

# The Merton Way



**2018 – 2019 season**

**2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019**



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### Note from the Chairman



Although our 4s has a good win at West Wickham last Saturday on the face of it the results were a little disappointing. It would have been great if the 5s had beaten Poly to reach a cup final that would have made their season but it was not to be. The 1s travelled to Norsemen and lost 3 0 but Clappers was pleased with the performance. For a variety of reasons we had a lot of regulars missing big those who stepped up to the plate did so with credit. And Norsemen top our table having won all their eleven league games. They won everything last season as well. So our boys held them. 0-0 at halftime but no luck on the second half. With so many players stepping up this weakened obviously weakened our 2s and 3s but it is great that players will step up and readily play for higher teams.



I particularly enjoy the Man of the Match and Dick of the Day concept for post match banter and the photographs that come in. It makes for good bar banter. Talking of which we are lining up some good bar activity on March 16th. It's FA cup quarter finals with two live games on TV in the bar and no doubt some good drink deals from the Dodge so put it in the diary. Good luck for the weekend. I feel we could do with a change of fortune and some good luck.

## The Social Boar-terfly



### SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH

JOSEPH HOOD – **4pm** (SIX NATIONS & FA CUP FOOTBALL LIVE)  
In-play bets at the bar / and drinks promo for the night of sport!  
Wolves v Man U @ 7.45pm



### FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL -THE LONG GOOD FRIDAY - JOSEPH HOOD – MIDDAY START (PROMPT)

The annual Long Good Friday Event returns at Merton, **VETS GAME** with the legends from Old West Citz, **Merton X1 friendlies**, **YOUTH FRIENDLIES** and much more. Hot food + hot cross buns in the bar – with a good old drink and catch up to celebrate the start of Easter.



### SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> MAY – 1PM to 8PM, Joseph Hood

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

FOLLOWED by a BBQ & BEER & THE FA CUP FINAL ON TV



### SATURDAY 1<sup>st</sup> JUNE, AWARDS NIGHT & CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL

AWARDS DAY & NIGHT AT MERTON FC, JOSEPH HOOD – 5pm START (PROMPT).

Inter club friendly, fish n chips, the champions league final in the bar & awards.  
Everybody welcome!

## Last week's results



|                       |                 |   |   |   |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---|---|---|-----------------------------|
| League                | Norsemen        | 3 | V | 0 | 1s                          |
| League                | Polytechnic 3s  | 2 | V | 0 | 2s                          |
| League                | 3s              | 3 | V | 3 | Old Wilsonians 3s           |
| League                | West Wickham 6s | 0 | V | 3 | 4s                          |
| SAL Cup<br>SEMI FINAL | Polytechnic 7s  | 3 | V | 2 | 5s                          |
| League                | U14s            |   | V |   | Carshalton Athletics Whites |

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## This week's fixtures



|        |                  |   |                             |
|--------|------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| League | Bank of England  | V | 1s                          |
| League | 3s               | V | Old Wilsonians              |
| League | 5s               | V | Polytechnic 7s              |
| League | Old Salesians 2s | V | 6s                          |
| League | U14s             | V | Chertsey Town Juniors Blues |

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SENIOR DIVISION I

| POS |                       | P  | W | D | L | F  | A  | GD  | PTS |
|-----|-----------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1   | West Wickham          | 13 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 28 | 13 | 15  | 27  |
| 2   | Old Owens             | 15 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 31 | 26 | 5   | 24  |
| 3   | Polytechnic           | 12 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 32 | 18 | 14  | 23  |
| 4   | Nottsborough          | 12 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 26 | 18 | 8   | 23  |
| 5   | Alleyn Old Boys       | 12 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 20 | 15 | 5   | 19  |
| 6   | Old Wilsonians        | 15 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 27 | 30 | -3  | 19  |
| 7   | Winchmore Hill        | 11 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 11 | 16 | -5  | 16  |
| 8   | Old Garchonians       | 13 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 19 | 25 | -6  | 13  |
| 9   | Actonians Association | 11 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 15 | 24 | -9  | 10  |
| 10  | Old Parkonians        | 11 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 13 | 24 | -11 | 10  |
| 11  | Civil Service         | 13 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 13 | 26 | -13 | 9   |



## INTERMEDIATE DIVISION 3

| POS |                      | P  | W  | D | L  | F  | A  | GD  | PTS |
|-----|----------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1   | Broomfield 'A'       | 11 | 10 | 0 | 1  | 41 | 17 | 24  | 30  |
| 2   | Norsemen Res         | 11 | 8  | 2 | 1  | 37 | 11 | 26  | 26  |
| 3   | Polytechnic 3rd      | 13 | 8  | 1 | 4  | 37 | 22 | 15  | 25  |
| 4   | West Wickham 3rd     | 9  | 8  | 0 | 1  | 29 | 7  | 22  | 24  |
| 5   | Alleyn Old Boys 3rd  | 13 | 8  | 0 | 5  | 43 | 34 | 9   | 24  |
| 6   | Merton Res           | 16 | 6  | 2 | 8  | 27 | 37 | -10 | 20  |
| 7   | Old Parkonians 3rd   | 8  | 4  | 0 | 4  | 18 | 15 | 3   | 12  |
| 8   | HSBC Res             | 15 | 2  | 5 | 8  | 28 | 55 | -27 | 11  |
| 9   | Weirside Rangers Res | 13 | 3  | 1 | 9  | 15 | 42 | -27 | 10  |
| 10  | Old Blues Res        | 11 | 2  | 1 | 8  | 17 | 37 | -20 | 7   |
| 11  | South Bank Cuaco Res | 12 | 1  | 0 | 11 | 12 | 27 | -15 | 3   |



## JUNIOR DIVISION 2 SOUTH

| POS |                           | P  | W  | D | L  | F  | A  | GD  | PTS |
|-----|---------------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1   | Civil Service 4th         | 13 | 11 | 0 | 2  | 39 | 21 | 18  | 33  |
| 2   | Kew Association Res       | 14 | 7  | 3 | 4  | 38 | 40 | -2  | 24  |
| 3   | Polytechnic 5th           | 11 | 7  | 2 | 2  | 32 | 21 | 11  | 23  |
| 4   | Old Salesians             | 13 | 6  | 2 | 5  | 44 | 26 | 18  | 20  |
| 5   | Actonians Association 5th | 13 | 4  | 3 | 6  | 21 | 22 | -1  | 15  |
| 6   | HSBC 3rd                  | 14 | 4  | 3 | 7  | 31 | 45 | -14 | 15  |
| 7   | Actonians Association 6th | 10 | 4  | 2 | 4  | 21 | 28 | -7  | 14  |
| 8   | Old Wilsonians 3rd        | 13 | 2  | 4 | 7  | 28 | 35 | -7  | 10  |
| 9   | Merton 3rd                | 15 | 3  | 1 | 11 | 29 | 45 | -16 | 10  |



## JUNIOR DIVISION 4 SOUTH

| POS |                           | P  | W  | D | L  | F  | A  | GD  | PTS |
|-----|---------------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1   | Polytechnic 6th           | 14 | 12 | 2 | 0  | 56 | 16 | 40  | 38  |
| 2   | Polytechnic 7th           | 11 | 7  | 1 | 3  | 33 | 21 | 12  | 22  |
| 3   | Actonians Association 7th | 13 | 7  | 1 | 5  | 30 | 27 | 3   | 22  |
| 4   | West Wickham 6th          | 17 | 7  | 1 | 9  | 33 | 47 | -14 | 22  |
| 5   | Old Wilsonians 5th        | 12 | 5  | 2 | 5  | 29 | 31 | -2  | 17  |
| 6   | Merton 4th                | 15 | 4  | 5 | 6  | 39 | 45 | -6  | 17  |
| 7   | Ibis Eagles 4th           | 11 | 3  | 1 | 7  | 20 | 25 | -5  | 10  |
| 8   | Merton 5th                | 15 | 1  | 3 | 11 | 19 | 47 | -28 | 6   |

### 5s 2 – 3 Poly 7s



I am sure I do not speak for myself when I say that this week, nothing else mattered last week for the 14 that would make it up to our familiar trip – our home away from home – to Chiswick. And I have endeavoured to include fun facts about Chiswick in each of our visits there, so how about this cracker – Chiswick is where “Hollywood actor” (including to my Chiswick facts site) Hugh Grant grew up . It had been An Awfully Big Adventure to make it this far, but was it to be Love Actually, or would we be the Remains of the Day?

You could excuse a cagey, tentative start considering this was the biggest game of the season for both teams, so we duly obliged by going 1-0 up in the first 2 or 3 minutes. An inconspicuous throw in on the right from Tigsy was touched on by Bitgreed – to no one initially, however he latched on to his own shot and the gap between defenders meant that he was through on goal. As he approached, he slotted the ball past the keeper to snuffle up another in a great run of goals of late to put us ahead. Ideal start.

We also normally capitulate once we have scored a goal, unsure what to do next, however barring a dangerous situation casually shepherded out of touch by Scott for a goal kick, we maintained our momentum with a few terrific chances. Bitsteal stole the ball on halfway and fed the Matt, who took a touch and unleashed a venomous strike from distance which unfortunately travelled just wide with the keeper beaten. Soonafter, a corner found its way somehow to Bitmead at the back post, whose scuffed volley bounced and was cleared off the line fairly easily by their defender. The ball was cleared and on the next passage of play, a long ball was played forward. Bitsteam choo choo’ed into the keeper, who in fairness was running even faster at him, and the two collided in what the ref judged to be a free kick. With the ball still in play, we could have manufactured a decent chance had the ref seen that differently.

In a sign of Poly’s gameplay, they hit us very quickly on the break. A long, through ball threatened to catch us out, however Kieran was rapid off his line to clear the ball out for a throw in. In another sign of where we might have problems, they won a free kick deep in our half. The shot from a central position hit the wall, but the rebound went straight to their player whose decent shot was well saved by Kieran in goal.

The pressure was mounting, and it soon told – much to our annoyance considering the chances we had created. Their player on the left was given space to cross, which was met by our defender. Unfortunately the ball went straight to their midfielder, by which point the defence was all over the place. The shot was very well saved and the ball could of gone anywhere – of course, it went straight to their player. He played it back across goal into the far corner and the score was 1-1.

### 5s 2 – 3 Poly 7s



They came straight back at us immediately after the reset, and put a good passing move together to develop a chance from the right which flashed across goal. The game had become end to end, and right down the other end we had a gem of a chance. Bitmemes won the ball by pressing high and his cross into the box was a good one. From about 6 yards out but a bit behind him, Pete got his foot to the ball however the shot whistled narrowly over the bar. Good chance – and would have been better if this match reporter would have called for it behind him. Bad luck, still 1-1.

Poly ended the half from then on in stronger. A string of set pieces saw one header saved just off the line by Tiggy and one very weak header at the back post calmly collected by Kieran. Their best passing move of the match ended the half, with a snap shot from 18 yards thankfully rattling the post. The half time whistle came at a good time for us, and we were left scratching our heads as to how we had only scored 1 goal that half.

Poly started quickly again, shooting over from distance and forcing a smart stop from Kieran at his near post from our right hand side. A free kick harshly awarded against Tiggy was launched into the box, and a game of pinball resulted in the ball spinning slowly up in the air to their striker at the back post, whose header was very tame and collected by Kieran in what was a clear warning sign for the half.

We eventually felt our way back into the half and the game, and an opportunity that I am calling clear cut was cruelly taken away from us before it even developed. A great through ball was fed into Bitsy who was clean through. His touch to get him closer to goal, however, took him far too close to goal and their keeper made it first to smother the ball to ensure we did not even have an attempt from that. Bitsy was kicking himself, but to his credit the keeper was very quick off his line.

We reasserted the dominance we had at the start of the game and created some good chances. A clearance fell to Matt who took a touch and his powerful driven shot hit the side netting, much to his frustration. We even fashioned an opportunity from a corner, with the header cleared off the line and the attempted break was abruptly stopped by this match reporter who duly saw yellow for the challenge. The next corner won was similarly met by a Merton head, this time sent crashing onto the bar by Scott – unfortunate. Isaac's terrific cross-field ball found Dwayne, who was a little isolated but held up the ball. It worked its way back to Matt whose first time shot whistled just over and wide again. On another day he could have had 3!

### 5s 2 – 3 Poly 7s



In a rude break away from our dominance, they won a corner which really was not dealt with well. It rebounded to the back post, and their player was clear from 6 yards out. Kieran was out very sharply, and spread himself as wide as a lady who had just come out of a session with D – far too wide as the shot struck him in the painful place. The ball was cleared and Kieran received the sympathies of both teams, and the game continued.

But we found the breakthrough shortly after. A ball up to D was well controlled, and very well laid off to Barmead whose shot crashed against the woodwork from 6 yards out. Poly failed to clear, and D's pressure paid off as he latched on to a loose ball and smashed it first time. The shot did not find the corner, however the sheer power was far too much for the keeper and we went 2-1 up with not long to go.

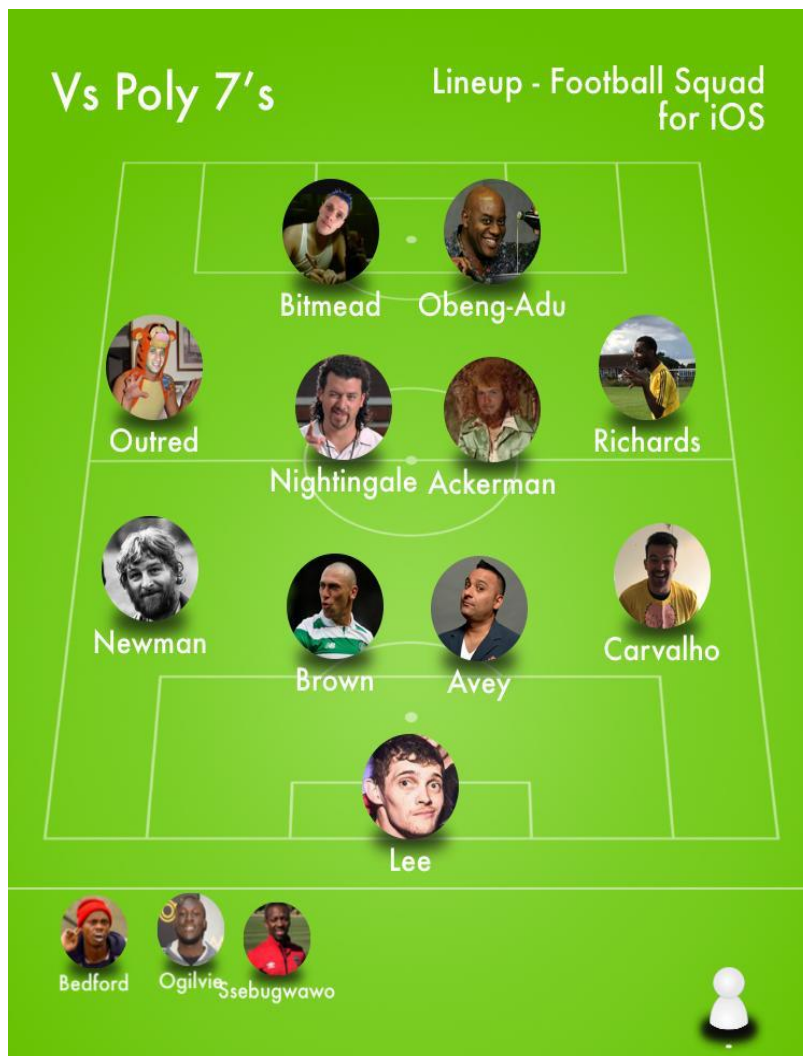
The rest, however, was not as good. We have a sad history of conceding late goals that really cost us, and this was not to be any different. They were harshly given a free kick from 50 yards out that was really just a show of strength, however we did not defend it. The ball reached the 18 yard box and their striker flicked it over our defence. No one followed their striker at the back post, who nodded in from 2 or 3 yards to make it 2-2.

To credit the lads, we were determined not to be beaten by that moment and the game became end to end. They were shooting over from distance, we were putting some decent moves together but not quite finding the final pass, and it was always going to boil down to either a moment of brilliance or a mistake. With seconds on the clock, we just didn't find a final pass on one end and the ball was cleared. From seemingly no danger, the ball appeared to be sailing through to this match reporter. The call never came however, and Scott desperately tried to get a foot to the ball. He managed somehow, and it diverted the ball away and into the path of the striker. Clean through on goal, he took it round Kieran and slotted in to cruelly beat us with the last kick of the game – we didn't even kick off. 3-2, and myself left thinking what could have been if only I had called for the ball...

It is worth mentioning that it was an almighty effort from the 5s against a good team. We were really dominant from open play but very shakey from set pieces once again, and individual errors at both ends of the pitch really cost us. The number of substitutions made might have demonstrated the lack of fitness in the team as most were dead on their feet at the final whistle, but we can all be proud. Man of the match was a close call, with Kieran's fantastic saves just tipping Bitgreed who got a goal and an assist to give us a real chance. When D was involved heavily in a move something always happened, Pete provided a good link between attack and defence and Matt was very unlucky not to have scored one of his shots, none of which were clear cut by any stretch. Tiggy really saved us a couple of times at right back, Darren's injury took away from our aerial ability and Chris was very solid down the left. Next week, we are going to have to take our chances and ideally, not give away any stupid goals, however we have said that most weeks and still not quite perfected the art.



## 5s 2 – 3 Poly 7s



## 5s 2 – 3 Poly 7s



|                          | Polytechnic 7s | Merton 5s |
|--------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| <b>Shots</b>             | 17             | 11        |
| <b>On Target</b>         | 9              | 6         |
| <b>Clear Cut Chances</b> | 3              | 6         |



#SALJ4S



## JUNIOR DIVISION 4 SOUTH

| POS |                           | P  | W  | D | L  | F  | A  | GD  | PTS |
|-----|---------------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1   | Polytechnic 6th           | 14 | 12 | 2 | 0  | 56 | 16 | 40  | 38  |
| 2   | Polytechnic 7th           | 11 | 7  | 1 | 3  | 33 | 21 | 12  | 22  |
| 3   | Actonians Association 7th | 13 | 7  | 1 | 5  | 30 | 27 | 3   | 22  |
| 4   | West Wickham 6th          | 17 | 7  | 1 | 9  | 33 | 47 | -14 | 22  |
| 5   | Old Wilsonians 5th        | 12 | 5  | 2 | 5  | 29 | 31 | -2  | 17  |
| 6   | Merton 4th                | 15 | 4  | 5 | 6  | 39 | 45 | -6  | 17  |
| 7   | Ibis Eagles 4th           | 11 | 3  | 1 | 7  | 20 | 25 | -5  | 10  |
| 8   | Merton 5th                | 15 | 1  | 3 | 11 | 19 | 47 | -28 | 6   |



#SALJ6S



## JUNIOR DIVISION 6 SOUTH

| POS |                      | P  | W  | D | L  | F  | A  | GD  | PTS |
|-----|----------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1   | HSBC 6th             | 12 | 11 | 1 | 0  | 68 | 17 | 51  | 34  |
| 2   | South Bank Cuaco 7th | 13 | 8  | 2 | 3  | 40 | 33 | 7   | 26  |
| 3   | City of London 3rd   | 13 | 5  | 4 | 4  | 46 | 26 | 20  | 19  |
| 4   | Bank of England 5th  | 12 | 5  | 3 | 4  | 26 | 32 | -6  | 18  |
| 5   | Old Salesians Res    | 8  | 5  | 0 | 3  | 28 | 13 | 15  | 15  |
| 6   | Merton 6th           | 12 | 4  | 3 | 5  | 31 | 40 | -9  | 15  |
| 7   | Old Wilsonians 8th   | 11 | 3  | 3 | 5  | 23 | 32 | -9  | 12  |
| 8   | Civil Service 8th    | 11 | 2  | 1 | 8  | 17 | 28 | -11 | 7   |
| 9   | Old Wilsonians 9th   | 14 | 0  | 3 | 11 | 19 | 77 | -58 | 3   |



## Statszone

### Top scorer

| Name             | Sum of Total League Goals | Sum of Total Cup Goals | Sum of Total Goals |
|------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Andy Bitmead     | 9                         | 5                      | 14                 |
| Lewis Riches     | 12                        | 1                      | 13                 |
| Denys Zhurbiy    | 9                         | 1                      | 10                 |
| Dom Plumridge    | 6                         | 2                      | 8                  |
| Aaron Byrne      | 7                         | 1                      | 8                  |
| Jamie Cross      | 7                         | 0                      | 7                  |
| Nick Englefield  | 6                         | 1                      | 7                  |
| Dave Golding     | 7                         | 0                      | 7                  |
| David Quainton   | 6                         | 0                      | 6                  |
| Peter Obeng-Adu  | 5                         | 1                      | 6                  |
| Andrew Minkevich | 4                         | 1                      | 5                  |
| Lewis Ackerman   | 4                         | 1                      | 5                  |
| Dulanie Richards | 4                         | 1                      | 5                  |
| Glenn Pitman     | 5                         | 0                      | 5                  |
| Ivan Gladkow     | 2                         | 2                      | 4                  |
| James Emery      | 4                         | 0                      | 4                  |



## Statszone

### Top Assists

| Sum of Total Assists |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| Name                 | Total |
| Dave Golding         | 11    |
| George Brobbey       | 9     |
| Dom Plumridge        | 6     |
| Peter Obeng-Adu      | 4     |
| Dan Rist             | 4     |
| Ryan Burchell        | 4     |
| Denys Zhurbiy        | 4     |
| James Emery          | 4     |
| Glenn Pitman         | 4     |
| Nathan Harris        | 4     |
| Lewis Riches         | 4     |
| Ryan Gresty          | 4     |

## Statszone



### Overall

| Name               | Sum of Total Goals | Sum of Total Assists | Sum of Goals Involved In |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Dave Golding       | 7                  | 11                   | 18                       |
| Lewis Riches       | 13                 | 4                    | 17                       |
| Andy Bitmead       | 14                 | 3                    | 17                       |
| Dom Plumridge      | 8                  | 6                    | 14                       |
| Denys Zhurbiy      | 10                 | 4                    | 14                       |
| George Brobbey     | 3                  | 9                    | 12                       |
| Peter Obeng-Adu    | 6                  | 4                    | 10                       |
| Nick Englefield    | 7                  | 3                    | 10                       |
| Glenn Pitman       | 5                  | 4                    | 9                        |
| Aaron Byrne        | 8                  | 1                    | 9                        |
| Lewis Ackerman     | 5                  | 3                    | 8                        |
| Jamie Cross        | 7                  | 1                    | 8                        |
| James Emery        | 4                  | 4                    | 8                        |
| Andrew Minkevich   | 5                  | 2                    | 7                        |
| David Quainton     | 6                  | 1                    | 7                        |
| Dulanie Richards   | 5                  | 1                    | 6                        |
| Roman Bilivskiy    | 3                  | 2                    | 5                        |
| Mario Del Prestito | 3                  | 2                    | 5                        |
| Dan Rist           | 1                  | 4                    | 5                        |
| Ivan Gladkow       | 4                  | 1                    | 5                        |
| Sam Slater         | 2                  | 2                    | 4                        |
| Darren Fitzgerald  | 2                  | 2                    | 4                        |
| Nathan Harris      | 0                  | 4                    | 4                        |
| Ryan Gresty        | 0                  | 4                    | 4                        |
| Callum Fisher      | 1                  | 3                    | 4                        |
| Darren Avey        | 2                  | 2                    | 4                        |
| Ryan Burchell      | 0                  | 4                    | 4                        |
| Phil Truman        | 2                  | 2                    | 4                        |



## Statszone

## Golden Glove

| Name             | Sum of Total                 |                           |                      |                           |                       |
|------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
|                  | Sum of Total<br>Clean Sheets | Sum of Total<br>Pen Saves | Sum of Total<br>Goal | 1 Golden Gloves<br>Points | Sum of Goals Conceded |
| Kieran Lee       | 2                            | 3                         | 1                    | 16                        | 44                    |
| Martin Quinlan   | 2                            | 0                         | 2                    | 8                         | 49                    |
| Siraj Durrani    | 1                            | 1                         | 1                    | 7                         | 14                    |
| Simon Clapperton | 2                            | 0                         | 0                    | 6                         | 2                     |
| Alex Herbert     | 1                            | 0                         | 2                    | 5                         | 32                    |
| Mike Gubby       | 1                            | 0                         | 1                    | 4                         | 5                     |
| Lee Lenihan      | 1                            | 0                         | 0                    | 3                         | 44                    |