

# THE MERTON WAY



# WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED.

Last week was a little disappointing as the Hood had not recovered from the heavy rains earlier in the week and was unplayable. Today (Wednesday) inspection shows it has recovered but we will have a look again as rain is forecast later today. So we will have to see what the prospects are.

The bad news is that the pavilion has been vandalised. It is mindless stuff. But they have done serious damage to the outside stores.

We need to assess how we can improve our security.

With no football at the Hood to watch Len and I had an away day and visited Polytechnic to watch our 4s. Poly is a really nice place to go. It is a well organised club with great facilities. And we tested out their facilities and they had some good first aid on hand to help Chris Outred after a nasty clash of heads. Poly have five good pitches and a large bar dining area. I was very envious. Also I always think their players

are very friendly and well behaved. Our 4s lost heavily but played some very good passing football but had a self destruct button to hand and we did not take our chances. Poly were just too strong.

In addition to Chris's head wound Chris Spencer had a nasty injury at Carshalton with the 6s. A double fracture of the wrist. So we all wish him a speedy recovery.



# Pay up you naughty boys!

Chaps, our Discipline Officer Dave Laughton has had to be disappointingly busy this season with respect to processing yellow and red cards, as you can see from the graphic below.

But the big frustration for both him and Len is players that get booked who don't pay their fine within the required deadline of 14 DAYS (payable by online banking, card payment at the bar or cash). Equally frustrating are those who do make payment to their managers, but they and/or the managers don't inform these two gentlemen that they have in fact paid. It just creates unnecessary work for guys who are already voluntarily giving a lot of their time, as they then have to chase all this information up so that they can balance the books.

Please guys (and managers too), paying your fine, along with a simple text or email which takes only a few seconds of your time, can make all that go away. If you need their contact details, just holler. But for minimal effort, you can make Dave and Len's lives a whole lot easier.

On a side note, kudos to the 5s, 6s and 7s (and, to some extent, the 2s as well) for maintaining respectable discipline records. Take heed, the rest of you. Fewer bookings mean more beer money in the bar afterwards!

Team	Total	Bookings	Reds	Misconduct Charges	Misconduct Charges Proven	% of club total	Total bookings / reds / misconducts for dissent
1s	11	9	2	0	0	28.2%	0
2s	3	2	1	0	0	7.7%	0
3s	8	7	1	0	0	20.5%	0
4s	11	10	1	0	0	28.2%	0
5s	2	2	0	0	0	5.1%	0
6s	2	2	0	0	0	5.1%	0
7s	2	1	1	1	1	5.1%	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>0</b>

# 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.

## VALUABLES

Please **DO NOT** leave any valuables in the changing rooms, 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.

## SHOWERS

Teams that have an earlier kick off than other teams, can you please ensure you **TURN THE SHOWERS OFF** when leaving changing room.

# SAM'S SHOWER THOUGHTS

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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. Every time I enter the wrong password I am giving the website one of my other passwords.
2. You stop getting money in Birthday cards right around the age you need extra cash the most.
3. If radios weren't put in cars, almost no one would listen to it anymore
4. Someone should start a noodle delivery restaurant named Send Noods.
5. Every day is leg day when you're running from your problems.
6. They say money can't buy you friends, but it can buy you pets.
7. Having a smoking section in a restaurant is like having a peeing section in a pool.
8. The lottery is a Kickstarter to make one guy super rich.
9. If you are no longer covered by your parents' health insurance, your manufacturer warranty is over.
10. We should all take a moment and be grateful our bodies don't shit in our sleep

#### TV OF THE WEEK:

The Scottish Bounty Hunter - BBC 1

#### SONG OF THE WEEK:

Shape of you - Ed Sheeran

# 1s

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MERTON FC

Game Called Off

# 2s

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MERTON FC

Game called off

# 3s

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MERTON

No Game



# 4s

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MERTON FC 0  
POLYTECHNIC 6

As the snow tumbled down, 13 men who, by Saturday, don the mighty yellow, expectantly checked their phones that morning, with the text from Scholesy that the game against Poly would be called off seemingly a racing certainty.

But it never came, and an almost reluctant Merton 4s slowly gathered in the change room. The late arrival of the manager meant the kit was hurriedly put on - not that anyone really fancied a warm up anyway.

Given the adverse conditions, the pitch was in surprisingly good nick, and after some encouraging performances in recent weeks, Merton said about asserting themselves.

But the first couple of minutes were almost a perfect microcosm of the 4s season so far. For about 120 seconds from the kick off, they pinged the ball around beautifully, getting ball to feet, and building two very dangerous attacks in the process.

It didn't yield a goal though. Well, not for Merton anyway. One hoof upfield from Poly, a mix up in defence, and the hosts gleefully poked it home. And just like that, a deflated Merton were 1-0 down.

The lads kept their heads up though, and, impressively, they kept playing football. After 15 minutes, it is fair to say Poly had barely had a kick, and yet were 1-0 up. Not only had Merton bossed the midfield, but they'd opened up their opponents down the wings a number of times too.

Yet they were always vulnerable on the counter, and that's how Poly's second came about. Their striker got in behind, and Kieran initially made a fine save. Unfortunately, he lost his footing a touch on the follow up, and his palmed second save could only send the ball over his head and rolling agonisingly into the net. 2-0 Poly.

And still Merton kept going, as the midfield continued to have the better of things, with Sonny and Akram doing a fine job in the middle of the park. But then came a nasty injury to Chris Outred, as he clashed heads with a Poly player as both went in for a full-blooded header. And full blooded it was, as an astonishing amount of the red stuff came from Chris's forehead. After a few minutes of checking for concussion and performing some relatively amateur first aid bandage work, Chris was escorted from the field. We do wish him a speedy recovery.

The third and fourth goals came just after half time, although this scribe was in the clubhouse attending to the wounded at the time, so no details of how it happened are currently available.

There is no fun in getting a battering. But credit to the Yellows, they kept going, and still continued to produce some pockets of good football. That said, Poly were by now the more dominant side, and as injuries accumulated for Merton, they became very stretched.

Poly's 5th goal came about from some good interplay down the left, although the shot which finished it was something of a worldie. It left Kieran with no price whatsoever. The same could not be said of the 6th goal though, as Merton were caught out trying to play it from the back.

At the other end, Ryan Burchell made a good run that almost yielded a goal, while Danny Gridley also made a fine surge upfield, which led to a decent chance.

But it wasn't to be, and the final whistle mercifully sounded to end a bitterly disappointing day. After a result like that, the acid test was going to be just how acidic the recriminations were in the change room. Yet nothing of the sort ensued. Instead, the lads shared frustration, but took pride in the quality of football they produced. True, the sloppy goals they continue to give away, and their profligacy in front of goal are a big concern. Yet in amongst all that is also some very, very good football. It's time to convert that into a result against Bank of England next week.

MOTM: Sonny Kennedy

Team: Kieran Lee (GK), Ed Plaistow, Joe Plumridge, John Gridley, Dan Rist, Dan Gridley, Akram Choudhary, Chris Outred, Frankie Kaligorou, Sonny Kennedy, Dom Plumridge

Subs: Clive Corrigan, Ryan Burchell, Mike Todt



# 5s

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MERTON FC

Game Called off

# 6s

MERTON FC 1  
CARSHALTON 5

I will keep this short and sweet as not to prompt further complaints from the Carshalton hierarchy as per usual when we mention the fact they shouldn't be in our league etc.... so here goes!

Merton 6's went into this top of the table clash a bit undercooked due to postponements and lack of game time. So when everybody arrived on time, the management was full of hope of a positive result. The squad was pretty much the same that has got us into the good league position we currently occupy, so there was no need to change this on a weekly basis and pick players from other Merton squads to strengthen.

The game started and Merton were very good off the mark, with challenges being won and some good passing in midfield. Unfortunately, Carshalton's direct game with balls over the top were catching us out and was no surprise when they cut in from our right and a shot squirmed through Swanny's hands to make it 1-0.

From this point on, Merton really upped their game and gave a really great display and caused Carshalton no end of problems and bar some great saves from their keeper we should have been at least level. Again though we were caught on the break, and a powerful long range effort lobbed Swanny (the ball was about 3 feet off the floor, sorry Swanny!) and Carshalton went 2-0 ahead.

Merton immediately hit back with a great move that George B finished off. Then after it was attack after attack from Merton and we really should have been level. Unfortunately, we didn't take our chances where as Carshalton did and again they scored just before half time making it 3-1.

We were very unlucky and should not have 3-1 down with the chances we created and the half time team talk was one of a positive note. A few changes were made to freshen things up and we started again! The second half started with Merton on the back foot and maybe our heads were still in the first half when we felt hard done by. Chances still came our way with George missing a really good chance to get us back in the game, but to be fair Carshalton were the team in charge.

Then came the sour note of the game whereby Spence who was having a great game, was knocked off balance whilst shielding the ball out of play, and took a nasty fall on his wrist. It did not look good and was now pointing in the wrong direction and with him is great deal of pain, was forced off and straight to hospital. A while later we got the results of a double fracture and dislocation!! Very nasty, but thanks to Rat for taking him to the local A and E.

After this our heads didn't really seem to be in the game and it was no surprise to see Swanny being lobbed again from a really well placed free kick to make it 4-1! Sorry mate!!

Being 4-1 down didn't stop Carshalton trying to kick us off the park, and some of their players were lucky not to see red. But as the game was edging towards the end they got a 5th after a dubious penalty was given and the skipper booked for his protest. The penalty was awful and Swanny made a good save, but unfortunately was beaten by the re-bound. 5-1 final score.

On a positive note, we have had our two spankings from them and both our nearest rivals are still to play them so let's focus on promotion!!

Now for Man of the Match, and as no votes were cast, I will give it to the following:

MoM: Special mentions to the skipper (thought he had one of his better games!), Pete who worked hard up top, Chris and Ty for non stop running and Spense! BUT I am going to give it Chappell, battled hard and never gave up even when backs were up against the wall!

DoD: The skipper is not getting it this week!! Could give it to Spence for a broken hand (your supposed to break legs in football), could give it to the whole squad for not backing the skipper up when there was some argy bargy! But I'm afraid it has to go to Swanny this week, two lobs ;o) , a very slight error for the first and should have saved the penalty!!! (Please don't leave us though!!!!!!)



# 7s

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MERTON FC 4  
SOUTH BANK CUACO 4

The job of this weeks match report goes out to the new newsletter editor - Samuel Singer-Ripley. "cut out the middle man" was mentioned but I just think nobody wanted the job of being rude enough to write terrible things about my shocking performance.

It was a cold day, snowing in fact and many expected the game to be called off - which would've saved me a lot of grief. South Bank started strong with a number of attacks in the early stages of the game. Putting balls into the box but were easily enough dealt with.

But about 20 minutes into the first half the ball was lost in Mertons own half and the break down the right hand side of the pitch, with a throw ball left a one on one which was easily enough put away from inside the box as it bulged into the far side of the net. Merton heads dropped as South Bank could be heard yelling "Nil-Nil Boys".

Another goal soon followed. We won the ball back on the edge of our own box, in an attempt to break quickly, the center half accidentally booted the ball into the behind of the other center half which fell nicely for the South Bank striker, I was off my line and wasn't anticipating the quick change of position and was lobbed.

Heads fell further and confidence plummeted. Dan, the manager, knew he had do something to change things around. Malcolm came on in an attempt to hold the ball higher up the pitch. But as the first half was coming to a close. The Merton goalkeeper, Me, attempted to spring a 40-yard pass across field which barely made it 10 feet, which again fell kindly for the lucky South Bank striker. The scruffed ball meant that South Bank were 3-0 up. Merton looked blindly at their goalkeeper in disbelief.

Dan came on in the final few minutes, as we tried to rescue the game we started to move the ball quicker. A break down the right flank and a ball brilliantly held up by Malcolm. Unsure if he meant to do it he turned a defender on the edge of the box and squared the ball to Noor who expertly put away the one on one with the keeper. 3-1 and went into half time hopeful.

The second half was supposed to be the brilliant merton rescue but within the first 5 minutes of play, a simple ball over the top of the defence which wasn't dealt with by the keeper meant that South Bank were 4-1 up and the half-time talk went out the window.

If anything the goal turned on the wild boars. and with a wild hit and hope the ball was smacked as the Southbank Goalkeeper. Tom R and Merton FC went wild only 2 more goal to go and the South Bank goalkeeper looked to mimic the Merton Goalkeeper who was useless. Another Hit and hope moment by Scott that had some movement on the ball tricked the keeper who flapped at the ball 4-3 GAME ON.

The mighty boars, were rewarded as the biggest of them all, made a rush for the ball as it was played through. Malcolm who thought he wouldn't make it in a million years managed to toe-poke the ball into the back of the net. 4-4!!! However the amazing could not be. and at the end of the day the Mighty Yellows, deserved the win. But were held to a disappointed draw.

Line up -Sam, Martin, Josh, Tom R, Andrew, Billy, Dave, Adam, Noor, Jon, Scott. Subs: Malcolm, Dan, Tom J  
MOTM : MALCOLM DOTD: SAM

# DAVID QUAINTON



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

Raconteur, handsome go-getter, purveyor of joie de vivre, standard-bearer for literacy within Merton FC. Man most likely (after Vanny) to dig-out D'Arcy[sic] and Vin for being fat. I work in PR and do writing, innit. For EE. So if you're on the UK's biggest and fastest mobile network and have experienced no signal or appalling customer service it's not my fault, but I do know the person responsible.

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

My Sinjuns teammates were all getting a little long in the tooth and Messrs Willgoss and Jennings had long extolled the virtues of Merton FC. Clappers said I talked too much at my first training session, but I knew he loved me really. My keenness at training briefly earned me the name 'new Mustard' which I took as a compliment; now I'm not so sure... Also I accidentally fouled Chris Rayner about three times a session.

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

January 2016, an away match for the 1s against someone (I never know who). Quainton, Rayner and Willgoss on the bench. All three chucked on late in a tug-of-war 0-0. Boshers scores, we concede immediately, but we're desperate for the win. Willgoss win the ball at right back and clears to 40-ish yards, I outspurt the defence, round a centreback on the halfway line, and race through with nothing left on the clock. Chuffing away to my left is, not a defender, but Chris Bloody Rayner. I've got the goddamn sense to square. Rayner, cold as ice, slots home. Everyone goes chicken oriental. It was a special, special moment.

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

I already play for QPR. Look-up Jamie Mackie. Otherwise, aside from the obvious Merseyside Reds, I'd go Fiorentina, because Batigol and Florence.

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

Shirt number 3 is mine.



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

I expect to score goals. I'll miss some as well, but I will also score, and get injured. Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.

Player of the season (at Merton, or in professional football): Paul Pearce, N'Golo Kante.

Childhood Team: Liverpool FC

Favourite team in the UK: Liverpool FC

Favourite team outside the UK: St Pauli, the ultimate hipster side

Childhood Hero: Roald Dahl

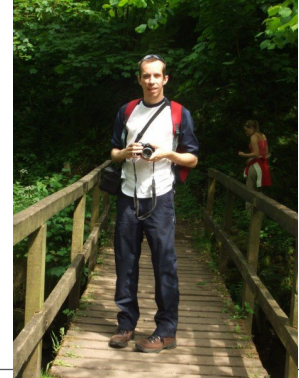
Favourite Food: Paella

Favourite Drink: Dr Pepper

Favourite Band: Radiohead

## RAPID FIRE

# DAN KELLY



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

I work in market research which wrongly gets equated with me doing surveys. It's not that exciting. I like to travel, be active (football, climbing, hiking) am basically super competitive about everything and anything.

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

Moved to Wimbledon in 2005, googled and found Merton. Came down for training and Max got me into the 4s squad with Scicluna. Got myself a few goals early on and that was it really.

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

Winning the title with the 3s a few years back. And back to back club top scorer awards.

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

Super Tottenham from the Lane (although not for much longer)

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

Never wear 7 or 10 (I don't have the ball playing skills to back it up). Make sure you score in the warm up.

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

Promotion with the 2s (although tough now) and finishing top scorer for them. Would love for the 3s to stay up as well - best of luck to them at the weekend

Player of the season (at Merton, or in professional football):

Connor Murphy. Relentlessly solid.

Childhood Team: Spurs

Favourite team in the UK: Spurs

Favourite team outside the UK: There is football outside the UK?

Childhood Hero: Gary Lineker and for a brief phase I remember wanting to be Eddie the Eagle so much I almost drowned "ski jumping" into the sea.

Favourite Food: Pizza

Favourite Drink: Ale

## RAPID FIRE



# U9s

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MERTON 0  
CARSHALTON 4

On a bitter cold morning, the Under 9s met away a very strong Carshalton side, from the top division [2 leagues] above us. Nonetheless, Merton were not to be discouraged and put on a valiant and spirited display.

Our strongest performance was notably in the second half where Merton came together as a team and showed some excellent passing play, pushing Carshalton back into their own half. Callum took superb control of the midfield and deservedly won the man-of-the-match award for his all round excellent performance, with some hard tackling and footwork.

Doo Ho also showed outstanding goal-keeping skills, at one point saving a shot and then recovering to push away another in quick succession.

Merton can learn a lot from this performance and showed the level that they can ultimately aim for. It was also very encouraging to see that Merton had the upper hand at key points in the second half.

Despite the overall result, it was felt that Merton had done themselves proud against strong opponents!

# U11s

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MERTON FC 3  
BEDFONT 0

Merton arrived on a freezing cold Sunday morning at Bedfont FC.

Not joking you could touch planes as they flew over being so close to ground.

We got changed in new white kit...looked really cool.

1st half was hard work as we battled to break Bedfont down.

The away team goalkeeper pulled off some great saves and 0.0 at half time.

2nd half we stepped up pressed high up pitch and gave them no room.

Rohan came on to midfield and put solid tackles in which shook up the opposition.

Steve Gumble then unleashed a bullet shot rifle into back of net.....this opened flood gates.....another goal from William and Cormac.

In fairness Bedfont did well to hold and we really did not play well.....was a cold morning.

We now march onto Semi Final for 2nd year in a row....big game Sunday against Roehampton to decide if we can make another final.

Whatever result we have a great team based on solid work ethic and amazing support.

Darren manager called me during week to wish us well and reiterated what a grwat bunch of discipline boys we have who are credit to club and themselves....very humbling.

Wish us luck we will need it.

# U13s

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MERTON FC

Game Cancelled

# U14s

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MERTON FC 10  
STONELEIGH ATHLETIC 1

No Report Submitted

# U15s

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MERTON FC

NO GAME

# WHO'S WHERE AND WHEN

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## SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2017

1s  
MERTON FC v Bank of England  
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 14:30

2s  
South Bank Cuaco v MERTON FC  
South Bank Sports Ground – 14:30

3s  
MERTON FC v Old Parkonians  
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 14:30

4s  
MERTON FC v Bank of England  
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground – 14:30

5s  
MERTON FC v Kew Association  
Wimbledon Common Extentions 14:30

6s  
Old Wilsonians v MERTON FC  
Old Wilsonians Sports Ground– 14:30

7s  
Alleyn Old Boys v MERTON FC  
Alleyn Old Boys Sports club - 14:30

## SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2017

U9s  
Wangas Yth v MERTON FC  
away

U11s  
No Game

U13s  
G4G FC Blue v MERTON FC  
Away

U14s  
MERTON FC v AC Fulham  
Home

U15s  
Wallington Wanderers v MERTON FC  
away

**MERTON FOOTBALL CLUB**

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