

# THE MERTON WAY

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-season-  
**2017-2018**



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# ABOUT US

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We are an amateur sports team that currently has 7 adult football teams and 6 youth teams. Founded in 1910, we have affiliations with the Southern Amateur League and the Amateur Football Association.

*As a budding young football club we welcome any new players at all levels to join our club.*

We Invite you to come down to our training sessions.

## ADULTS TRAINING:

LOCATION: St Mark's Academy School, Acacia Road, Mitcham CR4 1SF

TIME: 8pm-9.30pm on Wednesday evenings (please arrive by 7.45pm to stretch and warm up)

SURFACE: Astro-turf - please wear appropriate footwear

Each player 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 with trains from Victoria, Clapham Junction and Balham.

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.

Our home ground is:  
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground, Martin Way, Merton, SW20 9BU

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*Alternatively*  
Check out our website at:

<http://www.mertonfc.co.uk/>

Feel free to send enquiries and find more information about our club.



# Merton Statistics

## Top Goal Scorers

Name	League Goals	Cup Goals	Total Goals
Nick Englefield	4	0	4
Adam Collings	4	0	4
Dom Plumridge	2	2	4
Denys Zhurbiy	1	3	4
Billy Golding	0	4	4
Tony Chaplin	3	0	3
Richard Gibbs	3	0	3
Own Goal	3	0	3
Josh Fitzgerald- Smith	2	0	2
Aaron Loftus	2	0	2
Callum Fisher	2	0	2
Dulanie Richards	2	0	2

Pictured: Nick Englefield tied on four league goals.



## Golden Gloves

Name	Clean Sheets	Pen Saves	1 Goal Conceded	Points
Siraj Durrani	1	0	1	4
Kieran Lee	1	0	0	3
John Gridley	0	1	0	3
Sam Singer-Ripley	0	0	1	1
Mike Gubby	0	0	1	1
Darren Fitzgerald	0	0	1	1
Mark Swann	0	0	1	1

Pictured: Goallekeeper of the week - Swanny.



## MOTM

Name	Total MOTM Awards
Tony Chaplin	2
Kieran Lee	1
Ryan Gresty	1
Sam Harvey	1
Joe Grew	1
Will Toms	1





## 6S MERTON FC 4

## 5S Merton FC 1

Team: Swanny, Chris, Mark, Grant, Andy, George, Ty, Matt, Callum, Tony, Nick Subs: Reece, Pete, Trey

The 6s made history by becoming the first Merton side to beat a higher Merton side in a competitive match, but it could easily have gone differently and scoreline does not reflect the match.

These games are rarely fun to play because its not easy to play your natural game and your opponents know you as well as you do! The 5s knew our strengths (and our weaknesses) and opted for a surprising 3/5/2 formation to counteract the kids and to ideally give their pace up to the best chance. They started faster than us for sure and got into their game plan well - big balls up to the Strikers and fast runs off the loose balls - however it was a gift from the 6s that gave them the lead. Grant "I always wanted to be Cryuff" tried to evade the advancing Gibbo who picked his pocket and rifled his shot passed the waved hand of Swanny. 1-0 and they deserved it.

This did wake up the 6s and we began to get into the game more and more. We were getting into dangerous spaces but the final balls were letting us down and good defending kept us at bay. But what we were doing well was hunting the loose balls and hassling the 5s in possession and it was this that caused the confusion in the 5s defence that gifted us the equaliser - a misplaced long free kick was headed into an empty net by the unfortunate Clive, Sam having clearly called for it. It was a gift but nothing we didn't deserve.

This settled the 6s down and we had an element on control in the game, but it was far from comfortable. Dulanie and Aaron kept causing problems to the defence with their pace, and Gibbo strength was getting him plenty of joy. At the other end we had a few half chances, but nothing clean until a great move between George and Callum led to a perfect cross by George but Nick couldn't convert at the far post. A let off for the 6s, but this didn't dampen our spirits - we are getting used to Nick missing a few.

The 6s got the lead again from good work in winning back the loose ball after a corner and Callum found Tony on the edge of the box, he got free of his defender and smashed the ball into the net - SOME might say it was an OG off the defender off the cross bar - But Tony threatened to sulk and get all moody and we have enough of that from Kev and Ty usually so we let him off just this once.

Then the 5 minutes that ultimately changed the game .. The 5s broke well and despite the 6s having chances to clear the ball broke to Ackers who put over a peach of a cross but Dulanie (almost in a repeat of Nick's chance earlier) couldn't convert. At 2-2 the game would have been in the balance, but soon after a long free kick my Chappell was picked up by Nick who turned his defender and went through to finish well beyond Sam. 3-1 rather than 2-2 at half time made a huge difference to the two team talks and certainly put pressure on the 5s for the second half.

In all honestly the 2nd half lacked the end to end openness of the 1st. The 6s had an element of control in the game and a couple of crucial injuries to the 5s had left them unbalanced and the game did get a bit scrappy at times. The 6s had a few chances to finish it but didn't take them, and bar a few long range efforts for the 5s Swanny was only Troubled by Grant, who was really trying to win DOD by scoring an OG but the Cat had it covered.

With time running out Nick scored from close range after some good work from Midfield (Sorry I don't remember by whom!). A bad injury to Clive did put a dampener on the day and we wish him well, and hope he will get back for the return fixture which I'm sure we be as hard fought and close as this one.

MOM was a three way tie until the last vote - George was a constant threat all day - I was humbled to get the same number of votes for marshaling the defence -but Tony wins it again for an all round display both with and without the ball AND his Goal (or assist - whichever you want)

DOD was easy as Ty thought it a good idea to leave the game early to go and collect his GF from the airport. Has she not heard of coffee shops?!



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## MERTON FC 2 Nottsborough 1

Second match away for the boars against an unbeaten Nottsborough 4th, top of the league after 2 matches. Positive start already with the home team not getting 11 men on the pitch but matches must be won during the 90 minutes and not on statistics or on paper.

This is what Merton attitude was put on the pitch from the first second on the match with a great solid 11's, top concentration and the intention to play every single ball on the floor.

First 10 minutes great possession with defenders and midfielders, with the last to set great balls for the wings (DK and Tom) both being a real pain for the opponent defence.

At the third attempt just before 15' Tom scored the first, Lofty assist with a lovely ball over the top after we worked the ball nicely from a throw in deep in our half. Tom with a nice lobbed finish that went over the keeper and in off the far post.

This didn't stop the boar plying nice football with completely supremacy over the home team and after few minutes superb second goal, Gresty assist with a superb defence splitting ball through the heart of their defence following some great pressing. DK curved his run to stay onside and hit it early as the keeper tried to rush out, passed into the bottom corner.

To be noticed that till the 30' we didn't conceded a single opportunity showing a very solid permanence.

Shame for Dennis who got injured during a sprint (probably up hamstring due the old age..!!! Just joking) great effort till then. Mustard in without warm up but straight into the match with few successful runs putting the opponent team in serious danger like in the early years of the millennium..!!! This is 17' season for him..!!

Home team back on 11 on the pitch with a sub as well.

Carrying out our solid performance, Gresty to stop every single attempt of the opponent in the midfield just in front of the defence, holding really well and having Mike marking number 10 throughout the match basically shadowing him all over the pitch (that was brilliant tactical call from Darren). Making the right foul to stop them Iain first and Neal after spent their booking in the cleverest way.

To highlight, only opportunity the home team had, showed Darren's super skill in goal with a top save at down left corner. Great chance to be in goal for next few matches.!!!

Just before half time, really unlikely, after few bouncing their score. 1-2 and straight into half time.

Same 11's on the pitch with Mario on the side who couldn't wait to get involved in the battle in the middle of the pitch.

First 15' the home team tried to squeeze the boars into their half but a very tight and solid Merton didn't allowed them to get into the box and create no danger at all.

Half an hour to go and last sub for Merton, Mario in for Lofty.

Pretty much same story, home team trying to get closer to box with decent football taking nearly 8-9 men into Merton half but excellent communication and effort all over the place, boars could get the ball back and trying few counter attacks where we nearly scored the thirds goal with DK.

Top experience from Mustard who showed Neal and Iain how to tackle with controlled force, stopping the opposition in their tracks, by winning the ball fairly and leaving the demolished Nottsborough player in a pulverised heap on the floor.

Solid performance across 90 minutes brought first 3 points for Merton hopefully starting a long strip of result.

MOTM Gresty DOTD Mario (arriving late and leaving straight after the match)





Pictured: 5S manager stretched off after the interclub clash.





# INTERCLUB SHOWDOWN

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Another good weekend of football, albeit a couple of narrow reverses. Two highlights of the week. Let's start with the obvious: the much-anticipated inter-club showdown between the 5s and the 6s. It struck a good balance between needle (both sides really wanted the win), but also the camaraderie of club mates. In the end, huge credit must go to the sixes for pulling off the win. Theirs is a team with excellent balance of youth and experience – and no shortage of quality in their ranks too. It's fair to say their prospects for the season look good. The only unfortunate part of the game was a serious knee injury to Clive, the 5s manager. On behalf of the whole club, we wish you a speedy recovery.

The other highlight was the 3s, who pulled off an excellent win at Nottsborough. What a result, and of course, what a brilliant celebration video! This is a team who suffered many a narrow defeat last season, and haven't had things all their own way early doors this time around either. But they're a wonderfully close-knit bunch, and embody everything that we try and encourage at Merton. That is a great credit to Fitz, the manager, and also Mustard for his positive influence. Keep up the good work.

A weekly ramble wouldn't be complete without some off-field housekeeping/complaints. But this particular issue reflects very poorly on ourselves. Steve was first at the Hood on Sunday morning and reported that changing rooms were open, lights were on, and yard gates open. It would seem that we are not locking up properly. Before, I thought it was kids breaking in, but the yard gates open is us. Please guys – let's be vigilant, and also use a bit of common sense. Let's treat our facilities with more respect. Otherwise we will have to start finding ways to take action.

On a more positive note, our ever-popular quiz night takes place on Saturday. Numbers are looking good, but, if you haven't already, please enter a team by contacting Sherbs or Toddy. Bear in mind too that, thanks to our pioneering bar manager Dodge, we'll be having our first ever Merton Cocktail Happy Hour (5pm to 7pm). Some great deals on offer, and also a delightful assortment of drinks. Do get yourselves down there for what should be a very enjoyable evening.

Finally, a note that we'll be dusting off the hangovers, and commencing our landscaping of the patio area of the Hood on Sunday too. We could do with a few more helpers/labourers though, so please do get in touch with Toddy to put yourself forward. It's a great way to do your bit to help make our beloved Hood an even better place.





# 1S

## MERTON FC 2 Alleyn Old Boys 3

BI weekly catch up part one

Woody Misses his penalty, everyone else scores theirs, subsequently gets dotd and then doesn't write the match report. Harrison still hasn't learnt about the EC rule and drinks 4 pints for it. 7 before 7 is still a possibility.

Part two

Merton welcomed Alleyn Old Boys to the Hood after dispatching West Wickham in the cup the week before. I feel bad for Simon, scores the winning peno and doesn't even get a match report to do him justice. If only the glory of him pointing to his stomach after scoring could have been captured.

With everyone on time and Kerns/Siri running late as per, we kicked off holding our own for the first 15 minutes or so. In my time for Merton, I think i've only ever conceded one worldie, the amount of penos and shit goals i've let in makes me question life sometimes. This game was no different, 1-0 down, ball to the back stick was half cleared and slotted in from about 7 yards out.

Alleyns had a lot of the ball in the half and the penalty to make it 1-1 came out of the blue, blatant push in the back, Sam Harvey slotting it to the keepers right to make it all square. This seemed to push Merton up the gears as the passing got quicker and more direct, this probably led to the second goal, or Sam perfecting his 'bobble ball' technique (*just think about Stan Collymore and his goal against Tim Flowers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WN2F6WQk8zk>*)

2-1 and Merton pushing for a third were pegged back almost instantly by Siri imitating his inner Claudio Bravo and coming for a cross that wasn't really there and subsequently headed into an empty net. 2-2 at half time and Van instantly letting everyone know that Siri went from MOTM last week to DOTD this. Such a team player.

The second half was low in quality, Alleyns defended pretty well and we didn't really have many clear openings. 15 minutes into the second half Alleyns cut down the left, reserved the ball and delivered an overhit ball to the back stick with their winger did well to knock back into the box straight to their forward who tucked in from 3 yards out.

Merton 1s first loss of the season. All in all a good performance against a pretty good team, but a couple of mistakes costing us. However the style of football has certainly changed from last year, with the long ball being replaced with a more fluid passing style. Carrying on these sort of performances against div 1 teams into the league will see us pushing for promotion/the league.

Motm - Sam Harvey

Dotd - Siri



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MERTON FC 1

Norsemen 2

A sojourn to anywhere upwards of Ally Palace should come with some sort of health warning. The north is a foreign country, they do things differently there.

In Merton 2s' case, this was various interpretations of timeliness ranging from 30 minutes early (preppy top marks PQ, DQ); bang on time (Adam, Gibbo, Jamie); late but with regular WhatsApp updates from the car (Gabby); or late because of getting on the wrong train entirely (Cookie).

Merton came strolling out of the traps with all the verve of Dame Thora Hird attempting to find a biscuit under her sofa. Sherbs watched on as the backline was broken, made a decent attempt at a tackle, but was stranded as a subsequent cross went to a Norseman to put into an empty net.

Up front, Rayner and DQ were creating upwards of zero chances until the last 20 minutes of the first half when Team Handsome started to get on top of things. Andy Holder-Ross came off the bench for a hobbled Pearcey and notched. Merton went in with their tails up.

Second half, said tails made their way limply back between Merton legs as Norsemen ground out a territorial advantage, hit the bar a couple of times, and eventually scored after a defensive error.

Merton responded by not doing a lot apart from overhitting crosses and musing the tiresome journey home. Joe Grew did manage a GOAT clearance: somehow smashing the ball against his own bar hard enough to clear out of the area. Astonishing.

Cookie, DQ, and birthday boy Dan Rist commiserated by drinking until 5am: #lads. MOM was Joe Grew, because he stood pretty firm in the face of an average performance.

DOTD was Sherbs, not just for the first goal, but also for counting on paper using concentric circles instead of the traditional five-bar gate. Maybe it's a keeper thing.



## MERTON FC 2017-2018 EVENTS

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### MERTON QUIZ - SATURDAY 7th OCTOBER

- 7pm START prompt – 10pm FINISH
- Classic Quiz with all the proper rounds!
- Teams of 6, £10 per person – including fish & chips.
- ALL teams to put forward a team for entry.



### INTERCLUB GAMES NIGHT - 11th November

- Please lock Saturday 11 November into your diaries.
- Clappers' lifelong dream of an inter-club games night has finally come to fruition. Darts, foosball and pool - all at the Hood. Should be a good'un



### SATURDAY 2nd DECEMBER – THE MERTON CHRISTMAS JUMPER OFF

- 7pm – Midnight
- Kick-off silly season with your 1st Christmas party at the Hood!
- Drinks, food & Carol singing a plenty – with the now annual competition for the best Christmas Jumper on the night!



### New Years JANUARY 2018 – Annual Memorial Match day

- NYE Drink the bar dry challenge?
- Memorial Match for Nick Papanastasiou.





# SAL UPDATE

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As I am sure you all know, 11-a-side football is in serious decline all over the country and particularly in London. This has been evident in recent years with a number of clubs in the Southern Amateur League (SAL) reducing the number of teams they enter, or in some cases folding altogether. Merton has actually bucked this trend, increasing from six to seven teams last year.

In the face of these difficulties the SAL has made a number of changes to its rules and modus operandi to make it more attractive. Many of these changes were based on the results of a far-reaching survey that we all had the opportunity to participate in.

These included;

- Greater Regionalisation
- 2pm Kick off times
- Cancellation of games without calling off other games

But in order to attract new clubs and keep some of those it has allowed clubs to do things that in the past were strictly not on. Eg:

- Only enter one team when three or four was the minimum
- Allow a club's first team or reserves to play lower than senior or intermediate
- Give a disposition to allow a club not to have a first or second team

All this is totally understandable.

At this year's Annual General Meeting a number of new clubs were welcomed into the SAL. Good news, but one of the quite-extraordinary proposals was that a new club, Tooting and Mitcham Wanderers, would join the Senior section and be placed in the First division.

Whilst I was happy to have the club join the SAL, I spoke against them being allowed to enter Division 1 on the following basis.

- Past practice had been to make all clubs gain promotion to Division 1, and not just be placed there. Some of our top clubs (Eg: Old Wilsonians and Nottsborough) had been placed in Division 3 and risen to the top
- What did we know about the playing strength of the club? They played in the Middlesex Senior League, which is Tier 7 of the pyramid (along with Brentham who dropped out of Div 3 some years ago after finishing consistently low)
- The SAL is a strong league and its Division 1 sides are consistently beating semi-pro sides.
- It was a dangerous precedent to set. If another Tier 7 joined, would they automatically go into Div 1?

- Also, Division 1 had too many teams in it (Div 1 -12 Div -2 11 and Div 3 10) so that when cup games are taken into account, a division side might play 28 games compared to 22 in Div 3. They should be trying to bolster Div 3 not Div 1

- Also, with Div 1 season finishing in mid-May this year they really did not need to lengthen the season which, in effect, they had done

- And what did we know about the ethos of the club?

Persuasive stuff you may think.

Not a bit of it. This was all blown away by the Chairman on the basis that it was a great honour to have this club, or any club from the Pyramid, apply to join.

To be honest I don't really know who Tooting and Mitcham Wanderers were or are. It is not easy to know. They play in black and white stripes like Tooting and Mitcham, but they play at Raynes Park Vale. So, the prospect of a good local derby. Then they change their name to Tooting and Merton Wandsworth. Why? Did Tooting and Mitcham object, and they had to find another name that fitted the embroidery on their kit? On their website, there were some familiar names of ex-Merton players who had joined Raynes Park Vale when our 3s went over there with Lee Wilkinson, and seemed to do quite well there. Anecdotally, we had heard that they were really trying to recruit a new team.

Their only pre-season game seemed to be a 6-1 thrashing at IBIS who have just been promoted to Division 2. So, what due diligence had been done? This looked like a reputational debacle.

I think to save the blushes of the SAL they have resigned and will go back to Middlesex Premier.

But I hope our SAL League Management committee has learned some lessons from this.

If they have not, let me spell them out:

- Remember the lessons of the past, and do proper due diligence on clubs
  - And that includes trial games with current SAL clubs
  - Carefully check their credentials, and check out their story
- A lot of their initiatives seem to be sound and well thought out, but this one was a disaster waiting to happen - and luckily it has been averted. Phew!



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## MERTON FC 2

### Dorkinians 3

After a mixed, but mostly positive start to the season, it was onto the Cup as the Merton 4s travelled to Dorkinians for this knockout fixture. And what a pleasure it was too. The beautiful surrounds of Boxhill provided the backdrop, and the leafy countryside of Surrey was the setting. Throw in some overcast but mild conditions, and the perfect stage had been set for a delightful afternoon's football.

It started pretty well too, with Merton consolidating the flowing, passing football they had produced over the last couple of weeks. Dorkinians, though, were clearly a decent side, and there wasn't much in it early doors.

The breakthrough came about 20 minutes in though, as Merton were undone - not for the first time - by a set-piece. A free kick came swirling in, and in went a header from an unmarked man. It smacked of the goal conceded in the recent Ibis game, and was a desperately disappointing way to go behind having given as good as they'd got until that point.

Merton once again got a good foothold in the game thereafter, but there was to be no further joy before half time, and 1-0 was how it stayed. In a bid to discover his inner Conte, manager-for-the-day John Gridley then pulled himself off to cajole his men. And goodness me, it worked a treat.

Not long after the restart, Merton benefited from a very dubious penalty - a handball which could just as easily have been waved away. Nevertheless, Dom made no mistake from the spot, and the Yellows now had parity.

And one soon became two, this time in impressive fashion, as Sonny ably assisted Dom, who then found himself one-on-one with the keeper. And, well, you know how that story ends... the little maestro put it away, and Merton were suddenly 2-1 to the good. Cue a charge down the touchline from the gaffer.

But the joy, sadly, was short-lived. With their winger going nowhere along the sidelines, Sonny saw fit to push/clothes line him, and thus give away a needless free kick. And, in a mirage of the first goal, the ball was duly whipped into the back post, and headed home for the equaliser. What a waste!

Frustration soon turned to heartbreak though, as Dan Gridley once again gave away a penalty with just 5 minutes to go. This time though, he was very unlucky, and, to say the least, it was a soft one. Perhaps the ref was feeling guilty from the one he'd given to the visitors earlier on, but this really was one that stuck in the throat. Even more so when the man who stepped up thumped it into the back of the net. 3-2, and not much time left to make it right.

Merton certainly gave it a go though, and, in the dying seconds with all their men forward (including Gubby), crashed one against the post. But it wasn't to be, and a disappointing 3-2 defeat was how it finished.

Not the end of the world, and a good performance once again. The most important thing will be to turn it into points when normal league service resumes against Salesians on Saturday.

MOTM: Will Toms (special mention for Akram)

DOTD: Dan Gridley (unlucky)



# 7s

## MERTON FC 1 Corinthian Casuals Under-21 4

With four of the Merton teams playing at home, and the epic 5s v 6s encounter taking centre stage, our little gem of a game v CCU21 was going under the radar. Turning up early and taking the brisk walk to the changing rooms, it was noted that the Merton little league teams must have been running some sort of intensive drills outside the club changing rooms, as for the number of cones, poles and balls sprawled around, I pitied those who had to take part... looked ruthless!

Changing room buzzing, as having to share with the 6s made it all the more entertaining, the 7s tally up the latest injury list which see the squad lose Steve Burchell to an attempted SAS assassination which results in a few busted ribs, Luke Pellett and Daban to ankle injuries, Scott with a twisted knee thingy, New lad Chris Dodd having to pull out on the day and Dan Alley loosing his hair products and having to make a late trips to boots... we do however welcome in on a new long term contract, Ryan Burchell (some say the better looking Burchell) Ram back from his overextended long arse holiday and on short notice Luke Mora dropping down to give us a welcome hand as well as the versatile Steve 'Essex' Harvey

Mangers David & Martin get summoned to the ref for the pre-game talk (a first, but gave away how the ref would be policing the game!). So, standing with our opposite numbers, the ref gave us fair warning and ask for any questions... at this point we first found out that the opposition plays in white! Not a problem, a quick rush into the changing room to mug the 6s of the yellow kit, this now makes new history of the first inter-club league or cup game where neither side will be playing in the traditional yellow! The second more concerning point was the CCU21 manager informing us that they will be continuing there warm up outside the changing room in there marked out area...

"Wait? What.... ?? that's you warming up your team outside?!"

"Yes... Hope you don't mind..."

"Erm... Nah.... Go ahead"

(Turns to Martin and whispers) "You f##### kidding me... 2 hour pre-game warm up!"

Finally, out on the pitch and full 30 minutes before the game, with a mild jog across the pitch and back and half-hearted leg shake, we conclude the warm up. All eyes on the opposition as they take up residence on the halfway line. Looking prepared, there manager still going over notes with individual players with a leather-bound folder.. The 7s however are still being reminded by the gaffer they (CCU21s) took last week's teams for 10 ... we agree that no matter what, we not going to be a walk over. Game starts as predicted, Kieran in goal is called into action straight away, good early handling and quick balls out to set the tone, the back four of Josh, Martin, David and Ram, see a fair bit of the early exchanges, David playing in the unfamiliar slot of centre back is soon on the back foot and in a foot race which the CCU21 strike, who wins at a canter, only for Kieran to be equal to the task.

Playing a compact 4-5-1 the midfield of Denzel on the left, Luke, Ryan on link up duty, tom and Jacob on the right, With no more than 10 minutes played, and mostly on the back foot, it's fair to say that the 7s was making a fist of it and still trying to play the ball on the deck, although being closed down at rapid speed, they still manged to counter attack with a few good passing moves.

With Billy up front, you've always got a chance, and now with a partner in Ryan to take some of the load off, they begin to split the CCU21s defence with some neat passing and running. A long ball up into the corner see Billy not only kill the pace of the ball in a touch, but with the second, passes the defender and gets a fierce cross in which Ryan almost meets but is beaten to by the defender. CCU21s openly talk that there's the danger and to close the forward line down. Now with Ryan chasing every loose ball and Billy ghosting in behind, the 7s seem to be having more of the game.

On 30, Billy takes a high ball in his stride, somehow nutmegs the defender with a flick and gets on the end of his own ball, gets the cross over which beats everyone in the box, only for Ryan to pick up the pieces, drops a shoulder goes around the player who can only grab and pull him back by his shirt, clear penalty

Billy, steps up and hits hard and to close to the keeper, which results in a strong glove to push the ball back into the path of Billy who follows up at pace to slam into the roof of the net. 1-0 the 7s!!

With 15 minutes to go, the CCU21s are relentless to get an equaliser before half time, wave after wave of attack the 7s are now playing a 4-6 formation, Billy & Ryan are now in between the midfield and defence, chasing back to help out





On a rare attack, Ryan wins another free kick, which is cleared by the CCU21s defence, and with Josh, David & Ram marking the opposition forward in the their half, the hopefully clearance sails over their heads and into the 7s half, Kieran decided not to come as the CCU21s forward has left David & Josh for pace and is now bearing down on goal. Ram, instead of heading to the player, goes straight to the goal as cover for Kieran is now made to come out and meet the forward 1v1, this allows enough time for Ram to get to the goal line just in time to meet the shot, however, being wrong footed and out of position, he improvises and manages to back heel the ball off the line and away from danger

However, with 5 minutes to go and from our own throw in, the wall of resistant's is finally broken. Losing out to a 50/50 tackle, and 3v4, the CCU21s splice the back four apart and leave Kieran exposed for a well taken shot. 1-1 and half time couldn't come quick enough

Half time talk, more of the same, keep it tight and don't give up.

Second half starts the same as the first, notably a change of tactics from the opposition which now see them marking tighter up the pitch and closing the 7s down a lot quicker. Not even 10 minutes into the 2nd half sees CCU21s go 2-1 up with some nice one touch passing. You can sense the 7s was there for the taking, but thanking fully for some woeful finishing and their inability just take the shot without trying some trick, always give the 7s the last-ditch chance to get the tackles in.

15 minutes in sees the score go to 3-1, again not much can be done when the oppo get it right, but they did seem to be getting frustrated at not scoring at will. Resulting in the first booking of the game for decent towards the ref A change has to be made, Ram needing to catch a breather, Andrew steps in a left back, Luke too takes 5, and on comes Steve H,

Now the fitness is telling, Kieran was now the final line of defence. All the good work in the first half was being put to the test. Still, 3-1 was respectable in the scheme of things. David & Martin was taken great pleasure in reminding the opposition they had a combined age of over a hundred!! Still, they had the last laugh, with a break down the left resulting in an unstoppable cross/shot to make it 4-1. With the game petering out, and finally finishing 4-1, it was a moral victory for the 7s, one which can be built on going forward

Now that the SALC is completed, we look forward to the coming season and league fixtures. We welcome back OW8s for the first home game who we defeated 4-0 only 3 weeks ago and fully expect a stronger opposition to be turning up to make amends

MOTM: After missing last week's game, he makes some sort of amends with today's performance, although, once again, Josh putting in a sterling effort, Kieran takes the majority vote within the team.

Mention for Ryan, never stopped running and looks to be settling in alongside Billy, who himself done well against a strong defensive side (4 in 3 for the cup!)

DOTD: Anyone who lets in four... sorry Kieran, it's your job to stop the goals!!

Team: Kieran, Josh, Martin, David ©, Ram, Jacob, Tom, Ryan, Luke, Denzel, Billy Andrew, Steve H.



## Landscaping the Hood

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### Your club needs you!

The committee has signed off on improving the patio area outside our beloved clubhouse.

This initiative has been very generously subsidised by the Papanastasiou family, in memory of Nick, who we sadly lost last year.

In order to do this, we need your help. Our man Peter Kemp is the brains behind the operation, has it all worked out, and will be directing us on the day. **But we could use another specialist or two**, and definitely need willing labourers to help with things like shifting dirt in wheelbarrows, laying slabs, digging etc etc.

We will be doing this project (weather permitting) on the following 2 days, starting at about 10am:

Sunday 8 October

Sunday 15 October



**Coming  
Soon!  
Under  
Construction**



NAME: DOM PREECE

TEAM: 2S

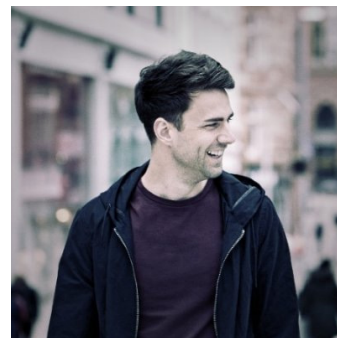
POSITION: CENTRE MID

BIRTH DATE: 19 03 1990

BIRTH PLACE: PETERSFIELD, HAMPSHIRE

PREVIOUS CLUBS: PETERSFIELD TOWN, SOUTH HARTING

# DOM PREECE



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

Pretty standard 27 year old - I seem to spend a lot more time working than I do enjoying life.

2. How did you end up at Merton FC?

I am a good friend of Oli Ross. He recommended I attended pre-season and the rest is history.

3. What do you like most about Merton FC?

Never felt intimidated when I first arrived unlike at other teams who were dominated with big egos. Everyone is given a chance to prove themselves.

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

Newcastle. Childhood fan. I think I would have had a decent partnership with Alan Shearer

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

Not really, no.

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

To become a consistent starter for the seconds and aim for a promotion.

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Favourite Player (at Merton, or in professional football): Pavel

Nedved. Great hair and unreal with both feet

Childhood Team: Newcastle

Favourite team in the UK: Newcastle

Favourite team outside the UK: AC Milan

Childhood Hero: Shearer

Favourite Food: Italian cuisine in general

Favourite Drink: Rum and ginger beer

Favourite Band: don't really have a favourite. Five were pretty decent back in the day

## RAPID FIRE





# YOUTH U-9S

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MERTON FC 0  
OLD RUTS 12

Pleasant mid morning kick off for the under 9s, away to local rivals Old Ruts. We played them pre season where it was a close game, this was the total opposite. There was definitely and bit of 'Fergie time' on the watch. Neal took the warm up once everyone arrived, couple of games and then some shooting practice. Taff even lent a hand with the Old Ruts mum's carrying the goals out; they must have been lighter than ours!!!

Missing one player this week, David, who was running around Disney Land hopefully not slide tackling Mickey Mouse.

Starting line up of Max in goal, Harry and Joe in defence, midfield of Percy, Archie and Louis, up top was Faris. Lewis (Hazard) and Ollie on the bench. Although we conceded 12 goals there were some positives in the match. The boys played the ball about and made some good passes and one twos, getting the ball out to the wide positions. We did have chances but just couldn't convert them. Old Ruts had some good players who could put the ball in the net. We went in the first half with the score being 5 – 0. Clearing and losing the ball near our goal was our down fall for the goals.

The second half was a bit like the first but the boys worked harder to try and get some goals back, Percy doing the upmost to control the centre of midfield who I thought had a really good game, Louis having game of season so far running up and down the wing and getting into scoring positions but not finding the net. Archie putting in the crunching tackles, with one of them causing slight injury to knee and being fireman carried off by Neal. Faris's passing and movement was better, just didn't have his scoring boots this week. Harry and Joe also doing their best to stop the Old Ruts scorers from getting more goals. Ollie doing what he could at the back trying to help Max defend the goal and picking up man of match this week. There is a trophy but Lewis's mum forgot it!! Max although picking the ball out of the back of net numerous times did pull off some very good saves.

And poor Lewis who is still looking for his first goal. Lewis was given the chance to open his scoring this season after being fouled in the box and stepping up taking the penalty. Unfortunately it was his or the teams day to get a goal. The keeper pulling off a great save denying Lewis his goal.

The score line didn't hinder the teams' spirit and look forward to the long away match next week against Halliford Colts FC.



# YOUTH U-10S

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MERTON FC  
ASH TOWN WARRIORS

NO REPORT SUBMITTED



# YOUTH U-12S

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MERTON FC 4  
HAMPTON RANGERS 1

Merton FC u12s win 4-1 away to Hampton Rangers u12s

Another fine performance as u12s go 4 matches unbeaten.

Hatrick from William and a goal from returning Zion sealed a good victory to a resilient Hampton Team.

Adam made some fine saves in goal and Thomas was a real force in midfield.

Young referee age 14 did so well and both teams showed great respect to each other.

Home next week in cup to Molesey.

11.30 am kick off.







# YOUTH U-13S

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MERTON FC 1  
MEADOW SPORTS 1

NO REPORT SUBMITTED



# YOUTH U-14S

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MERTON FC 1  
AFC EWELL 6

GK - MILO  
RB - LIAM  
CB - ENTRI  
CB - NIKOY  
LB - MCKENZIE  
CM - DANIEL  
RW - HUGO  
LW - JUSTIN  
CAM - THEO  
CF - KIERAN  
ST - FAREED

MOM: HUGO/JUSTIN

We came into the game looking for a reaction after last weeks disappointing defeat as we faced AFC Ewell. There were difficult conditions with blustery rain and a particularly suspect pitch and we didn't get off to a good start. We were quickly 2-0 down after sloppy play, conceding one goal from a free kick and another after our defenders got outstrenghed. Kieran managed to get a goal back with a long-range strike that the goalkeeper should of saved to make it 2-1. Unfortunately clever play from the attacker forced McKenzie to give away a penalty after he stretched to win the ball and the attacker used this to go to ground. The penalty was excellently dispatched to make it 3-1 and just before half time Ewell made it 4 after some more disappointing defending.

In the second half Merton performed much better as they took the game to Ewell and had several shots but were unlucky not to score. Hugo had a fantastic game on the right wing, as did Justin when he moved to right back and the play between the two of them was the highlight for Merton. A sloppy back pass from Entri gifted them an undeserved goal to make it 5-1 and then their number 10, the standout player who looked dangerous all game, hit an unbelievable strike into the top corner that bounced in off the crossbar to make it 6-1 and that is how the game finished. The man of the match goes to Justin and to Hugo who both performed excellently in attack and in defence as they switched positions throughout the match. A difficult game awaits us next week in the cup, and hopefully our second half performance can inspire a good reaction next week.



# YOUTH U-16S

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MERTON FC 0  
SUTTON UNITED 7

U16s today had a tough encounter in the first round of the county cup.  
Premier elite, Sutton united.

Boys were keen to play the fixture on a pitch that hosted Arsenal not too long ago.

Message was clear, keep compact and stick together. First half we executed the plan superbly well. 1-0 down at half time, with Ollie going close before they took the lead.

We knew second half was going to be tough. In the end, Sutton running away with it. Kai pulled off some outstanding saves in goal, but all the boys can be proud of their shift today.

Good luck to Sutton

SCR colt next in the league invitation cup for merton



# WHO'S WHERE AND WHEN

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## SATURDAY 7th October 2017

1s  
MERTON FC v Civil Service  
Home - 2pm

2s  
HSBC v MERTON FC  
Away - 2pm

3s  
NO GAME

4s  
Old Salesians v MERTON FC  
Away - 2pm

5s  
NO GAME

6s  
MERTON FC v Old Wilsonians  
Home - 2pm

7s  
MERTON FC v Old Wilsonians  
Home - 2pm

## SUNDAY 8th OCTOBER 2017

U-9  
Halliford Colts FC v MERTON FC  
Home

U-10  
MERTON FC v Woking Cougars  
Home

U-12  
MERTON FC v Molesey Juniors  
Home

U-13  
MERTON FC v Claygate Royals Foleys  
Home

U-14  
Epsom Town v MERTON FC  
Away

U-16  
SCR Colts Yellows v MERTON FC  
Away



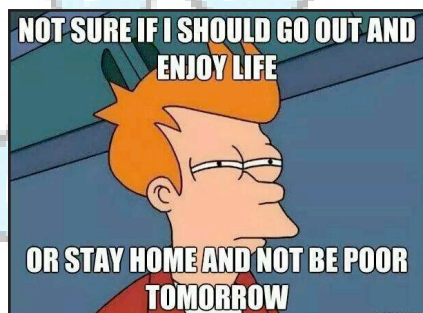


# SAM'S SHOWER THOUGHTS

I'VE RECENTLY GONE DEEP IN MY MIND AND THOUGHT OF THE BEST LIST OF ONE LINERS

1. A doctor tells a woman she can no longer touch anything alcoholic. So she gets a divorce.
2. Please stop calling us your "squad," Linda; this is book club.
3. I think it's pretty cool how the Chinese made a language entirely out of tattoos.
4. Instagram is just Twitter for people who go outside.
5. I'm writing my book in fifth person, so every sentence starts out with: "I heard from this guy who told somebody"
6. You'll never be as lazy as whoever named the fireplace.
7. "We're eating dinner soon. Don't fill up on homework." —Dog mom
8. The closest I've been to a diet this year is erasing food searches from my browser history.
9. We need a 12-step group for compulsive talkers. They could call it On Anon Anon.

## MEME OF THE WEEK



Netflix Series of the Week  
American Vandal



# MERTON FC CLUB SHOP

**MERTON FC CLOTHING NOW AVAILABLE AT THE NEW CLUB SHOP**

New Merton FC clothing range, now available at the link below. From training gear to matchday kit, there's something for everyone. Men, women and juniors take a look and get kitted out for the new season. For better value take advantage of the bundle packs.

Order now from the [Merton FC Club Shop](#)



**GET YOUR KIT ON**

## LOOK THE PART ON A SATURDAY!!

Get yourself or your partners to the Merton FC Club Shop and pick-up some club attire and look like a proper player off the pitch if you're not on the pitch!

Some great bargains and new stock for all your football needs.



### NEW Matchday Shirt

Short Sleeved Training Shirt from Joma.  
Quickdry Lightweight polyester training shirt  
option for personalisation  
**Price: £12.99**



### MATCHDAY HOODIE

Polyester tricot construction  
Ideal for pre- & post match  
Full Zip with Hood  
Embroidered Merton FC club badge  
**Price: £25.00**

