

The Merton Way



2018 – 2019 season
16th February 2019



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Note from the Chairman

Unfortunately it's February and that is very often the monsoon season and for the last two weekends the Hood has been unplayable. We have been fortunate up until now and the season is more than three quarters completed Hopefully with a dry week the hood will dry out for the weekend games which include 4s v 5s and both the 1s and 2s at home.

I wish all our teams good luck this week and I hope they enjoy their matches and the fun and friendship in the bar afterwards. There are only a few games left for most of the teams and if the weather relents and our games finish early we will be looking to arrange some friendly matches and the SAL will be arranging a spring cup competition as they did a couple of seasons ago!

We are now arranging the Merton tour to Albufeira in the Algarve for the weekend May 10/11/12th May. We are entering an 11 a side tournament and there are now a few places left. If you would like to join please get in touch with Clappers as soon as you can. First come first served. We have played here several times and it has always been well organised and good fun on very good grass pitches.

16 – 17 Feb results



League	1s	1	V	5	Carshalton
	Cross				
League	2s	4	V	1	HSBC
	Quainton (2), Niall, Vazquez-Phillips				
League	4s	3	V	3	5s
	D Gridley (2), Elgar				Bitmead (3)



2 – 3 Feb results

League	Carshalton	3	V	3	1s
Gladkow, Brobbery, Jamie					
League	City of London 3s	8	V	2	6s
Riches, Emery					

9 - 10 Feb results

League	Civil Service 4s	3	V	2	3s
Pritchard, Pitman					
League	Polytechnic 8s	5	V	4	4s
Elgar, Bilivskyi, Murphy, Fisher					
League	FC Athena Whites	4	V	7	U10s
Faris 2, Rio 2, Louis, Maxwell, Percy					

This week's fixtures



League	1s	V	Carshalton
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League	2s	V	HSBC
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League	3s	V	Old Wilsonians
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League	4s	V	West Wickham 6s
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SAL Cup	5s	V	Polytechnic 7s
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League	6s	V	Civil Service 8s
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League	U14s	V	Carshalton Athletics Whites
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League	U13s	V	
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1s 3 v 3 Carshalton



This was a very entertaining game to watch with plenty of good football. The most surprising element was the excellent condition of the pitch almost bone dry. Unlike many of our previous encounters this game was played in excellent spirit

Merton settled well and played some good quick passing football and were ahead after 7 minutes with striking home quickly from 14 yards and catching their keeper out at the near post. Soon ahead and soon level as Carshalton struck back when we failed to clear. We had three or four good chances created from good attacking play but we squandered them first Sam firing side then Josh the younger having his shot saved , George waltzing through their defence and firing over before George having his shot cleared off the line.

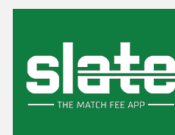
The second half as much more even. Vanny fires us ahead early in the second half but again they equalised very soon after from a well flighted cross and header. But it all seemed to be going pear shaped when Jamie played through hit the inside of the post with them picking up the ricochet driving upfield and scoring on the break with just a few minutes left. But soon after we were level when Jamie was on hand to turn a Sam Harvey cross (Shot??) into the net for our equaliser.

We had to defend a series of long throws and Pete brown picked up a nasty injury breaking his arm. He played on. But we had chances on the break and the game ended with a point apiece not unfairly.

Team Sherbs (GK). Rat , Harrison, Browner, Max, Josh (capt) Sam H. Jimbo Josh, Jamie, George subs Vanny crusher.



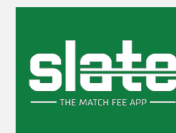
SENIOR DIVISION 2



POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Norsemen	11	11	0	0	38	11	27	33
2	East Barnet Old Grammarians	13	8	3	2	35	22	13	27
3	Old Finchleians	12	7	2	3	34	22	12	23
4	Alexandra Park	16	6	4	6	34	30	4	22
5	Bank of England	10	7	0	3	34	17	17	21
6	NUFC Oilers	14	5	4	5	26	23	3	19
7	Carshalton	15	3	5	7	27	36	-9	14
8	Merton	15	3	4	8	22	36	-14	13
9	HSBC	14	3	2	9	15	41	-26	11
10	Ibis Eagles	14	2	0	12	15	42	-27	6



INTERMEDIATE DIVISION 3



POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Broomfield 'A'	10	9	0	1	39	16	23	27
2	West Wickham 3rd	9	8	0	1	29	7	22	24
3	Alleyn Old Boys 3rd	12	8	0	4	40	29	11	24
4	Norsemen Res	10	7	2	1	31	10	21	23
5	Polytechnic 3rd	12	7	1	4	35	22	13	22
6	Merton Res	15	6	2	7	27	35	-8	20
7	Weirside Rangers Res	12	3	1	8	12	36	-24	10
8	Old Parkonians 3rd	7	3	0	4	13	12	1	9
9	HSBC Res	14	1	5	8	22	52	-30	8
10	Old Blues Res	10	2	1	7	16	31	-15	7
11	South Bank Cuaco Res	11	1	0	10	11	25	-14	3

3s 2 – 3 Civil Service 4th



In game of persistence, battling against a solid opposition, a pitch with similar gradient to sectors of Everest and a wind that had the power to blow half of Merton's players hair off (which looked plausible for any on looking fans passing by) Merton 3s put in a performance to be proud of against top of the league.

15mins into the game Merton went gone 1 – 0 down after a number of scuffed clearances from the back and a run through the middle from their striker, Iain was quick off his line and was unlucky not to get the save. 10mins later Ivan squared the ball onto a vegan styled juggernaut run whereby Pritch picked the ball up, run 10 yards and blasted the ball from outside the box into the bottom corner of the opponents goal.

Just before the break of half time after Merton arguably had the better chances of the half a quick free kick into the opponents number 9's feet, slipped through on goal with a strong turn of place going into half time 2 – 1 down.

A very sluggish start to the second half saw Merton 3s make life very hard for ourselves, but we rode out the storm and 15 mins into the second half Merton got a free kick. Up steps Glenn and puts in a beautiful CROSS that finds its way into the top corner of the goal!

The next 10/15mins of the game was a very close with both teams getting chances. When the opposition got through on goal Jack and Bully managed to get behind the keeper where Iain made a brilliant save leaving the ball to slowly crawl towards the goal, Jack attempting a clearance ended up scuffing the ball perfectly slotting it in the bottom corner for possibly the worst timing to concede an own goal that you'll ever see!

For the remainder of the game Merton played well and despite Neil attempting Cruyff turns as last man and Glenn hitting so many shots over the bar he would of out pointed Jonny Wilkinson in another sport, Merton 3s were unlucky not to come away with more and certainly a performance to be proud of to take into the next game!



JUNIOR DIVISION 2 SOUTH



POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Civil Service 4th	12	10	0	2	35	20	15	30
2	Polytechnic 5th	10	7	1	2	31	20	11	22
3	Kew Association Res	13	6	3	4	33	38	-5	21
4	Old Salesians	12	6	2	4	43	22	21	20
5	Actonians Association 5th	13	4	3	6	21	22	-1	15
6	HSBC 3rd	13	4	3	6	29	40	-11	15
7	Actonians Association 6th	9	4	1	4	20	27	-7	13
8	Old Wilsonians 3rd	12	2	3	7	25	32	-7	9
9	Merton 3rd	14	3	0	11	26	42	-16	9



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	West Wickham 6th	16	7	1	8	33	44	-11	22
4	Actonians Association 7th	12	6	1	5	26	26	0	19
5	Old Wilsonians 5th	11	5	2	4	28	27	1	17
6	Merton 4th	14	3	5	6	36	45	-9	14
7	Ibis Eagles 4th	11	3	1	7	20	25	-5	10
8	Merton 5th	15	1	3	11	19	47	-28	6

 League | Table



Our record against Merton is shocking, both against higher teams and alleged 'lower' teams. To say we needed to reverse it this week to move up the Danny Dyer scale was the understatement of last week – understatement of this week will follow towards the end of this match report. But to say it did not look good at the start of the day with our two CBs out, would, again, be an understatement.

We took control of the game pretty early on, with the defence keeping any chances from open play very limited and Dwayne and Matt taking control of midfield expertly. We were pressing their defence and created some good openings without looking like scoring many of them. The ones we did create, we took.

Our first goal was scrappy. A ball into the box from a corner resulted in a melee, of which Bitmead reacted first to pounce on the ball. He caressed the ball into the back of the net for a deserved 1-0 lead.

We took the initiative and continued to press their back 4 rather than sit back – that bit comes later. That pressing played dividends as a good move down the right was cut out by their defence. D spotted an opportunity, much like he would if he saw Tiggy walking home, and pounced to get a foot in. His tackle on the defender ricocheted into Bitmead's path, and he calmly stroked home to make it 2-0.

Then came a very strange passage of play. We had what was a clear penalty denied when Gridley in goal hauled down our player, and Ryan being the gentleman he is tapped the ball out of play to ensure Gridley in goal could be seen to. I'm not sure whether the 4s did not know that the ball was put out of play – I am hoping that is the case – but they played on from the throw in leading to Callum having a shot from outside the box.

This seemed to put some wind in the 4s sails and they carved out a really good opportunity from open play. A good ball through found a good run from Dom, whose shot was thankfully scuffed and went across the goal. The first half ended with Bitmead having a good opportunity 1 v 1, however he unfortunately put it wide to end the half 2-0.

We started the third half as quickly as we did the first, and went 3 ahead shortly after. James, introduced at half time, was played through about 40-50 yards from goal. The motor engine kicked in and he skated across the grass like a roadrunner gliding towards goal. Once he got to the keeper, his shot beat the keeper, but narrowly dragged wide. The resulting goal kick looked like it was dropping over Pete's head. Somehow, he managed to get his foot about 20 yards in the air to hook the ball over the defence. The defence was in awe of karate kid Pete so much that they stood frozen, and Bitmead reacted first to get on the ball and slot past the keeper to make it 3-0.



It looked like we were solid from open play and it would need either a moment of magic, or moment of madness to change the tide. It was a moment of madness. A corner was wipped in, and the 5s had 2 or 3 chances to clear it. The pinball that ensued fell to Dan Gridley, whose finish was accomplished, but from our perspective it should not have got there. 5 or 6 corners later, the 4s managed to fashion chance after chance and thankfully only scored 2 of them to make it 3-3.

Just before the 4s scored the 3rd goal, another bizarre refereeing decision threatened to complete the turning of the tide for us. He adjudged a challenge in the box by Matt, where both players made an attempt for the ball, to be a foul and the penalty was awarded. Matt's Stoke side came out and his dissent was duly rewarded with a 10 min sin-bin. The penalty was struck pretty well, but Kieran pulled out a fantastic save which kept us in the game a bit longer.

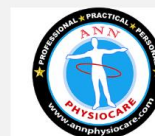
We were not without a chance to win it at the end. The ball was won at the back and passed out wide to Isaac. His ball inside found D, whose lay off put the ball on the plate for what was one of the most easiest chances of the day. I cannot remember who it was that was in front of goal, it doesn't really matter I guess, but the shot was woefully scuffed to leave the game tied at the end at 3-3. A very good, close contest.

So the understatement of this week is to say that the semi final will be the most important game of our season. But it will also be one to enjoy – it isn't often we get to play in a game with linesmen! It's like an SAL version of playing a semi final at Wembley.


Man of the match today was Kieran, who pulled out a string of saves including the pen save to keep us in it, particularly from the corners. Dick of the day was Matt for his sin-bin.



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	West Wickham 6th	16	7	1	8	33	44	-11	22
4	Actonians Association 7th	12	6	1	5	26	26	0	19
5	Old Wilsonians 5th	11	5	2	4	28	27	1	17
6	Merton 4th	14	3	5	6	36	45	-9	14
7	Ibis Eagles 4th	11	3	1	7	20	25	-5	10
8	Merton 5th	15	1	3	11	19	47	-28	6

 League | Table

6s 2 v 8 City of London 3s



A week of snow, rain, ice, frost and little sunshine, the 6s went to work to make sure this fixture went ahead, switching the game to WCE on the Thursday, confirmed the game to go ahead, until the ref pulled out!! so bit more running around and a few calls/messages, we almost end up with 2!!

So, after all that, and confirming with C3s that the game is on, we venture down to the extensions, buoyed from the previous weeks goal feast and knowing that we beat this team away, only 3 weeks ago.

To the game, and a minor delay while we wait for the remaining C3s to turn up, a quick look over confirms that this is not the team from the previous meeting! .. and now all the hard work of getting this fixture on is about to be undone for the wrong reasons

The opening exchanges are even, a simple 4-3-3 from weeks gone by is in place. DG is playing centre forward, but drops deep between C3s midfield and defence, leaving James and Lewis with the room to run in behind with there pace. Ackers, Dobby and Truman make up the 3 in midfield, and work tirelessly tracking the very fit oppo. The centre backs of Joe and Darren are tested by C3s forward, and contain most of what's thrown at them, Burchell Snr and Harvey keeps tabs on the wingers.

All balls down the middle are being won by the 6s, DG receives the ball and just inside the oppos half, and sends a curling through ball over the top for Lewis to latch onto, seeming being pushed wide, he manages to lose his marker and smash a high ball into the roof of the net to take a 1-0 lead, unfortunately, not to soon after, Lewis is looking rather green and leaves the field of play to be replaced by Pete.

What looked like a promising start is soon quashed, Darren Avery having to go off after a knee injury finishes him for the day, Chris O goes left back and Steve B moves centre, maybe the early changes disrupt' s the 6s as not so long after sees C3s pull level, a shot beating MQ at the near post, 1-1

If that wasn't disappointing enough, C3s take the lead when MQ only manages to parry the ball towards the goal and stand flat footed as Steve H tries to hook it away, only to end up in the net 1-2

To compound the capitulation, C3s capitalise on a mix up from a corner, when all of the 6s break out to leave C3s on the 6 yard area, Steve B and MQ are caught holding hands and ball watching, keeping everyone on side, as the ball is nodded home from close range 1-3

6s 2 v 8 City of London 3s



Halftime and the manager use some colourful language to rally the troops, only to start the second half in much the same as the first ended. Another mistake inside the box is punished by another goal, this time, MQ not being able to jump as he sees the looping shot sail over his head for 1-4

Finally, and bit of luck. Once again its DG who receives the ball and drops the shoulder and curls another ball over the top, this time for James to speed pass the centre backs and lob the keeper from 20 yards.. the fight back is on .. 2-4

Short lived... a melee in the 6s box sees the final shot avoid 3 players and the unsighted MQ to go 2-5 up, and to further compound the misery, a simple back pass to MQ sees him under no pressure to release the ball although the C3s striker is bearing down on him from the half way line, after taking 3 touches to many, the attempted clearance is blocked and rolled into an empty net. 2-6

DG makes way for Lewis is who feels well enough to take part in the last 15 or so, the change is a bit of rest bite, but its not long before MQ is beaten by a solid header for 2-7. Steve B makes way for Steve H, as its just about getting to the end of the game now Once again, Lewis needs to depart, Steve B is thrown into the mix up front and its not to long before his moment of glory is upon him. A searching ball is sent over by James, the keeper begins to come but retreats as Steve B controls some 16 yards out, cries of 'shoooooot' can be heard as the cogs in the old footballing brain tick over, 'place it left, place it right, chip the keeper, sit him down' the choices are endless.. however.. Mr B decides that smashing it down the middle as hard as he can was the correct option, not only did the ball meet the far end of the common, but the C3s keeper decided that it was game up as he picked his bag up and trotted off to the changing room! He got called back and was in place, just in time to see his team take a further goal when Joe, out of frustration more than anything, up ended their forward to give away a penalty which was dispatched for a 2-8 score line, the ref blows for full time to put the 6s out of their misery

Questions must be asked, how does a team that's not won on the road since October, lost to ourselves as well as other teams below us in the last 3 games or so, pull off such a huge score line. With there first team getting postponed due to the weather, the 'additional' players made a huge difference and is reflected in the score line. Maybe this is something that needs to be investigated by the league Next week, away days to Civ 8... let see how that pans out!!

MOTM: James, run his legs off and took his goal well

DOTD: MQ.. a day to forget

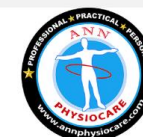
Team: MQ, Steve B, Steve H, Darren A, Joe D, Aaron A, David G ©, Andrew D, Lewis R, James E, Pete O, Ryan B, Chris O



#SALJGS



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	12	8	2	2	40	31	9	26
3	City of London 3rd	13	5	4	4	46	26	20	19
4	Bank of England 5th	11	4	3	4	24	32	-8	15
5	Merton 6th	12	4	3	5	31	40	-9	15
6	Old Salesians Res	7	4	0	3	20	13	7	12
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	13	0	3	10	19	69	-50	3



U10s 7 v 4 FC Athena U10s

A sharp wind cut across the open playing fields for this away match. Even Dan had deigned to wear a coat and James had to donate his to Max's ever-present sister, Summer. Despite knowing the side was full for this one Bobby committed to come down and prep with the team and Scott suffered the chill with his parental peers.

Last time out Merton U10s suffered a rare league loss to the same side at home on a sticky pitch. This time the pitch was in better nick despite a week of showers. A good start could prove crucial.

The ref was set up for an hour of comedy in flat soled trainers and with no whistle. He called to the boys to kick off and within 15 seconds Athena had the ball in the Merton net. Not the start we had all hoped for.

For the next 10 mins despite some bright spells of play we frequently lost the ball in the middle of the park and Athena pushed on. Inevitably they squeezed another goal after 10mins. This was not looking good at 2 goals down.

Neal shuffled his pack with subs to change the course of the game and it worked. Within a few minutes we pulled a goal back to breathe belief into the side. It was well taken by Farris who was having a solid game thus far.

A second soon followed as Maxwell broke free with his pace and took his chance nicely. Suddenly Merton were level again.

Now the boys had their tails up. Rio was working as hard as anyone on the pitch and covering every blade of grass/mud. He grabbed a quick fire double with strong forward runs and Merton had surged in to a 4-2 lead.

Then half time came. I think (it was cold so we didn't get all the details down, OK)?!

After the customary half time team talk the boys ran out to try and seal what would be a great win.

They continued to pile on the pressure now and Athena did not look nearly as fluid as they had done at the Hood.

We had a few chances before David turned in the next goal after some good interplay. 5-2.



U10s 7 v 4 FC Athena U10s

Athena got more of a foothold in the game now, perhaps Merton were easing off. The chances they had were generally well defended or when Max was called upon he showed some good handling. Today he also seemed more confident in choosing options for playing the ball out from our box.

Ollie and Harry continued their fine form at the back and played the ball out intelligently at every opportunity. We offered them more options wide than last time out. Joe's game continued to strengthen in the second half and he was working back to help snuff out attacks. Maxwell's pace continued to cause problems up front but he was not able to add to his goal tally today despite showing some good power.

Percy and Louis were their industrious selves in the middle of the park and Dave was very hard to defend against for Athena as the game wore on.

Despite playing well Merton next conceded a goal from a break they failed to close down despite a couple of chances to do so. 5-3.

This didn't make the boys' heads drop. Farris continued to push for a goal and he got the next one, the ball slipping under the keeper, who had made some excellent saves but also made a couple of errors which seemed out of character compared to his saves and confidence. 6-3.

Next, Louis went on a positive run on the right, outpaced his counterpart and then cut inside 2 defenders and slotted home in the far corner. As the boys trotted back to the half way their smiles said the game was won.

Not to drop their heads the Athena team played on as best they could as the last minutes ticked down and got the last goal of the game near the end to make it 7-4.

The ref called for the end of the game without a whistle and the hard fought win was ours. Well done boys! All had put in a shift to turn the tables on their victors of 2 weeks' back.

With half term approaching the next game will be a 9-a-side friendly to explore the change in pitch and formation. The passing focused Merton U10s should do well as more space opens up on the pitch. As ever, time will tell.

U10s 7 v 4 FC Athena U10s





Statszone

Top scorer

Name	Sum of Total League Goals	Sum of Total Cup Goals	Sum of Total Goals
Andy Bitmead	9	4	13
Lewis Riches	12	1	13
Denys Zhurbiy	9	1	10
Jamie Cross	7	0	7
Dom Plumridge	5	2	7
Dave Golding	7	0	7
Aaron Byrne	5	1	6
David Quainton	6	0	6
Nick Englefield	5	1	6
Peter Obeng-Adu	5	1	6
Lewis Ackerman	4	1	5
Glenn Pitman	5	0	5
James Emery	4	0	4
Ivan Gladkow	2	2	4
Dulanie Richards	4	0	4
Andrew Minkevich	3	1	4



Statszone

Top Assists

Name	Total
Dave Golding	11
George Brobbey	9
Dom Plumridge	5
Nathan Harris	4
Dan Rist	4
Ryan Burchell	4
Denys Zhurbiy	4
Peter Obeng-Adu	4
Glenn Pitman	4
Ryan Gresty	4
James Emery	4
Callum Fisher	3
Nick Englefield	3
Lewis Ackerman	3
Lewis Riches	3



Statszone

Golden Glove

Name	Sum of Total Clean Sheets	Sum of Total Pen Saves	Sum of Total 1 Goal	Sum of Total Golden Gloves Points	Sum of Goals Conceded
Kieran Lee	2	3	1	16	41
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
Lee Lenihan	1	0	0	3	44
Iain Evans	0	0	1	1	31
Unknown	0	0	1	1	4
Mike Gubby	0	0	1	1	5
Joe Grew	0	0	0	0	3
Mark Chappell	0	0	0	0	2
Sam Singer-Ripley	0	0	0	0	10
Ryan Collier	0	0	0	0	7
John Gridley	0	0	0	0	3
Max Carveth	0	0	0	0	1
Andy Bitmead	0	0	0	0	6
Darren Fitzgerald	0	0	0	0	17
Graham Wilgoss	0	0	0	0	3



Statszone

Overall

Name	Sum of Total Goals	Sum of Total Assists	Sum of Goals Involved In
Dave Golding	7	11	18
Lewis Riches	13	3	16
Andy Bitmead	13	2	15
Denys Zhurbiy	10	4	14
Dom Plumridge	7	5	12
George Brobbey	3	9	12
Peter Obeng-Adu	6	4	10
Nick Englefield	6	3	9
Glenn Pitman	5	4	9
Jamie Cross	7	1	8
Lewis Ackerman	5	3	8
James Emery	4	4	8
David Quainton	6	1	7
Aaron Byrne	6	1	7
Andrew Minkevich	4	1	5
Ivan Gladkow	4	1	5
Mario Del Prestito	3	2	5
Roman Bilivskiy	3	2	5
Dulanie Richards	4	1	5
Dan Rist	1	4	5