and slowly let Ewell back in with an equaliser before half-time.

The second half was drab a lot of long balls played by either side before one eventually unlocked our defence. Despite late efforts from Dwayne and Chris, Merton couldn't get the second & unfortunately got knocked out of the cup!

U15s

MERTON FC 1

WHYTELEAFE WANDERERS 8

County cup weekend, and Merton were drawn against Whyteleaf Wanderers from the Tandridge League in their 2nd knockout round tie. A 2pm kick off meant that it was a slow burner of a day before time sped up in the build up before kick off.

A chilly day, and in the hilly backstreets of Whyteleaf we were at a venue that would hopefully provide a great experience for the players to gain and take them back into the league football.

The message was to keep it tight and work hard against what would undoubtedly be a strong side. Playing on an immaculate 4G pitch provided a great backdrop for what would hopefully be a great game.

Kick off approached and the set up was evident of the game. Whyteleaf would have a lot of the ball, and Merton would need to work hard off the ball. A sloppy start handed Whyteleaf confidence and a goal within the first 3 minutes. Whyteleaf continued to play football and Merton counted to chase the ball and the players struggled to keep up with the quick movement. The start got worse and whyteleaf extended their lead quickly, and sped into a 5-0 lead within 20 minutes.

Frustrations grew, but Merton's spirit did not drop. And we worked hard off the ball. We managed to stifle Whyteleaf and began to become confident on the ball. We scored a goal, with a well taken finish from Felix. And that was no less than we deserved in this passage of play. Whyteleaf extended their lead to 6-1 just before half-time.

Half-time came around and the message was to continue the hard work that the players had put in from the 20th minute. It was important that we done this as we had managed to make Whyteleaf work for what they had.

Whyteleaf scored 2 further goals in the second half, in what was a respectable scoreline in the end. It didn't look that way in the first 20 minutes!

Well done to Whyteleaf, good luck in the next round

Heads up and we now go again in the league. Your spirit and desire was evident in bucket loads throughout the second half. Next game Met Police in the league, we can now be positive in the league this season.

JOE ADAMS



1. How did you end up at Merton FC?

Someone asked me to join.

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

Winning the league in the 2013/14 season with U11s

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

Man City, because they play a nice style of football.

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

None.

Player of the season (so far): N’Golo Kante

Childhood Team: Manchester City

Favourite team outside the UK: Juventus

Favourite Food: Chicken Nuggets

Favourite Drink: Lucozade

Favourite Band: Krept & Konan

RAPID FIRE

WHO'S WHERE AND WHEN

SATURDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2016

1s
OLD BLUES v MERTON FC
Ham Playing Fields – 13:45

2s
MERTON FC v HSBC
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 14:15

3s
CIVIL SERVICE v MERTON FC
Kings House Sports Ground – 14:15

4s
MERTON FC v IBIS EAGLES
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 14:15

5s
POLYTECHNIC v MERTON FC
University of Westminster Sports Ground
– 14:15

6s
OLD SALESIANS v MERTON FC
Old Tenisonians Sports Ground – 14:15

7s
MERTON FC v BANK OF ENGLAND
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 14:15

SUNDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2016

U9s
ESHER COLTS ORANGE v MERTON FC
Away – AM

U11s
MERTON FC v ESHER COLTS YELLOWS
Home – AM

U13s
CB HOUSLOW UTD GREENS v MERTON FC
Away – AM

U14s
MERTON FC v HASLEMERE TOWN YOUTH
Home – AM

U15s
MET POLICE YOUTH REDS v MERTON FC
Away – AM

MERTON FOOTBALL CLUB

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