

THE MERTON WAY



Merton Football Club

Newsletter 19.02.15



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER BLACK & YELLOW

Welcome to the newly re-designed newsletter 'The Merton Way'. We're launching our new WEEKLY newsletter thanks to our new Editor Ram Mahbubani. Ram has only recently joined the club, but has offered to produce The Merton Way for which we're very grateful. If you can supply match reports, pictures, features or anything you can think of we can make sure Ram's got enough material each week. Thanks this week to Liam Steven's, Aaron Ackerman and Kevin Locke for writing match reports.

It has been a terrific week with the 1s coming back from the brink and getting to the AFA Surrey/Kent Senior Cup Final. The match is to be played at Polytechnic Sports Ground, Chiswick on the 14th March with a 2.30pm kick off. I have to say it did not look too promising being undeservedly 3-0 down with 25 mins to go but the boys got their heads together and played some good sensible football with some good finishing. Our penalties were brilliant and Angus in goal made a couple of good saves.

So this is a brilliant opportunity for some silverware but even better for a good day out supporting our boys. Mark is doing his best to organise fixtures through the SAL so members will be able to get along but it is not easy.

Other great news this week was....

- We managed to get a 3s team to North London and they won!

- Dan Kelly stepped up from the 4s to help out the 3s and scored FIVE goals!

- Ryan Gresty wasn't on holiday.

Thanks to Mark and Clappers for all they are doing to make sure we fulfil our fixtures and to those members who put the club's reputation and the league's principles ahead of their own personal convenience. The effort we are making is appreciated by the league fixtures secretary who is doing what he can to help., but there are too many clubs like us and it must be a nightmare.

The youth section like the senior club is suffering postponements from the weather but all three teams are still doing well. We are also planning for next season when we will have six teams from U9 to U14 and we have already recruited managers for these teams. This is the future and part of our plan to recruit new members.

Thanks
Max



MEET THE COMMITTEE

President

Terry Baker

Chairman

Max Herbert

Deputy Chairman

Simon Clapperton

Honorary Secretary

Mike Reed

Honorary Treasurer

Len Freeman

Honorary Fixtures Secretary

Mark Chappell

Social Organiser

Alex Herbert

Players' Representative

Lee Lenihan

Webmaster

Matt Haswell

Discipline Officer

Roger Asling

Communications

Graham Willgoss

Honorary Life Presidents

Roger Mann, Mark Dix, Roger Asling, Pat Murphy, Jim Murphy, Fergus Murphy,
Martin Quinlan, John Gridley, Steve Philpott, Graeme Coombs



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 3 April

is Long Good Friday. We'll have two or three games and the bar will be open from 1pm so come down, play, support or just enjoy a good drink.
Matches + Bar = TV Football

Saturday 30 May

is FA Cup Final Day. Again we'll have a couple of games followed by a BBQ and the final on in the bar. They'll be the usual time of the first goal and first goal scorer prizes so come along and potentially go home with £75 in your pocket.

Saturday 6 June

is our end of season awards day and the Champions League final. You can congratulate, commiserate and laugh at, and along with, your fellow players as you remember the highs and lows of the season. This will be followed up by the Champions League final so we can watch how it should be done.

RAM'S HEADS UP

I've recently gone deep in my mind and thought of some obscure things, here a few that have rolled around in my head:

1 - I dream of a better tomorrow... where chickens can cross roads and not have their motives questioned.

2 - I'm never wrong. I once thought I was wrong, turns out, I was mistaken.

3 - Last night I was looking at the stars and I wondered... where the hell's my ceiling!

4 - Whoever said nothing was impossible never tried slamming a revolving door.

5 - When tempted to fight fire with fire, remember that the fire department generally uses water.

and one that we will all agree on:

6 - Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy.
Benjamin Franklin

Film of the week - DVD
Finders Keepers - 2.5/5

Song of the week
Gravity - DJ Fresh feat Ella Eyre

EDITOR'S WORST HAIRSTYLES EVER!



Try covering the hair below each of his ears with your fingers.

The Player: A Tottenham, Sheffield Wednesday and England legend, who was also a three time French Championship winner to boot. Equally adept on the left or right flank (despite being left footed), he had a sublime touch, a knack for scoring spectacular goals and a level of flair seldom seen in an England player.

The Hair: A textbook example of the mullet. Men began experimenting with this brave hair formation throughout the 60's and 70's, before it rose to prominence during the 80's. The fashion and music stylings of the era have been somewhat exhumed in recent years, so my question is...why did we leave the mullet behind?





INTERVIEW WITH KEVIN LOCKE AKA SMITHY

FACT FILE

TEAM: Kevin Locke aka Smithy
POSITION: Centre half/left back
BIRTH DATE: 1983
BIRTH PLACE: Croydon Town
CLUBS: Junior Greens & Main Royal Blues
(Wallington Little League)

RAPID FIRE

Player of the season (so far): Alexis Sanchez
Childhood Team: Arsenal FC
Favourite team outside the UK: Shanghai
Shenhua
Childhood Hero: Super Ted
Favourite Food: Extra large doner kebab
Favourite Drink: Carling
Favourite Band: Kasabian

1. Tell us who is Kevin Locke outside of the club. What do you do, how would you describe yourself?
I work for the home office (just a desk job!!). I would describe myself as a larger than life character who loves a laugh and a drink. I also enjoy playing golf and the occasional night carp fishing (how rock and roll!!!)

2. How did you end up at Merton FC?
Through hope and desperation! Plus I knew some of the first team.

3. What was your best moment in your MFC career till now?
Scoring my debut goal for the club recently!

4. If you could play for a professional team, which would be it and why?
I would play for the mighty Tottenham and concede numerous penalties and own goals so they get relegated.

5. Do you have any pre-match rituals or superstitions?
I always have a 6 piece KFC bargain bucket and a boost bar prior to the game.

6. Lastly, share us your thoughts for the rest of the season.
My thoughts are that I hope the club can get through to the end of the season with all six teams in tact and then build strongly for the future. Also hope the club can win their cup final in a few weeks time.



MERTON FC 1XI

3

3

ALLEY OLD BOYS FC 1XI

MERTON WON 4-2 ON PENALTIES

MATT BOSHER x 2
LEWIS ACKERMAN

MAN OF THE MATCH:
MATT BOSHER

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This was a brilliant win for Merton securing a place in the AFA Surrey/Kent senior final (14th March at Polytechnic FC). It was done the Merton Way with plenty of drama. With the Hood unplayable the game was switched to a 4.15 KO on the 3G floodlit pitch at the Hub in Mitcham.

We started quite well and it was a surprisingly physical encounter; 3G tends to be amore dainty affair but not this time. We more than held our own with greater possession but created openings with shots wide from outside the penalty area, whilst they missed a couple of chances but they went ahead after half an hour when some sloppy defending gave them an opening which they finished well.

Half time and no panic but we became guilty of giving the ball away too often and too easily. This lead to Alleyns seizing on mistakes and scoring twice to make it 3-0 with 25 mins to go. This did not look too promising particularly as we were unsettled and had lost our way a bit. Bosh replacing Vanny who had worked so hard and Dan Whiteman while Tills took a breather, came on and their fresh legs and industry made a change. But we also settled down and went back to patient passing and build up. Ackers and Rat were combining well down the right and Dan and Ali G down the left.

This brought our rewards with Bosh finishing twice in quick succession. 3-2 and very interesting. We pressed hard for the equaliser and they had a hard job clearing corners and scrambling it away. We had a good shout for

a penalty denied. We were dominating in midfield with Will, Snooks, Woody and Tills running their socks off. With time running out another handball and a penalty which Ackers coolly slotted, 3-3 and extra time.

The 2 x 15mins flashed by and we could not finish it. Bosh came closest flashing a couple of chances wide.

And so to pens. We started the shoot out and Ackers and Woody fired home brilliantly for 2-2. Then Woody stepped up and scored but their man fired high and wide and not for him very handsomely. Al G made it 4-2 and their man had to score or they were out. Real pressure and he started badly by putting the ball on the wrong spot at about 18 yards and having to respot and then firing close to Angus who saved.

Celebrations were cut short as the Lino was flagging for Angus moving forward. But their lad did no better the second time and it was a memorable well celebrated win. Clappers did a brilliant job of organising the team and Browner's pace was tested by their very quick, very young forwards. This was a brilliant all round team performance. It was not an easy game to referee but the officials did a good job. Well done to Clappers and the boys.

TEAM: Angus (GK), Rat, Browner, Clappers (C), Al G, Woody, Will Low, Snooks, Tilley (70 then 105), Ackers, Vanny (70).
Subs: Bosh (70) and Dan Whiteman (70)

Book the date – Saturday 14th March at Poly!



MERTON FC RESERVES



NUFC OILERS FC RESERVES

MAN OF THE MATCH:

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MAN OF THE MATCH: DAN KELLY

DAN KELLY x 5
DAVID QUANTON x 2

**"If you have a problem, if no-one else can help,
and if you can find them, maybe you can hire
The A-Team (or Dan Kelly)"**

Saturday's visit to Southgate will be remembered for a number of unique Merton FC records – the longest half ever played, the first time that a team's seven goal haul was exceeded only by the number of disallowed goals and the first time there were more incorrect offsides than players on the pitch.

The 3s travelled made the long trip to Winchmore Hill, supported by the short-notice addition of volunteers from across the club. The match started quickly and soon revealed that support from The A-Team was not wanted or needed as Dan Kelly took it upon himself to single-handedly run the show with a hat-trick in the first ten minutes of the game – all three goals stemming from clever runs in behind followed by cool finishes. David

Quanton showed desperation to join Dan on the score sheet by violently assaulting colleagues to rid himself of competition and nod home a couple of beautifully floated crosses from an 'injured' Richard Eggleston. Amidst a flurry of 'offsides' and disallowed goals, Dan Kelly added his fourth to take Merton into the break with an unassailable 6-0 lead – a welcome buffer after the referee played 61 minutes on an atrocious, energy-sapping pitch with inexplicable justification ("I've added ten minutes because the ball went on the road twice" ... a sum total of about 60 seconds of disruption).

In the second half, Dan Kelly continued his relentless assault on Southgate's goal with another strong finish. Southgate did manage a quiet response – a deflected through ball landed nicely to their striker to finish calmly past Alex Herbert, but it was an isolated move against otherwise one-way traffic. Merton remained in cruise control for the rest of the match, playing the ball around nicely to close out a very one-sided game.



MERTON FC 4XI



NO GAME

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CARSHALTON FC 4XI

2

1

MERTON FC 5XI

MAN OF THE MATCH: JOSH BENNETT

STEVE CROSS



DAN GRIDLEY (DISSENT)

This week saw us travel to 2nd place Carshalton following a hefty 10-0 decent to the hand on West Wickham last time out. Following two no-shows, we were restricted to a squad of 12 however this meant that we were able to start the game with 11 unlike last week.

Going into the game, confidence was low following the dismal season we have had so far but like all Merton teams, we pulled together and worked as a unit. Even though the game ended in a 2-1 defeat, the team put in the best performance of the season. Conceding within the first 30 seconds everyone thought that another drubbing was on the cards. Fortunately we gathered ourselves, with the midfield and defence staying strong and compact, to limit the opposition to mostly long range efforts.

Midway through the first half Steve Cross, a friend of Danny Gridley's who stepped in last minute, coolly converting a square ball into the bottom right hand corner. We conceded the eventual winner near the end of the first period. A loose

ball failed to be cleared leaving their number 10 with a free effort that found its way through a crowd of defenders and the keeper. We finished the game with 10 men due to Dan Gridley being shown a harsh red for dissent late on.

There are so many positives to take from the game, if we can carry these into the remaining fixtures there is no reason why we can't cause more problems for those opposing us. Everyone deserves a huge pat on the back for the performance, however a big mention has to go to Josh Bennett for another solid performance all over the park with that 'Never Say Die' attitude, proving that he is a benefit to Merton. With this new found confidence we look forward to our next game.

TEAM: Ben Macey (GK), Clive Corrigan, Danny Gridley, John Gridley, Edward Plaistow (Capt.), Aaron Ackerman, Chris D, Josh Bennett, Chris Outred, Dulanie Richards, Steve Cross. Subs. Kieran Yansen



MAN OF THE MATCH: RYAN BURCHILL

RAM MAHBUBANI
NUNO JESUS



The date was Valentines Day, and the sixes of Merton were in no mood to show the opposition any love. After a long and eventful journey to the home of the Civil Service, it was surprising that all the players were on time. More of a surprise was that Harry was there first. After the pitch that saw the demise of our cup run last week, it was great to see the sight of some green grass and no puddles. At least we couldn't blame the playing surface this week. Anyway, with kick off fast approaching, Steve gave his team talk and made sure the lads were focused on the game and not on whether they were going to get a sexy valentines surprise from their Mrs when they got home!

The team lined up as follows:

Martin (Merton's number 1!) in goal, a back four of Paul, Dazza, Steve (Gaffer) and Smithy (c). The midfield saw the return of the mighty Ram and Rob in the centre with Ryan and Harry on the wings, up top was new boy Nikhill and Nuno. Subs were Jonny O and Ruben.

After losing the toss AGAIN! We were kicking off and from the start it seemed that the majority of the team had forgotten how to kick a ball. After a good 15 minutes of miskicks and misplaced passes and not being able to get out of our half, it was unsurprising that Civil Service took the lead, all be it under fortuitous circumstances. A cross from there left caught out Martin and lobbed over him into the back of the net. Was this the start of another Merton thumping!

After roughly 25 minutes, it looked like the writing was on the wall as Civil Service doubled their lead. Merton still having not started the game properly, failed to clear their lines and a weak shot was sent in, which was going wide and with Martin forgetting he could his hands, miscontrolled the ball and it managed to go in the back of the net.

2 - 0 to Civil Service and things were not looking good. Now a turning point for the mighty Sixes, instead of the usual heads going down and Smithy throwing his toys out of the pram! The team decided to roll their sleeves up and get stuck in and try to make a game of it. Now the misplaced passes were finding their targets and Merton were playing some decent stuff.

Roughly with 10 minutes to play in the half, the ball was played into the Civil Service box and Ruben, on as a sub, controlled the ball and rolled the ball back to Ram who hit a screamer of a left footed shot into the corner of the net!! His first goal of hopefully many for his new club and was fully deserved. Maybe there was some hope for Merton to get something out of this game. As the half was

approaching its conclusion, it was now Merton playing the better football. It was literally the last kick of the half when Merton got there fully deserved equaliser. After a lovely scramble in the Civil Service box, which resulted in a Civil Service player handling the ball off the line, the ball was finally poked in by Nuno! Great celebrations from the Merton players followed and there was no time left in the half for Civil Service to reply. 2-2 at half time and the come back was complete.

The ref said he would of given a penalty if we hadn't scored which would have probably resulted in a red card for the civil service, it would have been a nice change for us to be playing against 10 man for once, not the other way round, but it wasn't to be.

The second half started and again it was an even contest, with both teams having chances and Martin making some great saves. He even managed to save a lobbed shot from his own defender, whereby Steve who got "his little toe" to a clearance and from a fully 30 yards, nearly had a disaster. Merton did have a chance whereby we broke and with Ryan playing in Smithy, who was under a bit pressure managed to scare the corner flag with an outside of the boot shot. As the half wore on the mighty Merton legs were tiring and the younger Civil Service team was taking more risks. Eventually there pressure told and quick break meant there new striker had a one on one and slotted it in the corner, making it 3-2 to Civil Service. Again credit to the mighty Merton 6's, their heads never dropped and nearly found an equaliser, whereby Nuno skilfully took on there defence and had one on one chance cleared off the line!! We all thought it was in but the ref could not see if it had crossed the line, our celebrations were short lived. To be fair to the ref, he had a really good and fair game and there was no way he could see it from where he was.

I think that deep down we knew that was our chance and with the game ending Civil Service broke and Martin made a wonderful tackle outside his box, but unfortunately the ball bounced kindly to there player and he lobbed the ball into an empty net. 4 - 2 to Civil Service

The ref then blew the final whistle and Civil Service knew they had fought hard for victory. 4-2 was flattering scoreline as Merton never gave up and was always in the game, but once again another defeat!!

Lets hope we can take this performance forward into the next game as we proved to ourselves we are a good team when we get going.



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MATCH RATINGS:

Martin 7 – never let his mistake get to him and made some great saves

Paul 8 – made numerous runs up the line and put his foot in for the cause

Steve 7 – almost scored an OG, was solid throughout

Dazza 7 – great performance until fatigue set in

Smithy 7 – had a disaster for 15 mins but then stepped up and had one his better games

Harry 6 – not one of his better performances, was playing in a new position so to be fair needed to get upto speed quickly. It takes a man to admit a bad performance and that's what Harry said, so fair play to him!

Rob 7 – solid in the middle of midfield then centre back, brought a calm head to a panicking defence

Ram 8 – had a great game, and scored with a great finish – great lad to have in the team and has settled in nicely

Nikhill 7 – another new lad and settled into Merton life straight away, a nice bloke and had a good game. Hopefully this result doesn't put him off

Nuno 7 – Good game, caused there defence problems and scored so all round a good day

Ruben 7 – good game from coming off the bench, set up a goal and put a real shift in

Jonny O 6 – had a good game, nearly scored with a 30 yarder and even showed some skill by completely mugging there midfielder

You didn't think I would forget... the MVP!

This week, I think the whole team played well, but I think this player had his best game in a Merton shirt.

Step up **Ryan!**

Had a great game down the wing and pushed forward when he could and protected the great Smithy well. Put in numerous tackles and made some great passes, most of all never gave up. Have a can of coke on me!



Merton Football Club

Joseph Hood Pavilion, Joseph Hood Recreation Ground, Martin Way, Merton, London SW20 9BU