

The Merton Way



2018 – 2019 season
19th January 2019



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Note from the Chairman

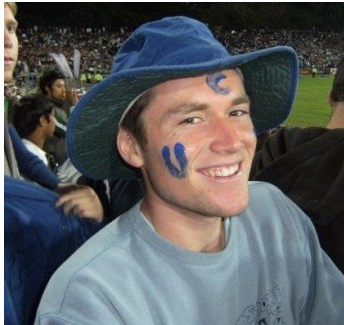
We didn't have the greatest set of results last week. And whilst the 1s and 2s both lost at home and the 5s conceded a couple of goals late on to only draw you could not sense any disappointment in the bar afterwards. It really was buzzing as it usually does. It was also excellent to see that the 3s came back from their away game to join in the fun. The man of the match and dick of the day awards help to get things going!!

Whenever I am asked about Merton and what we are all about as a football club it is very soon in my description of what we do and what we have to offer that I mention our bar as being central to our club's unique identity. If not the best It must be one of the best bars in the SAL!!!

And there are plenty of opportunities to enjoy it coming very soon.

- You can start this weekend with some excellent apres footy. Our 4s play our 5s and our 3s are at home aswell. Quite possibly the 6s game will be switched to the Hood so four home teams. Not to be missed !!!
- On Sunday morning February 3rd the youth section have some home games and the bar will be open in early afternoon and the Super Bowl party will begin. It starts with first class premier league action on the TV to get you in the mood and the Super Bowl is later. But the real treat is the wonderful food that is available in an ongoing buffet. All in the Hood bar!!
- It's not just every Saturday apres footy but there is also premier league footy or six nations rugby on the TV and we are going to have a race night in mid March.
- We will be publishing a new events calendar very shortly with Awards night Merton World cup and other events!!

All great events you really should not miss.

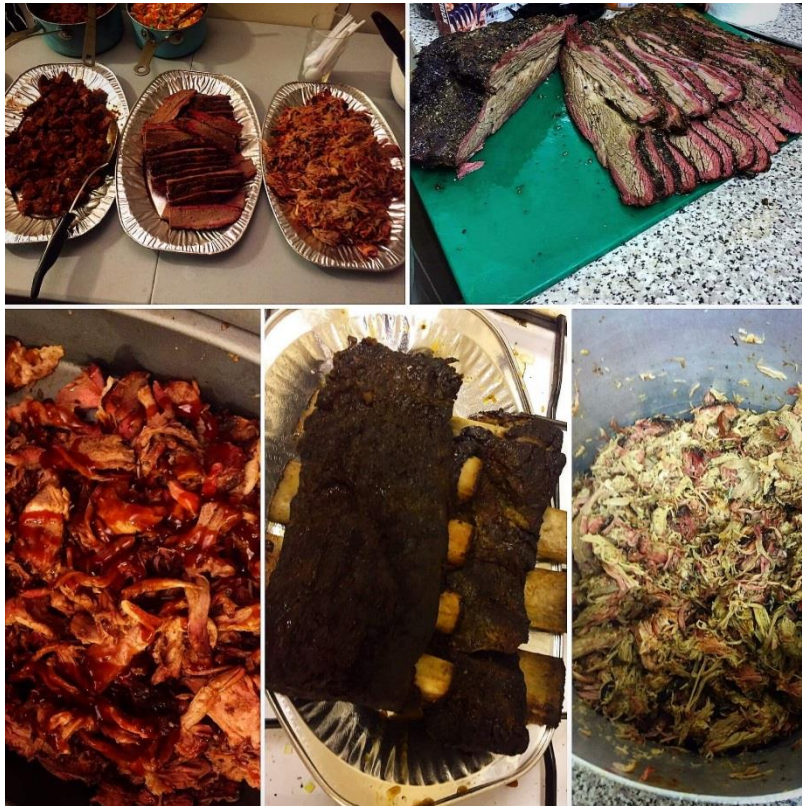


Message from Toddy

The time has come to book your place for Merton Super Bowl night on Sunday 3 Feb. A reminder that it's £15 all-you-can-eat buffet, including a free alcoholic beverage of your choice. Doors open at 2pm for the Super Sunday football, followed by classic films and then the main event.

Food served from 4pm. See attached the pictures of some of the incredible food you can expect.

Please **transfer your £15 to the club account**, and notify myself (Toddy) or Ryan Gresty once you have done so...



The Social Boar-terfly



**SUPER BOWL LIII
IS COMING TO**

A group of five men are gathered around a table, enjoying a meal and drinks. In the foreground, there are two football helmets (one dark blue with a white bird logo, one silver with red and blue accents) and a cake decorated with football players. A Merton Football Club logo is visible on a red cup in the center. The background shows a window with a view of trees.

MERTON FC
Sunday 3rd FEBRUARY

**PLUS - BBQ, DRINKS, FILMS &
PROPER FOOTBALL:**

14:05 LEICESTER vs MAN UTD
16:30 MAN CITY vs ARSENAL



Last week's results

League	1s	0	V	2	Bank of England
League	2s	0	V	4	Broomfield 'A'
League	Old Salesians 3s	5	V	2	3s Stubbs, Vaughan
League	Old Wilsonians 5s	3	V	1	4s Plumridge
League	5s	3	V	3	Actonians 7s Bitmead (2), Perkins
League	City of London 3s	0	V	2	6s James, Phil
League	U14s		V		Farnham Town Wanderers
League	U13s		V		Ashford Town Colts
League	Claygate Royals Griffin	4	V	6	U10s Dave (2), Maxwell, Rio, Percy, Joe



This week's fixtures

League	1s	V	No Game
League	South Bank Cuaco	V	2s
League	3s	V	Carshalton 4s
League	4s	V	5s
League	Old Salesians Res	V	6s
League	U14s	V	Leatherhead Swans
League	Rocks Lane Utd	V	U13s
League	Spelthorne Sports Colts	V	U10s



1s 0 v 2 Bank of England

It was the second game of the New Year on Saturday and a trip back to the Hood for the first team.

The visitors were old rivals Bank of England, who had returned to division two following relegation last year. However, they were sitting in third place and having a decent season thus far.

Overall, the first half was an extremely cagey affair with not too much to write home about. Both teams defended well and there wasn't a whole host of chances. Until the final phase of play, where Van has the ball fall to him 12 yards out only to blaze it over the bar.

The first goal was always going to be critical in game like this and after 70 minutes it went to the away side. Good play from their winner who split Rat and Jimbo before squaring it to the striker to tap home.

Following that the game was far more open. Bank tried to exploit the space that opened up as Merton tried to push for the equaliser. They were more chances including a good strike from substitute Joe, a terribly tame free kick from Jimbo and another miss from Van.

Less than 10 to play and the game was put to bed. 2-0. Jimbo tried to volley away a high ball down the channel, only managing to clear the ball over his own and perfectly playing in their striker.

A day to forget for the newly converted centre half.

No game this Saturday

Team: Sherbs, Rat, Jimbo, Browner, Max, Josh, Sam, Josh F, Van, George, Jamie



1s 0 v 2 Bank of England

#SALSD2



SENIOR DIVISION 2



POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Norsemen	11	11	0	0	38	11	27	33
2	East Barnet Old Grammarians	11	7	2	2	30	20	10	23
3	Bank of England	10	7	0	3	34	17	17	21
4	NUFC Oilers	11	5	2	4	20	16	4	17
5	Alexandra Park	13	5	2	6	30	29	1	17
6	Old Finchleians	9	4	2	3	22	18	4	14
7	Merton	12	3	3	6	17	22	-5	12
8	HSBC	11	3	1	7	14	35	-21	10
9	Carshalton	11	2	2	7	18	31	-13	8
10	Ibis Eagles	13	2	0	11	15	39	-24	6



2s 0 v 4 Broomfield A



INTERMEDIATE DIVISION 3



POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Alleyn Old Boys 3rd	11	7	0	4	38	28	10	21
2	Norsemen Res	7	6	1	0	23	3	20	19
3	Polytechnic 3rd	10	6	1	3	33	20	13	19
4	West Wickham 3rd	6	6	0	0	19	4	15	18
5	Broomfield 'A'	6	6	0	0	23	9	14	18
6	Merton Res	12	4	1	7	18	30	-12	13
7	HSBC Res	12	1	5	6	20	40	-20	8
8	Old Blues Res	7	2	1	4	13	20	-7	7
9	Weirside Rangers Res	10	2	1	7	10	29	-19	7
10	Old Parkonians 3rd	6	2	0	4	9	11	-2	6
11	South Bank Cuaco Res	9	1	0	8	8	20	-12	3



Old Salesians 3s 5 v 2 3s

Junior Section Division 2 South

League Table

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Civil Service 4th	10	9	0	1	34	13	21	27
2	Kew Association Res	13	7	3	3	39	33	6	24
3	Polytechnic 5th	10	7	1	2	29	23	6	22
4	Old Salesians	10	5	1	4	38	21	17	16
5	Actonians Association 6th	10	5	1	4	22	25	-3	16
6	Actonians Association 5th	10	4	2	4	18	15	3	14
7	Old Wilsonians 3rd	9	3	1	5	23	21	2	10
8	HSBC 3rd	10	3	1	6	29	37	-8	10
9	Merton 3rd	13	3	0	10	23	40	-17	9
10	Carshalton 4th	9	1	0	8	10	37	-27	3



Old Wilsonians 5s 3 v 1 4s

Junior Section Division 4 South

League Table

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Polytechnic 6th	11	9	2	0	45	11	34	29
2	West Wickham 6th	13	7	1	5	30	32	-2	22
3	Polytechnic 7th	9	5	1	3	28	18	10	16
4	Old Wilsonians 5th	9	4	2	3	23	21	2	14
5	Actonians Association 7th	9	4	1	4	18	21	-3	13
6	Merton 4th	11	2	4	5	24	35	-11	10
7	Ibis Eagles 4th	7	2	1	4	12	17	-5	7
8	Merton 5th	13	1	2	10	14	39	-25	5



5s 3 v 3 Actonians 7s

It is fair to say we were buoyed following what was a very good performance last week with the result not matching. We felt another good performance here would give us a great chance at the 3 points we desperately needed to get ourselves further up the Dyer scale (see last weeks report). With this in mind we flew out of the blocks early on, and very quickly created a gilt-edged opportunity. A long ball was played through their high line, and Bitmead latched on to it. He held off their defender expertly, but the pressure just put him off enough to put the ball wide. They did not, however, learn their lesson and a long ball by Scott caught them out again. Bitmead, latching on to the ball, this time broke well clear of the defence and slotted in for a very well deserved lead.

Nothing is ever that simple with the 5s, and we contrived to shoot ourselves in the foot from a familiar source. It was a corner whipped in to the near post that we failed to defend. Their big centre half who looked like a mixture of Giroud and Peter Crouch met it unopposed, and the ball went in between two players on the line who both thought the other was closer to it. Disappointing – 1-1.

But we hit back not too long later, in the same manner as we scored the first. Lenners picked up the ball, and very quickly released it. The ball bounced past the defensive line, and Bitmemes once again ran onto it and knocked the ball past the goalkeeper to make it 2-1.

2 should easily have been three. We won a free kick deep in the opponents' half and the ball was beautifully delivered in to the back post, where Darren was waiting to pounce to add to an unprecedented goal tally this season. I can only describe the movement towards the ball as an awkward dab, and the ball sailed past his head. Unfortunate, and we went in 2-1 up.

So often we have only turned up for a half of each game, however the start of the second half showed that we were bucking this trend. We were on top, conceding very little, and probing for a third. A substitution was made early in the second half bringing Marcus on, which brought immediate rewards. The ball was played in to Shitmead up top, who turned sharply. Marcus ran off the back of their right back and was played through with a well-weighted through ball. 1 on 1 with the keeper, he slotted in the near post to score almost 20 seconds after coming on. What an introduction!

At 3-1 they started committing more men forward, but for the first 10-15 minutes it was us who created the clearest opportunity. We threatened to break on several occasions however it broke down before a final pass or shot on target, until the ball was played through to T. With acres of space in front of him, he powered from our own half to the edge of the box.



5s 3 v 3 Actonians 7s

He got to the edge, and spotted Dulanjie unmarked at the back post. He hit what he later described as a 'shot cross', which ended up a little closer to being a cross, but just didn't find D and our best opportunity for a fourth was gone.

We were, meanwhile, under the cosh and having to rely on Lenners to keep them out. Their tall striker hit a piledriver from 8 yards out to the near post, which Lenners got a strong hand to. There were two 1v1s, one from the left and one from the right, which Lenners closed down extremely well and saved with his feet, David De Gea style. It was clear that we had given it everything in the game and was tiring towards the end, and they took advantage of that in the last 5 mins.

Their second goal was a bad one to concede. The ball went to the near post and was flicked on by their player. Chaos ensued in our box and the ball seemed to pinball around approximately 50 times [these figures may have been exaggerated for dramatic effect] and arrived at their player to somehow slot in through a wall of bodies. 3-2 and we knew we were in for a fight for the last few mins.

Unfortunately for us, the bald ref from Blackpool [or somewhere else North of Watford] added on the time that we had wasted by generally being injured, knackered, or both, but in truth there was little we could do about the final goal. The ball was played to their right rather inconspicuously from 30-35 yards out, and the shot was sublime. It had more speed than Lenners could ever take and nestled just under the crossbar where it met the post. Nothing we could do about that, and the game ended 3-3.

We could all be proud of our performance, despite the disheartening way that we let the result slip. It's certainly better doing it this way round than earlier in the season, when we just weren't getting in games, and we take this and the last performance as very encouraging signs into a massive game next week.

Man of the match was a tough one. A couple of the prime candidates were Lenners for having a stormer in goal and getting an assist, and Bitsy for leading the line very well with 2 goals and an assist. Scott just about won out, however for a classicy solid performance at the back. Honourable mentions go to Marcus for a goal within 20 seconds of coming on, and Pete whose hard work backwards and forwards was invaluable in helping us win the midfield.



5s 3 v 3 Actonians 7s

Junior Section Division 4 South

League Table

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Polytechnic 6th	11	9	2	0	45	11	34	29
2	West Wickham 6th	13	7	1	5	30	32	-2	22
3	Polytechnic 7th	9	5	1	3	28	18	10	16
4	Old Wilsonians 5th	9	4	2	3	23	21	2	14
5	Actonians Association 7th	9	4	1	4	18	21	-3	13
6	Merton 4th	11	2	4	5	24	35	-11	10
7	Ibis Eagles 4th	7	2	1	4	12	17	-5	7
8	Merton 5th	13	1	2	10	14	39	-25	5



City of London 3s 0 v 2 6s

The team agreed that this win is dedicated to by younger Brother Niall, passed away after a relatively short battle against Cancer on Thursday the 10th January 2019.

Niall played for a few years in the early 1980's and was a regular in the first team.

After over 890 games this was the first visit to City of London although they are a new club in the league. Their facilities are rather run down and the pitch didn't look great either.

This week we had 12 players arrive eventually, Daban car started, however we were still missing El Capt. Dave and Mad Dog Burchell (all his training), we were also missing any obvious strikers. In discussions with Kev we decided to play a 4-3-3 system.

We took a bit of time to settle into the new line up and City of London were the more attacking and created a few long range chances. One chance did beat me from range however they were offside. They also hit the post and Mark Chappell managed to scramble away from the goal. The defence began to gain control and we did start to create half chances, particularly after bringing Daban on for Dobson. We reached half time goalless.

After Kev & Phil's half time talk, we came out stronger. We changed Steve H for Dobson. However Steve was soon back on as Daban was injured and had to go off.

We were more attacking, as the game opened up and our defence remained strong and the midfield of Phil, Ty and Steve H working hard. We finally created a clear chance, however Phil was brought down just outside the box. Their guy got lucky remaining on the pitch and over free kick came to nothing. It was their goalkeeper how was busier although they did have one shot for the edge of the box which I comfortably handled.

We continued to press and the City of London were giving away free Kicks which we finally capitalised with a deep free kick from the right knocked back across the crowded six yard box and James headed in from close range.

City of London final push didn't really happen and apart on free kick from 20 Yards which I easily caught, they didn't create anything. Inside the last 10 minutes Phil finally scored a simple header from another good corner from James. Phil also missed another header late on.



City of London 3s 0 v 2 6s

Once we scored are second the main aim was to keep a clean sheet, which we did comfortable.

This was a great team performance everybody working hard and playing well.

Niall this was for you RIP

MoM – Mark Chappell although it was close with vote for Tom Johnson & James Emery

DoD – None 6th player put a foot wrong. However City of London No 3 or an outside shout for Ed breaking protocol in tapping up players.

Team – Martin, Mark, Tom, Joe, Kevin, Andrew, Phil, Ricardo, Ty, James & Steve H
Sub Daban.



City of London 3s 0 v 2 6s

Junior Section Division 6 South

League Table

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	HSBC 6th	9	8	1	0	58	15	43	25
2	South Bank Cuaco 7th	10	7	2	1	35	27	8	23
3	City of London 3rd	9	3	4	2	30	17	13	13
4	Merton 6th	9	3	3	3	19	22	-3	12
5	Bank of England 5th	9	3	3	3	17	24	-7	12
6	Old Salesians Res	6	3	0	3	15	10	5	9
7	Civil Service 8th	8	2	1	5	14	19	-5	7
8	Old Wilsonians 8th	9	1	3	5	20	31	-11	6
9	Old Wilsonians 9th	11	0	3	8	14	57	-43	3



U10s

After a short trip down the A3 to Esher, Merton were able to warm up and prepare in near perfect football conditions at the Claygate Recreation Ground. This was not Merton's first time preparing to face Claygate opposition this season. Back in September, Merton had beaten Claygate Royals Hares 3-2 away. Today's opponents were Claygate Royals Griffins. The referee for today's match was the same referee from the September match. Could Merton deliver a similar result?

Merton started the match kicking left to right on the relatively small pitch. The pitch may not have been large but it was green and in good condition. When the match started, the opening exchanges saw both teams turn over the ball cheaply. With just two minutes gone, Faris won the ball and attempted to clear behind Max's goal but his clearance accidentally nestled in the bottom left corner of Max's goal. It was a fluke own goal that stunned both sets of watching parents into silence. 1 nil to Claygate

For the next couple of minutes, both teams continued to give away the ball with possession often lost in the midfield. For Merton, Harry was particularly effective in breaking down Claygate attacks. After 5 minutes, there was a noticeable change, urged on by Coach Neal, Merton began to 'wake up' and started to play some of the fast moving two touch football that they are capable of. Merton were linking up more effectively in the midfield.

Six minutes gone, Maxwell won a tackle, raced toward goal and shot. He hit the left-hand post. Merton were now in the ascendancy; after some great link up play between Faris and Dave, Dave's shot was pushed out for a corner. Claygate were blocking and clearing most of what was being thrown at them and as a consequence, they were holding on to their lead.

Their goalkeeper was having a particularly good period, during the eleventh minute he made 3 saves in quick succession. Would Merton be able to score today?

The answer to that question came in the 16th minute, Faris' through ball found Maxwell who dribbled away from his marker and chipped the keeper who was rushing off his line. It went in! 1 all

Merton's pressure had paid off and they were back in the game. Claygate responded in the best way possible for them. With 18 minutes gone, Merton turned over possession in midfield, Claygate attacked at pace and their resulting shot hit the underside of Max's crossbar and bounced over the line before spinning out. The referee took a second to consider and the goal was awarded. She did not need V.A.R. 2-1 to Claygate



U10s

The game became more frenetic, Merton had chances but did not convert them. Claygate also created chances but did not extend their lead.

At half time, the score remained 2-1 to Claygate.

The second half kicked off at precisely 10.25 am with Merton now kicking right to left. Faris had a shot to the right-hand side of the Claygate goal. Near miss. Rio had a shot that also went close; this time just wide of the left-hand side of the Claygate goal.

3 minutes into the second half, after Merton failed to clear their lines, Claygate were advancing on the Merton goal. Their striker shot to the bottom left of Max's goal. It went in. 3-1 to Claygate

The match entered a critical phase, if Claygate were to score again the match might be out of the reach of Merton. The game was very entertaining, a little composure on the ball was lacking at times but everyone was giving their maximum effort. Coach Neal's beast of a fitness training session had clearly paid off. Crucially Merton got the next goal.

Five minutes gone, after a scrappy passage of play, the ball came to Percy who was able to slot home from close range. 3-2 Game On!

After 7 minutes, Merton won a free kick. It was quite a long way out. Claygate didn't really expect a shot. Dave had other ideas and launched it into the top right corner of the goal. Top bins! Claygate's keeper couldn't stop it. It was a goal! 3-all

This was when Merton really began to dominate and to make their control of the game pay. There was some great play in the midfield from Louis, Percy and Dave. In defence, Harry, Joe, Ollie and Max were also playing very well.

With 9 minutes gone, Dave started on a run toward Claygate's goal, He fed Rio who raced towards the Claygate goal. He struck a powerful shot to the bottom left corner of the goal. It was a great finish! 3-4 to Merton

Merton were now leading for the first time. They continued to press home their advantage in an attempt to put the result beyond doubt.



U10s

After 11 minutes, Joe took a throw on the left-hand side. His throw was blocked and the ball came back to him. He struck a great shot into the top corner of the Claygate goal. Their keeper wasn't expecting it and in went straight in.

3.-5 to Merton

Claygate were not finished yet; they were still creating chances of their own.

In the 12th minute, Claygate forced a corner. When the corner came in from the right, it was bundled in at the far post.

4-5 to Merton

More chances created by either side. Play continued at a fast pace, both sides showing good energy and enthusiasm levels. Claygate hit the post in the 21st minute.

In the 22nd minute, Dave won the ball in midfield and drove toward the Claygate goal. He feigned a powerful shot and instead rolled it into the bottom left of the goal. A very calm finish.

4-6 to Merton

2 minutes later, Claygate went close again with a header that went just wide. Soon after the referee blew the full-time whistle to confirm a great away win for Merton. A great effort from all the boys including Bobby our 11th man.

Well done boys!

Dave was presented with the Man of the Match award.

Author: Mike Pitt



U10s

