

# The Merton Way



**2018 – 2019 season**

**Issue 3**

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## **CONTENTS**

- 1 Note from the Chairman
- 2 The Social Boar-terfly – THIS WEEK'S EVENTS
- 3 Social Boar-terfly cont'd
- 4 Results
- 5 Fixtures
- 6 3s report
- 7 6s report
- 8 6s report cont'd
- 9 6s report cont'd
- 10 U10s report
- 11 U10s report cont'd



### Note from the Chairman

The results showed a slight upturn last week with the first team leading the way with a very good win away to Ibis Eagles. The 2s and 3s both lost again which is a little disappointing but hopefully can get their first win this weekend.

It is another big weekend at the Hood. Some home games on Saturday followed by the Merton Quiz with a fish/sausage/veggie and chip dinner. This is a great event and you really need to come along and experience a Merton classic club night.

On Sunday we have all three youth teams at home and a vet's cup game. The youth section open up the clubhouse as a coffee bar with sausage/bacon sandwiches on sale. So a good event and support the boys.

The fun continues with a good day next Saturday when we have the annual match between our vets and OWCs vets. That kicks off at 12.30 with the bar open from midday. There will be chicken / veggie curry after for all. And some SAL matches to boot. So lots of club events to support and fun to be had. So come down support the club, the bar, the team and have some fun.



The Social Boar-terfly



**! THIS SATURDAY – QUIZ NIGHT !**  
**6:30PM MERTON FC**



It's finally time to use the old grey matter for things other than team tactics and remembering who bought the last round.

Fish n chips/Sausage n chips will be provided for your team of maximum 6 all for the bargain price of £10 per person!

**! LET'S GET QUIZZICAL !**





## The Social Boar-terfly



# ! NEXT SATURDAY – OAP GAME !



### OAP GAME – 12:30 SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> 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 10<sup>TH</sup> 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 8<sup>TH</sup> 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	Ibis Eagles	0	V	2	Merton 1s
League	Merton 2s	1	V	4	Poly 3s
League	Merton 3s	2	V	3	Actonians
	Sam, Billy				
League	Merton 4s	7	V	1	City of London
League	HSBC 6s	5	V	1	Merton 6s
					David G
	Farnham Town Wanderers	7	V	1	U14s
	U13s	0	V	1	Kingston Town Colts
	Whitton Wanderers	0	V	3	U10s



## This week's fixtures

<b>SAL Cup</b>	<b>Old Finchleians</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>Merton 1s</b>
<b>League</b>	<b>Merton 2s</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>Old Blues</b>
<b>League</b>	<b>Kew Assoc Res</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>Merton 3s</b>
<b>League</b>	<b>Old Wilsonians</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>Merton 4s</b>
<b>League</b>	<b>Merton 5s</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>Actonians 7s</b>
<b>League</b>	<b>Merton 6s</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>Civil Service 7s</b>
<b>League</b>	<b>U14s</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>Whyteleafe FC Wanderers</b>
<b>League</b>	<b>U13s</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>Met Police Youth Reds</b>
<b>League</b>	<b>U10s</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>Mitcham Park Colts</b>



### Merton 3s 2 v 3 Actonians

Game day, rain day.

With no win's yet the 3s were ready and motived to go out and get some points and with NEIL DAVIDSON back in the middle we looked too have a solid team.

The game kicked off and very early a simple ball over the top for Actonians' left Merton 1-0 down. Merton press forwards with a few chances lending to a corner, Nathen took it, whipping a ball in with a Actonians' player heading the ball goalwards and the ball being knocked in by Sam (Blonde).

The game started to get heated as Mustard fouled a player jumping for a ball as all hell broke loss. Actonians #12 who can only be described as a pitball on steroids then retaliated but taking Joe out from behind in a tackle that earned him a yellow (should have been a red). The game continued and the ref continued to give out cards like a horny teen on Valentine's day.

The 2nd half and both teams not really having many chances until a Actonians' move saw a player just outside the box who dropped a shoulder sending Mike to the shops for some tea and biscuits leaving him free to shoot, Actonians 2-1.

Merton pushed back with Ryan sending a ball into the box which was knocked in by Adam leaving Billy to head the ball home for a simple finish, 2-2.

A few players needing to go off injured and the lack of subs left Merton struggling for the last 10 and it showed as Actonians managed to break through and get a winner in the last 5. 3-2.

**MOTM** Neil.

**DOTD** Billy.





### HSBC 6s 7 v 1 Merton 6s

What a miserable day... arriving at the ground after the best part of a 2-hour drive, the heavens opened with a cold, monsoon of a down-pour. The excellent facilities of HSBC ground were a warm welcome as the rest of the mob turn up relatively on time... except one... but more on that later!

Sod it... more on that now!

With the teams warmed up and soaked from the relentless driving rain, the Ref called for the captains to approach the centre circle... the 6s are still doing their team selection, with the manager stalling, waiting on his number 2 (No reference to 'poo') to arrive, after being assured with many... many... many... many texts that he will be there... however, we wait!

Starting in goal, is Mr Majestic himself, the glove man... Martin 'I don't get Lobbed anymore' Quinny (who was on time), starting left back is Luke Newman (who was on time), on loan from the 4s due to the 5s not having a game and stepping up in class to the 6s! Centre pairing of Tom J (who was on time) and Joe 'Glass Toes' Diss (who was on time), with Darren A (who was on time), also on loan from the 5s, but wait... who's that in the distance... running over with a woolly hoodie pulled over his head to hide the shame of turning up with minutes to go... the jeans and hobnail boots, looking like a Chelsea fan from the 70s! Why it's the Merton 6s number 2 (still no reference to 'poo'), the lovable Mr Burchell... the cries of "I'm here, I'm here..." echo around the park as he splashes through yet another puddle.

We continue with the selection, Midfield Chris O (who was on time) on the left, Lynden (who was on time) and Steve H (who was on time) Centre respectively, Andrew D (who was on time) on the right, leaving David G (who was not only on time, but also picked up 3 players, the kit, pumped the balls up and walked his dogs very early in the morning in anticipation at arriving at the ground.... on time!) and Peter O.A. (did I mention, he was on time)... up front. Arron A (who was on time) starts on the bench, as he doesn't like playing football! Team selected... but there's a whimper coming from near the kit bag... a small grown man is crying "I want to play". As the (what looks like tears) water rolls down the smooth bald face of the M6s number 2... the shrieks of "I drove 4 hours to get here..." ring out as he fumbles around looking for some shorts... Not amused, Darren A is sacrificed, and is set the task of looking for the dummy that was spat!

Finally, we kick off... and not a moment too soon, the early exchanges are even and M6s look quite composed on the ball, but a cutting through ball exposes the centre back and H6s go 1-0 with a good finish.

H6s do seem more composed on the ball, the passing is more crisp and direct, where's M6s seem to be trying too hard to level the game. David and Peter get a couple of good long distance shots off that don't trouble the keeper. All the pressure and no gain, H6s take control



### HSBC 6s v Merton 6s cont'd

and push the M6s back in their half, good defending gives H6s a corner. Not sure if it was the driving rain or the greasy pitch, but as the corner comes in, Lynden is unfortunate to see his splice kick sail in to the corner to give H6s 2-0 lead, (and we shall not mention that he almost bagged another, in similar fashion, soon after, but was lucky this time MQ was in the way!... O wait... sorry!!)

Still from kick off, M6s press once again, Andrew on the right has been leading the way in defending as well as attacking, speeding down the line to link play, although it's a funny site to see on one occasion, the ball getting stuck in a puddle and 3 grown men splashing around trying to clear it (none of which are Steve B, who excels at playing in puddles!)

The old sucker punch once again, M6s looking to take control of the game are undone once again from their own attack, seeing the ball retuned with interest, MQ could not do anything about the third as he can only watch as the ball is smashed into the net from inside the box.

Still not deterred, M6s on the attack, Chris getting some joy down the left, curls a great ball forward but just in front of David, who is just yards away. The ball is collected out wide by the H6s defender, he's unaware that Peter is closing fast, and with a long leg, steals the ball with a well-timed tackle. With speed Pete is back up and swinging a low powerful cross over, which David just needs to dink over the advancing keeper and in off the far post for a 3-1 score line

With the game coming to half time, M6s are on top but can't make it count, With the rain still pouring the half time chat is to keep going, the need of a bit of luck is required and not all bad! Arron comes on for Lynden to stem the flow of shots at the wrong end, and Joe for Darren A.

After a good start by M6s, H6s bagged a 4th and from there on, M6s seem to find everything went against them, a elbow on Arron goes unnoticed, as did a clear elbow in the face of David, in the box, but then the Ref was merely a week older than god himself, but still 20 years younger than our own MQ! 4 becomes 5 as HSBC casually run out worthy winners, the final whistle can't come quick enough as the sodden M6s still look for their first win in all competitions.

Next week home game is against a good Civ 7 side, who have lost only once in the opening 4 games, so another tough game for the Merton 6s .



## HSBC 6s v Merton 6s cont'd

**MOTM:** A split decision awarded to Andrew Dodson for the excellent work and lifeguarding skills in and around the puddles on the right wing.

**DOTD:** Joint winners, but in 2nd place is Lynden for crimes against his own keeper, and to Steve Burchell, I might be wrong, but I think he turned up a tad late!

**Team:** Martin Q, Darren A, Joe D, Tom J, Luke, Chris O, Steve H, Lynden C, Andrew D, David G, Peter O.A, Arron A, Steve B



### Whitton Wanderers Falcons U10s 3 v 0 Merton U10s

Merton U10s fell to their first defeat of the season in a sun-drenched match which threw up a surprise result where Merton had the lion's share of the play and an avalanche of chances.

After an early start for the mini trek over to Hounslow for this early kick off the crowds were anticipating another Merton performance and win which would never arrive. The first half got underway and Merton showed signs of their endeavour as they repeatedly broke forwards in numbers only to miss their opportunities to put the ball in the net. Whitton's keeper was very able and handled well but when Merton could have finished off their breaks they would often shoot wide, at the keeper or fail to connect their final pass. This was to be the pattern of much of the game.

As Whitton grew into the game Max was forced into some stops and displayed some excellent handling as further evidence of his ongoing development between the sticks. At the other end of the pitch Merton were getting a few corners from last ditch clearances yet could simply not convert from any of the positions they grafted so hard to create. Lots of huffing and puffing but too many players seemed to lack that final bit of quality to seal the deal.

The second half started as the first ended with nearly goals from Merton and Whitton looking sharp on the break with pace and power out wide requiring some good work from the ever-reliable Harry and Ollie. Neal tried to change things up and move players around. Farris had worked hard but not had any service up front until now and suddenly burst into life with some good wide play only to see his chance go begging like all those before.

After 10 mins Merton played the ball out from the back without enough care and Whitton got hold of it and fired a great effort on goal which Max did superbly to push around the post.

Then followed a strong win of the ball by Louis in his own half, he played in Rio who passed to Farris and again Whitton got a toe on the ball to snuff out the danger.

As Whitton lumped the ball forwards high in the air Harry controlled it with one deft touch, leading to applause from his adoring fans on the side-lines. No sooner had he put the ball just where he wanted it that his forward pass went straight to a Whitton mid-fielder, leading to the kind of sharp analysis from his old man we have become used to.

Merton continued to boss the game and the number of shots reflected that.

Pressure from the midfield on every goal kick was causing issues for Whitton. The latest effort led to Merton midfield winning the ball and Percy had a shot just but it was just wide. Again!



### Whitton Wanderers Falcons U10s v Merton U10s cont'd

Surely Merton would not throw this game away after having so many chances?

More continued pressing to win the ball succeeded repeatedly and shots were often the end result. But the ball would not go in the net. A number were from distance and a little more patience might have helped.

Dave went on a good run, exchanging the ball with Joe and his shot hit the post. More ball was won from Merton pressing hard and the latest effort led to a tidy bit of play from Louis to cross the ball for Dave to shoot again and this was yet another post. Another break, another shot gone begging, this time from Percy.

As the game wore to a close there was a muddle up in the Merton defence leading to a soft Whitton goal. To add insult to injury this followed immediately after a great save on the line from a combo of Louis and Max. Merton heads started to drop but another good run and one-two with Farris led to Dave having a shot but the Whitton keeper was equal to it.

Another Merton corner and Farris was free on goal but pulled the ball just wide. Amazing. "We could play all day and won't score" said Dan. Wise words.

In a subsequent Whitton break they had 3 on 1 which led to Ollie making a very smart challenge.

Suddenly another Merton foray and they made it 2-0. Merton were clearly gutted. This was becoming a lesson in how you can lose when you deserve much better.

Another bit of pressure and another Whitton goal despite hard chasing from Merton. How did this end up 3-0? As the game wore to its end Merton still pushed for their reward. Louis made a twisting run and was fouled on the edge of the Whitton box. He took the free kick and put it over bar.

Game over. The boys knew they let this get away.

Ollie and Harry were jointly awarded Man of the Match. Lots of learning to pick out of this one. On the upside lots of good football despite the lack of reward.



DOTD





## MOTM

