

THE MERTON WAY



'ITS NOT THE WORLD CUP'

One of the main issues facing youth football is discipline and parental behaviour. The League that we play in, the Surrey Youth League, is leading the field in the measures it is taking to deal with indiscipline.

Generally it is not the players that cause the problem but the parents. We are not immune to this at Merton but I do think we are a lot better than most of the clubs we come up against.

One of the main initiating events for trouble between parents seems to be the linesmen (Assistant referees). Most parents accept that the referee is not cheating but is just having a bad day and give him abuse for that. The linesmen are from the two clubs playing and are usually coaches or parents from the defending team. Whilst running the line they are also coaching their team and back four. And this is where most of the trouble begins as a parent disagrees with a linesman's offside decision and it degenerates from there. It seems to me that

the solution is easy and do what the SAL does and get rid of linesmen. Let the referee do it all. I don't actually think you will get any worse decisions and the odd offside does not really matter, 'it is not the World Cup' as the posters say.

Well I have floated the idea with the Surrey County F A and the Surrey Youth League but I intend to follow it up.

Our Youth section is doing pretty well with five teams this season and we hope to add at least two more next season. The administration of the Youth section is a heavy burden as coaches have to have at least a Level 1 coaching qualification and all persons involved have to be checked through criminal offences and trained in Emergency Aid and child welfare. These are important checks and we also need to keep a tight check on players and parents discipline.

I am grateful for all the hard work Steve and all the coaches do in the youth section.



MERTON FC – 2017 EVENTS MARCH - JUNE

(Remember we now show live premier league games in the bar after footy on Saturday's)



SATURDAY 18th MARCH

JOSEPH HOOD – **FROM 4.45PM**
LIVE IRELAND V ENGLAND, GAMES, BETS,
FOOD & BEERS IN THE BAR.



FRIDAY 14th APRIL -

THE LONG GOOD FRIDAY - JOSEPH HOOD –
11AM START (PROMPT)

The annual Long Good Friday Event returns at Merton, VETS GAME with the legends from Old West Citz, Merton X1 friendlies, YOUTH GAMES and SENIOR FRIENDLIES much more. Hot food + hot cross buns in the bar – with a good old drink and catch up to celebrate the start of Easter. Not one to miss!!



SATURDAY 6th or 13th MAY

– 1PM to 10PM, Joseph Hood

Merton FC is staging its inaugural 5/6-a-side World Cup splitting all the members & teams up equally & fairly! There will be two pools, involving a group stage, semi-finals & final & a PLATE competition.

FOLLOWED by a BBQ & BEER!

ALL are welcome – please join the event page on Facebook to state your interest!



SATURDAY 27th MAY,

AWARDS DAY & NIGHT AT MERTON FC, JOSEPH HOOD - **2PM START (PROMPT).**

Inter club friendly, fish n chips, the fa cup final in the bar & awards.

Everybody welcome!

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 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.

Match Reports

Please send all match reports to Michaeltodt61@gmail.com, Mertonwebsite@virginmedia.com and Sammy.sr@blueyonder.co.uk **no later than wednesday evening** to be put into the Merton Way.

SAM'S SHOWER THOUGHTS

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. Reach for the stars, because even if you miss, you'll be miles away from me with your motivational bull shit.
2. Some people aren't loyal to you, they are loyal to their need of you. Once their needs change, so does their loyalty.
3. A human came out of a human because a human came in a human.
4. Money is like toilet paper, you don't care how much you use until you're almost out.
5. I hate having to prove to a robot that I am not a robot.
6. 90% of marriage is shouting "what" from other rooms.
7. There are infinite universes with infinite possibilities, and I'm stuck in the one that doesn't have superheroes.
8. If you have a problem with an entire generation you shouldn't blame them. You should blame the generation that raised them.
9. Most people will only listen to your opinion if it reinforces theirs.
10. Driving to and from work are the loading screens of reality.

MOVIE OF THE WEEK:

Top Gear

SONG OF THE WEEK:

Galway Girl -Ed Sheeran

TEAM OF THE WEEK:

Barcelona

1s

MERTON FC 4
Old Finchleians 4

Normal service was resumed when Ivan received his first DOTD nomination on Friday night, even though he wasn't selected in the match day squad for Saturday.

After last week's win, Merton travelled to North London to Old Finchleians. A long journey, a game you wouldn't really want to lose however Merton had other ideas. After a decent 15 minutes, where we looked pretty comfortable, as in the last few games, things slowly/rapidly started to unravel.

A free kick half way inside our half was floated in, a flick on and the roll bounced across the box for a tap in at the back post. A couple of minutes later it was 2-0 to Old Finch, a high ball hoisted into the box, I (Siri) probably should have come for it however didn't, Sam decided to take it down on his thigh and get rid. Well you'd hope he did. His touch rolled off his thigh and straight to their striker who put it in the corner.

3-0 ten minutes later, Sam getting rolled far too easily by a guy with only a left foot. To be fair to him, once he rolled Sam, smashing it in off the post from 20 yards out was decent. Now I've not been playing with Simon for long, and some of his tactical decisions baffle me (see him up top vs BoE) and starting this game 4-4-2, when we had four centre mids turn up. So seeing him take a corner was beyond me, and I even turned to Nick and said WTF is he doing. Saying that, he put in a lovely outswinger and after a bit of a free for all *** tapped it in.

Coming in at half time, there were pretty embarrassed faces all round. The change to our usual 4-3-3 was made, and bringing on Nick and Bosh we hoped would be the catalyst for change. Within 5 minutes we were four one down. Both centre backs miles apart, the through ball in the middle, their striker one on one, 4-1.

The changing point in the match happened a little after the fourth goal. Sam went on right wing to left wing run (should have passed it), took it into the left corner and one of their players came to knock him off the ball. Sam's superior strength won him this battle, but unfortunately for their player he got his knee trapped in the ground and he crumbled to the floor. After a ten minute wait, stretcher et al, he was taken off.

This seemed to slow Finch down and we made it 4-2 with Tom tapping in after some good play. The next Merton goal came soon after, Nick spraying a ball wide to Kerns, who beat his man and pulled it back for Charlie to score. We made it 4-4 with about 10 to go, a long punt up field by Clappers, their centre back went to head the ball and it bounced off the top of his head and over their keeper (who was almost outside the box).

We had a couple more chances to win the game, Charlie coming close however a draw was probably a fair result as they missed a few chances also. In the coming weeks we need to cut out these little mistakes with have started to creep into our game. Only three weeks ago we had the second best defensive record in the league. With a cup semi final on the horizon our performances need to improve. However coming back from 4-1 down was a achievement we should all be proud of.

Dotd – Siri (Sam setting up two opposition goals gets him MOTM votes.....)

Motm – Charlie – Played very well after a little while out, fully deserved.



2s

MERTON FC

NO GAME

3s

MERTON FC

NO GAME

4s

MERTON FC

NO GAME

5s

MERTON FC 0 Ibis Eagles 6

Another Saturday another birthday, and this time Mr Milk Tray Hassan finally delivered on that box of chocs, well enough to feed 4 of the greedy Merton 5's players. Celebrations aside, illness, injury and outside commitments hit the team hard. Tiago caught rabies from a dingo, Andy injured from excursions at a stag event the prior weekend (don't play bubble football during the season), Bambi shot himself in the leg last weekend at 5-aside, Steve H locked in a sex dungeon in Manchester and Gibbo drinking from the furry stein in Germany. Luckily Neal Davison and Dan Bilzerian stunt double Joe Squire helped us out.

We started slow and IBIS scored basically from kick off, attacking quick and outnumbering Delman down our right hand side. The IBIS forward finished well, although Sam got a good hand to it.

This kicked us up a notch and tackles went flying in. Unfortunately Dwayne was on the receiving end of a heavy 50/50 which put him out for the rest of the game, and probably a few weeks. We attacked well and had a run of about 4-5 corners which Ackers delivered well. One of which, Dulanjie bullet headered from the penalty spot and hit Clive solidly in the face on the line and was then cleared. We knew it was going to be another one of those days. Clive has agreed to stay out of the opposition box from now on. Near the end of the first half, possession was conceded in the Merton half and IBIS capitalised despite Sam getting another hand to it.

Second half we started well and created a few chances. Then injury struck again and Clive's hamstring went. We were then under pressure and conceded two quick goals. More woe was added when Neal's hamstring went as well. The final straw was one of the players, who will remain unnamed performed a Houdini trick. This left us in more trouble and conceded two further goals compounding the disappointing result.



6s

MERTON FC 3

Merton FC 1

NO REPORT SUBMITTED

7s

MERTON FC 1
Merton FC 3

Time to give Martin a break and the elected captain to step up this week with a match report...

Once again the game gets moved from the beloved Hood to the WCE, none the less, the talk of the week was the fixture and not the ground that the 'war' will take place on, yes, it's the 6s v 7s re-match.

Both teams in need to get back on track after losing their previous games and having seeing the team selection (the 6s being slightly depleted), the 7's debated a game plan to match the 6s in formation, a untried 4-3-3 (much to Dan's disappointment). Whilst needing a few of the 4s ourselves to make up the numbers, it was clear the 7s had revenge in mind.

The start was quite bright and a fair amount of exchanges took place, the 7s pressing early and getting in amongst the 6s midfield, managed to curve a few half chances, but it was the 6s who pressed and could have took the lead with a quick counter, only to see the shot go wide.

As the first half moved on, the 7s settled down and started to get a further few decent chances in, John T down the left seemed to have to wait all day for the ball to come down after a cross from Adam sent him on his way, only for the shot to be far and wide, Scott and Malcolm both getting more of the ball from the midfield, rattled off some shots from distance which was handled well by the 6s keeper,

Thinking we had a good hand on the game, the incredible happens, the 6s breaking up play from their own half, managed to counter attack and slide the over energetic Peter in on goal, still having Dan to beat, managed to skip around and ride a few tackles and slot past Kieran in goal... Bugga, it was going so well!

With Tom R playing centre mid, as opposed to the familiar centre back, and Adam on the right, the midfield duo was putting in a shift and trying to get the 7s back in the game, David however seemed to be having his own love in with Paul on the left and was chasing him around the pitch anytime he had the ball!

With less than 5 minute to go, the 6s defence left Scott out wide on the halfway line, a cleared ball from a 6s attack, left the defence standing with raised hands appealing for offside, but clearly Scott had thought this through and was standing inches inside his own half, sprung into life and gave chase of the ball, with electric pace and just keeping the ball in play, he checked back expecting to have company bearing down on him, only to see the 6s centre back in Mark, screaming like a banshee at the ref at its not fair, that he was offside and that his boot lace was in there half! The Ref not having none of it, waved play on and Scott, not needing to be told to play to the whistle had already at this point entered the 18 yard box and compose himself enough to slot past the advancing goalkeeper. 1-1. Game on.....!!

Halftime and tails up, the 7s congratulated each other on a good first half, and knowing how bad we are in the first 10 minutes of any second half, the captain and manager and everyone else was requesting calm and to keep it simple for the first 10minutes and build on the end of the first half.....

Second half, whistle blows, 6s kick off, long ball over the top, 7s defence and keeper are still debating if we said keep it tight for 10 minutes or 10 seconds.... 2-1!

Once again we are the master of our own down fall, rallying around trying to make amends, even though we are the same club, the tackles were flying in, good 50/50s followed by handshakes, it's how the game is played, visibly the 7s tired, and the 6s forward line of teenagers started to make a difference, and with 15 minutes to play, Peter was once again there to seal the 3-1 victory and a worthy finish had his hatrick .

All in all, a very good, well-played game and well entertained the crowd of 3 on the side line, and with this victory, the 6s move ever closer to promotion and winning the second spot league. Good luck to the 6s, and the 7s will be back at it, trying to do their bit in the coming fixtures

Team: Kieran, Ryan, Tom J, Dan, Martin, Adam, Tom R, David ©, Scott, Malcolm, John T.

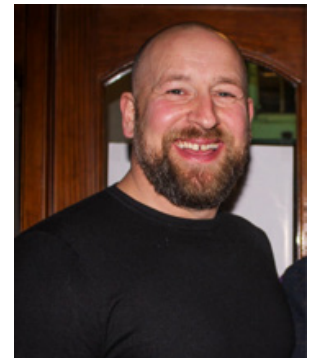
Subs: Noor (for John T) Chris (for Martin)

MOTM: Close call between the midfielders, but Adam, who seem to be enjoying the centre mid roll.

DOTD: Dan, who apparently had a hole in his pocket!

NAME: David Golding
TEAM: 7s (Captain)
POSITION: 10ft circle in the middle!
BIRTH DATE: 14/8/72
BIRTH PLACE: Fulham
PREVIOUS CLUBS: how long you got?!

DAVID GOLDING



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

Left school at 14 and became a blacksmith, started my own company in 1999 and have a great team working with me.

Outside of work, been coaching kids football for 12 years on & off as well as running various football teams from under 18 to Vets.

Unfortunately most winters I'm found falling down some remote mountain covered in snow with a board strapped to my feet, so I normally end up missing a fair amount of the season (or not depending on the uk weather!)

2. How did you end up at Merton FC?

My good friend Steve Burchell had been asking me for a few years to join, but for one thing or another, could never commit. Finally the planets aligned and he managed to get me signed up, only for him to get picked for a different squad... go figure!!

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

Been a few in such a short time, as playing in the 7s is an absolute blast, scoring in the same game as my son Billy in a friendly is one, but I would guess it would have to be scoring from '48' yards (apparently!) and made all the more better as I beat Malcolm to the shot! (And by all accounts it was Billy or got the assist)

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

Either Spurs (as I've been a fan since the early 80s) or Madrid/Barca (given the chance, who wouldn't?)

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

Wore my socks inside out in a London schools youth tournament in the 80s, finished top scorer and we won the tournament, so oddly enough done it since.

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

As we're the newly formed 7s and there wasn't any expectations at the start, we as a team, believe we can finish top 4. Which would be remarkable seeing as we had no preseason or knew who played where and how!

Goals, seeing as I'm now playing the holding midfield roll (sort of!!) I would be happy to finish with 5 (that's including any goals for the 6s, friendlies & even own goals!!)

Player of the season (at Merton, or in professional football): Merton - tough one, as there's a core of regular players that are stand out 'team players', will play anywhere and not fuss when substituted or don't start. Childhood Team: Spurs.

Favourite team in the UK: Spurs/AFC Wimb

Favourite team outside the UK: Madrid/Barca

Childhood Hero: Paul Gascoigne

Favourite Food: Chicken & Rice

Favourite Drink: Guinness

Favourite Band: all depends what I doing.

RAPID FIRE

NAME: Charlie Hockless

TEAM: 1s

POSITION: Centre Forward

BIRTH DATE: 18.02.1992

BIRTH PLACE: Paris

PREVIOUS CLUBS: PSG Academy, Rutland Fc

CHARLIE HOCKLESS



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

I am a senior analyst for a valuation/data company in the shipbroking industry. This basically entails providing data and valuations for financial institutions, owners and brokers within shipping. Outside of work I enjoy going out, going to gigs and watching sport. I'd describe myself as easygoing and always up for a laugh.

2. How did you end up at Merton FC?

I was a Nottingham Uni with Tom Rowe who, after seeing my finishing prowess at powerleague, said I should come down to Merton once back in London.

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

Probably coming on for my first appearance this season 3-2 down against IBIS, winning the foul for the equaliser then scoring an audacious first time volley from outside the box into the top corner to win it for the men in yellow with 5 mins to go, sending the away end (our subs bench) into raptures and celebrating with a double knee slide in the corner. Wish I could remember the celebrations in the Wandle after...

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

Chelsea. Spent my childhood idolising Gianfranco Zola, Jimmy-Floyd Hasselbaink, and Frank Lampard. Also to play for Antonio Conte would be an amazing experience.

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

The no.15 shirt has been good to me this season, so I tend to grab that out of the pile as soon as possible.

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

For the team- to end this season strongly. We've seen a huge improvement from last year and to finish in the top 3 or 4 would be a solid benchmark for future campaigns. Also to win our cup semi, I would love a cup final.

Personally- to keep getting on the score sheet and to stay fit.

Player of the season (at Merton, or in professional football):
Siri, he's having a huge impact this season. In the prem- N'golo Kanté.

Childhood Team: Chelsea

Favourite team in the UK: Chelsea

Favourite team outside the UK: PSG

Childhood Hero: Michael Schumacher

Favourite Food: Pizza

Favourite Drink: Guinness.

Favourite Band/Artist: Action Bronson

RAPID FIRE

U9s

MERTON FC

NO GAME

U11s

MERTON FC 4
CB Hounslow Utd Green 0

NO REPORT SUBMITTED

U13s

MERTON FC 2
Sheen Lions Pride 3

NO REPORT SUBMITTED

U14s

MERTON FC 7

Mitcham Park Stripes 1

NO MATCH REPORT SUBMITTED

U15s

MERTON FC 0

NO GAME

WHO'S WHERE AND WHEN

SATURDAY 11th March 2017

1s
HSBC v MERTON FC
HSBC Sports Ground – 15:00

2s
MERTON FC
NO GAME

3s
MERTON FC
END OF SEASON

4s
Ibis Eagles v MERTON FC
Ibis Eagles Sports Ground - 15:00

5s
MERTON FC v Old Wilsonians
Wimbledon Common Extentions - 15:00

6s
MERTON FC v Old Salesians
Wimbledon Common Extentions– 15:00

7s
Civil Service v MERTON FC
Civil Service Sports Ground– 14:00
DOUBLE HEADER

SUNDAY 12th March 2017

U9s
MERTON FC v Old Isleworthians Yth Whites
Home

U11s
MERTON FC v Rocks Lane United
Home

U13s
Hampton Rangers Juniors v MERTON FC
Away

U14s
MERTON FC v Old Isleworthians Yth Reds
home

U15s
Doverhouse Lions Pinks v MERTON FC
Away

MERTON FOOTBALL CLUB

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