

The Merton Way



2018 – 2019 season

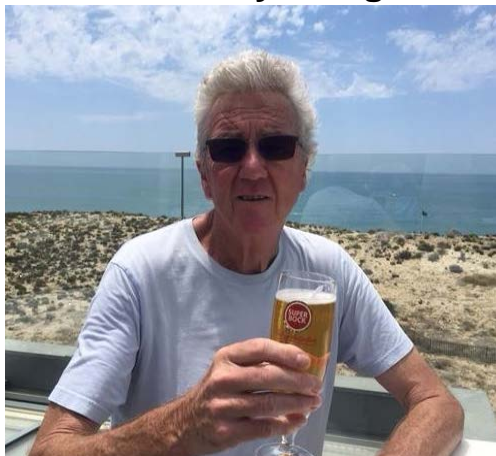
Issue 2

6th October 2018



CONTENTS

- 1 Contents
- 2 Note from the Chairman
- 3 The Social Boar-terfly - dates for your diary
- 4 Results
- 5 Fixtures
- 6 2s report
- 7 4s report
- 8 4s report cont'd
- 9 4s report 22.09.18
- 10 4s report 22.09.18 cont'd
- 11 5s report
- 12 6s report
- 13 6s report cont'd
- 14 6s report cont'd
- 15 New Player Profile – Matt Nightingale



Note from the Chairman

The season is well underway now but we have had a bit of a slow start. The results have been a little disappointing. There are number of reasons why this may be. We have had an unusually high turnover of players and a large number of injuries has added to the difficulty. Also the fact that we have not been able to play many home games because of the pitches has not helped either. Hopefully things will now start to settle down with both the teams and the pitches. Last weekend both the 1s and 2s played well against tough opposition and 3s were unlucky to lose in extra time.

I went to watch the 2s at Bank of England in the Cup. It is a wonderful venue and we played on the old World Cup pitch in front of the main building. Both teams played really good football in an entertaining game but we lost 2-1. It was a good advert for amateur football. It was difficult not to feel some envy for their facilities not just the pitches but all their facilities bar changing rooms etc etc. But then I came back to our bar to watch the footy with the lads and the place was buzzing. We have the best bar in the SAL without a shadow of doubt and it is at the centre of the club.

So don't forget that we have our Annual 'The Merton Way' Quiz on Saturday 13th and you need to book a table for your team. It is a great evening and terrific value with your fish and chip dinner as well.

We are now just checking on numbers for the Merton tour to the Algarve May 9th – 12th 2019. If you are interested please let me know this weekend.

A final word of thanks to Luke Newman for stepping forward and pulling this magazine together.

Good luck to all the teams and if you are not playing it is worth going to the Hood anyway to join the fun and support the lads!!! Or even the youth teams on Sunday morning!



The Social Boar-terfly



QUIZ NIGHT – SATURDAY 13TH OCTOBER, Merton FC

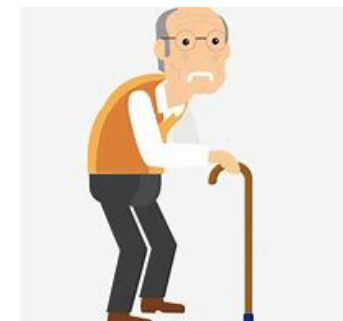
Bring any brain cells you have left (or bring some clever friends) for a night of trivia and fish and chips.

Teams of 6 max. £10pp – includes the grub!



OAP GAME – SATURDAY 20TH OCTOBER, Merton FC

Respect your elders! And cheer our vets on against Old West Citz – it may be their last step before Walking Football/the home.



RACE NIGHT – SATURDAY 10TH NOVEMBER, Merton FC

Yee hah! it's like going to the races, but indoors, and (hopefully) cheaper! There's even Prosecco for the ladies! £10pp

XMAS JUMP OFF – SATURDAY 8TH DECEMBER

It's too soon!!!! I can't bring myself to write any more – it's only OCTOBER!!!! But keep the date free and find a jumper!





Last week's results

League	Merton 1s	1	V	2	Norsemen
	Hockless				
AFA Cup	Bank of England	2	V	1	Merton 2s
					Ackerman
SAL Cup	Merton 3s	1	V	2	Carshalton 4s
	Bryne				
League	Merton 4s	2	V	0	Merton 5s
	D Plumridge, Zhuriby				
SAL Cup	Merton 6s	2	V	1	South Bank 7s
	G Szreider (2) Golding				



This week's fixtures

League	IBIS Eagles	V	Merton 1s
League	Merton 2s	V	Poly 3s
League	Merton 3s	V	Actonians
League	Merton 4s	V	City of London Reserves
League	HSBC 6s	V	Merton 6s

No game for the 5s this week



Bank of England 2 v 1 Merton 2s

High-quality game of football in the autumn sunshine was what Bank's manicured pitch demanded. Merton and the hosts delivered.

Sherbs was superb in goal, saving from point-blank range shortly after Bank took an early lead. His athleticism and bravery kept Team Handsome in it when their concentration was absent.

When it was, Merton were fast and fluid. A Conor throw-in found noble Ryan Noble-Gresty down the right channel, just inside the area. Gresty turned his man and dinked a perfect ball to the far post, where Ackers cushioned home one of the easier goals of his Merton career.

Cookie and man of the match Jack were superb as a centre-back combo. Conor and Ciaran were excellent either side of them. In midfield, it was Glenn's introduction that really began to turn the tide in Merton's favour. His pace caused any number of problems for Bank. But a second goal would not come before the half.

Bank scored again shortly after the break. Debutant Joe put in a fleet-footed and bright showing on his Merton debut. Dan Rist's passing was, as ever, top notch.

The ref did his best to spoil a great game of football. He seemed, oddly, much more interested in giving Bank soft free-kicks than he did nailed-on penalties for Merton. That peculiar inconsistency remained a pattern throughout. He even booked Wilgo for asking him about it – but not Bank's left-back for spear-tackling Joe (an illegal action in rugby, let alone football).

LINE-UP: Sherbs, Conor, Ciaran, Jack, Cookie, Dan Rist, Niall Kelly, Wilgo, Gresty, DQ, Ackers. Subs: Glenn, Joe



Merton 4s 2 v 0 Merton 5s (from the 4s perspective)

Following last week's disappointing exit in the AFA Cup, it was back to League action for the 4s. This week however wasn't just any league fixture, it pinned the 5s against the 4s. Not only three points up for grabs but bragging rights too.

Numbers were scarce in respect of the 4s, with only 11 players available. The 5s however arrived with 13. One of whom was approached to switch sides for the day. An offer that was declined without hesitation. In order to ensure that we had back up on the pitch, Luke Newman, the 5s Manager, agreed to get kitted up and come on if required.

Due to the personnel available to us, we lined up in a 4-4-2 formation. Kieran Lee taken his usual slot between the sticks. The back four from right to left consisted of John Gridley, Dan Gridley, Joe Plumridge and myself. In the middle of the pack, again from right to left was, Marcus Perkins, Roman Bilivitskiy, Mo Chouikhi and Callum Fisher. Leading the line was Dom Plumridge and Denys Zhurbiy.

There was nothing to separate either side in the first 20 minutes. It was after 20 minutes that the 4s, wearing all yellow, were able to get a foothold on the game and overpower the 5s, wearing blue shirts and shorts with pink socks, in all areas of the field.

It was also around this time that Luke had to unfortunately get kitted up in yellow to replace Marcus. I have to commend the professionalism Luke showed. You wouldn't blame him for coming on and making a few 'mistakes' to give the 5s an advantage, given that he is the Manager, however this was not the case. He put the effort in that was asked of him and stood out as one of the best performers on the day.

Getting a foothold in the game allowed us to play the passing game we knew that we were capable off. Our dominance paid off when Dom managed to score from with an overhead kick albeit from a standing position. Denys awarded the assist with a header from Johns throw in.

The talk at half time as a positive one, we just had to go back out there and put the same effort in as we did in the first half.

From the first whistle to initiate the start of the second period, the 4s were in control as the 5s were getting frustrated that a few decisions (offsides and handballs in particular) were going against them.



Merton 4s 2 v 0 Merton 5s (cont'd)

With 20 minutes to go, Denys doubled our advantage. His effort beating, assisted by Dom, beating Chappell at the near post.

As the clock ticked down, the 5s had a sniff of goal when Dulanie was played through for a one-on-one. His tame shot however was comfortably held by Kieran.

This was a massive win and one that hopefully kick-starts our league campaign. Four points after two games is a decent return.

Next week we welcome City of London Reserves to Joseph Hood. We need to ensure that we go into the game as we finished this one. If we do, another three points are surely guaranteed!

SCORER(S): Dom Plumridge, Denys Zhurbiy

MOTM: Mo Chouikhi

DOTD: Kieran Lee

LINE-UP: Kieran Lee (GK), John Gridley, Dan Gridley, Joe Plumridge, Edward Plaistow (Capt.), Marcus Perkins (Luke Newman), Mo Chouikhi, Roman Bilivitskiy, Callum Fisher, Denys Zhurbiy, Dom Plumridge



Old Sepcopian 3s 3 v 2 Merton 4s 22.09.18

In order to ensure our passage to the First Round of the AFA Minor Cup, we were tasked with taking on Old Sedcopians 3s of the Amateur Football Combination in New Eltham. The travel distance to New Eltham wasn't that far however the roads you had to take to get there, unless you select the M25 route, made it seem that way.

As a result of the travel time, the first challenge was ensuring that we had enough players in attendance at the time of kick off. Fortunately out of our squad of thirteen, only Lewis Riches and Adam Lynch were running late. The former arriving fifteen minutes after kick off with the latter arriving as the half time whistle sounded.

Due to Adam's late arrival, Denys Zhurbiy temporarily sat alongside Joe Plumridge at centre back, John Gridley took his usual right back spot and I slotted into my usual position at left back.

In the middle of the park we had Roman Bilivitskiy and Tyrone Fuller with Callum Fisher and Mo Chouikhi supporting them on the flanks with Mario Del Prestito playing just behind Nick Englefield up top.

The match started with high intensity from both sides however it was the hosts that were carving out the better opportunities. One attempt in particular striking the bar early on. Old Sedcopians started to overpower our midfield 20 minutes in and it was around this time that they took the lead. How? I hear you ask...I can't remember fortunately. What I can remember though is that one soon became two and we were staring defeat in the eyes even before the half had come to an end. We did create one chance that should have been converted, Lewis, who has come on to replace Mo, used his pace to get behind the left back but his effort from Callum's cross was blazed high and wide. 2- 0 to the host at the break.

We knew that if we were to get back in the game in the second half that we had to strengthen up the midfield. In order to do so, Adam can on in place of Tyrone to partner Joe at the back, Mario dropped back into the middle of the park alongside Roman and Denys partnered Nick up front.



Old Sepcopian 3s 3 v 2 Merton 4s cont'd

These changes seemed to spark us into gear, it wasn't long before we were bossing possession and creating chances that with a little more composure would have probably found the back of the net. I can't decide whether we created more chances than there were balls that were lost over the fence and we created quite a few chances! I think the balls over the fence clinch it though.

The effort we were putting in was finally rewarded when Callum's cut back, following a Messiesque run, was converted by Roman. Our opposition were clinging on to their lead and they knew that they had to switch back on.

The momentum however remained with yellow shirts outnumbering purple ones at every attack we had. One of these said attacks resulted in a corner from the left. Mario's out swinging delivery connecting to Denys's forehead to bring the game level. The momentum had definitely remained with Merton and our hosts were nervous! However they had nothing to be nervous about in the end.....we were able to add to our tally and they were able to grab the winner 10 minutes from time. A square ball across the six yard box tapped in at the back post. Cue to final whistle and a cheer of relief from Old Sedcopians.

Once against, each and every player that pulled on that yellow shirt left everything out on the pitch. If we continue like this, results will come and we will be a force to be reckoned with.

Next week it's a Merton Derby when we take on the 5s hoping to leapfrog them in the table.

SCORER(S): Dom Plumridge (2) and Jonas Cabrera

MOTM: Callum Fisher – A solid performance once again. Doesn't look out of place.

DOTD: Adam Lynch – Nobody deserves it however if it has to be awarded to somebody it goes to the person who turned up nearly 2 hours late.

LINE-UP: Kieran Lee (GK), John Gridley, Joe Plumridge, Denys Zhurbiy, Edward Plaistow (Capt.), Mohamed Chouikhi (Lewis Riches), Roman Bilivitskiy, Tyrone Fisher (Adam Lynch), Callum Fisher, Mario Del Prestito, Nick Englefield



Merton 4s 2 v 0 Merton 5s (from the 5s perspective)



It is fair to say that this game had been highly anticipated, and the 5s entered it with an air of optimism despite recent performances, with the pressure off being expected to lose as the lower team. In truth, the game was and will be somewhat defined by what came before it but a few points are as follows:

- With players turning up late due to severe delays on the trains, we arrived sporadically which affected our focus.
- Being asked to donate a player to the 4s was a matter that took a lot of concentration away from our players on that game, and that showed throughout the game.
- Despite these 2 factors, the team battled extremely well, and had some real opportunities in stages to score, which could have changed the game.
- There were a few minor shouts that went against us including one dubious offside which may have seen Pete run through on goal, and one handball in the box which could have gone either way.
- The difference between the teams was that the 4s had more composure in attacking positions and those little strokes of quality in front of goal that we just lacked on the day.

The 5s can be very proud of the performance; it was a close game and the effort was surely there. We have a week off but next game becomes imperative if we are going to demonstrate that we have the ability to play in this league, which I know we do as a team.

MOTM: Scott
DOTD: Pete



Merton 6s 3 v 4 South Bank 7s

A single game into the season, we find ourselves back in the SAL cup, City of London forfeited the previous cup game to both us and our opposition, it's now a game to find out who will top the mini league for a Q-F place, or the payoff against either Cave 7s or Park 8s.

A sunny day brings another 12oc ko, squad rolls in with Martin in goal, back four of Matt H, Joe D, Tom J, Steve B, midfield of Andrew D right, Lyndon C and Steve H centre, Reese S left, Captain David G just behind Grant S for 4-4-1-1 formation.

SB7s kick off and keep possession well, passing around the back, M6s hold with the 2 banks of 4. Any pressing from SB7 is soon cut out and the opening stages are cagy.

After the first ten minutes or so pass, M6s grow in confidence, back 4 looking comfortable and once again break up any SB7s attack, Tom J releases Matt down the wing, a power pass to David brings on a back-heel flick between the SB7s centre backs to Grant for the first M6s attack which ends in a corner. Said Corner is whipped into the back post, the 50/50 challenge is cleared by SB7s, but any counter is soon stopped by Tom J and Steve B,

With the opening 20 minutes passing by quickly, good play by the centre pairing of Lynden & Steve H keeps M6s on the front foot, Reese down the left is having most of the play, and is instrumental in most of the attacks, a good build up play is cut out on the SB7s left, an excellent counter attack from back to front, sees SB7s fluent passing rewarded with a well-deserved goal, be it against the run of play.

Not deterred, M6s get back on the attack, David, Grant & Reese all unlucky not to bring the game level keep probing away, however a good cross to David see the SB7s centre back handle the ball inside the area and after a slight hesitation from the Ref, penalty is awarded. David steps up and places the ball just far enough away from the diving keeper to bring the game level, 1-1.



Merton 6s v South Bank 7s cont'd

Still on top, M6s keep probing, but once again, SB7s break away, Martin, having another good game in goal, finds himself 1v1, the chip beats Martin and looks destined to put SB7s up until Steve B somehow manages to get back and clear the ball over the cross bar from what looked like a yard out!!

Advancing forward, a throw in deep in the SB7s half, sees Reese launch the throw directly into the oppositions 6-yard area, with his back to goal, Grant manages to swivel and place his shot in to the top corner to bring the game 2-1 to M6s
Halftime, a few words from the captain and some changes to keep it fresh see 2 new players make their entry, Matt H makes way for Faycal 'Fizzy' Radjoul at right back, Steve H for Leo S on the left wing, with Reese moving infield.

M6s start the game as they finished the first half, very much on top with some good opening pressure. A SB7s attack down the right is again countered and the ball comes to Steve B, advancing forward, Steve picks David out with a curling cross, which is flicked on by the captain into the path of Grant, adjusting himself as the ball drops, a sweet volley from the best part of 30 yards see the keeper rooted to the spot as the ball sails into the top corner, a worthy goal of the season contender.

3-1 up and cruising, but SB7s are still in the game, a change of formation with a holding midfielder seems to unsettle the M6s, the counter attacks seems to be getting more frequent and it's not long before more neat football from SB7s brings the score to 3-2.

The sucker punch knocks the 6s, now looking tired and hanging on for the victory, another attack and the game becomes level as Martin is beaten by either a lucky deflection or a great back heel, either way, the ball finds the back of the net for 3-3
Ref signals for the last 10 minutes, many players are now running on empty, Grant on for a hattrick is unfortunate to pull up with calf strain soon after going 1v1, Matt H replaces him up top.

The game is slowly ticking away when SB7s break down the left wing, 'Fizzy' is faced up with the young striker who drops a shoulder and skips passed, but is seemingly going nowhere, but Fizzy makes a lunge for the ball, gets contact, but at the cost of going through the player, the ref has no choice but to award a penalty.



Merton 6s v South Bank 7s cont'd

Although going the right way, the ball is tucked away into the bottom corner for 3-4... what a comeback, what a capitulation by M6s who had seemed to have this in the bag.

Out of time, SB7s run out winners, on the day, it would seem the changes in both personal effected the result in different ways, so it would seem the now M6s are scheduled to play a playoff in January to see if they can still make the Q-finals Next week, its back in league action against HSBC 6s away, a game that needs to see a change of fortunes for the not so mighty yellows.

MOTM: Tight call between Grant and his excellent debut up front, and Tom J, who nicks it with another solid performance and so far become Mr Reliable for the out of sorts 6s.

DOTD: A debut to forget for Fizzy after lunging in and giving away a late penalty that sealed the 6s doom.

LINE-UP: Martin, Matt H, Tom J, Joe D, Steve B, Andrew D, Steve H, Lynden C, Reese S, David ©, Grant S
Faycal 'Fizzy' Radjoul, Leo S



New Player Profile – Matt Nightingale (5s)



RAPID FIRE:

Favourite Player (at Merton, or in professional football): CAN'T CHOOSE ANY ONE PLAYER AT MERTON, ALL GREAT LADS...PROFESSIONAL...

CRISTIANO RONALDO

Childhood Team: SUNDERLAND

Favourite team in the UK: SUNDERLAND

Favourite team outside the UK: REAL MADRID

Childhood Hero: ZIDANE (THE BEST)

Favourite Food: MY MUM'S MACCARONI CHEESE

Favourite Drink: PEPSI MAX

Favourite Band: TRIVIUM

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

HAPPY HARD WORKER. I AM THE SAME AT WORK... HOME... OUT... ON THE PITCH.

2. How did you end up at Merton FC?

I ASKED MY BROTHER TO EMAIL ONE OF THE PREVIOUS HIGHER UPS AND THEY TOLD ME HOW TO GO FOR TRIALS. WELL HAPPY I DID.

3. What do you like most about Merton FC?

TEAM SPIRIT AND THE BANTS

4. If you could play for a professional team, which would it be and why? SUNDERLAND... THEY'RE MY TEAM

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

I HAVE A PAIR OF NIKE SHIN PADS. ONE HAS THE TICK AND ONE HAS THE WORD NIKE ON IT. THE TICK ALWAYS GOES ON MY LEFT SHIN.

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

TO FINISH IN A RESPECTABLE POSITION AND TO BAG A FEW GOOD GOALS. BUT MAINLY TO BE AS CREATIVE AS I KNOW I CAN BE AND AS INFLUENTIAL AS I NEED TO BE



DOTD

COMING SOON.....

A cartoon-style illustration of a purple eggplant with a green stem and leaf, positioned diagonally across the page. The red text 'COMING SOON.....' is overlaid on the eggplant.



MOTM

