

THE MERTON WAY

MERTON FOOTBALL CLUB ISSUE 6 – 22.10.2015



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

HOW DO YOU RATE US?

We have 14 members of the committee and we judge our performance as a committee against our ambition and I set that out below the template that we use. (This was drafted originally ten years ago and we have updated year on year when we review these matters).

It is our aim to be the best Amateur Football club in London.

Best is not 'the most successful' on the pitch it is a combination of things that contribute to the well being and members' enjoyment of the club. Success on the pitch is very important. It is a club that you are proud to be a member for a range of reasons.

We judge our performance in categories:

01. Success on the pitch / Playing performance
02. Coaching and training
03. Playing facilities
04. Kit/Equipment
05. Catering/Hospitality
06. Bar and entertainment
07. Management/Administration
08. Development/Future of the club/Succession
09. Communications (Website/Facebook/Merton Way)
10. Membership and camaraderie
11. Finances and Financial Management
12. Discipline and behaviour/Manners/Respect
13. Reputation and External relationships.
14. Value to members

In the coming months I will update you on what we are trying to do in respect of improving things and I will be seeking your views. Often the limiting factor is time and people to do things!!!

Max Herbert

DISCIPLINE

Dear Players,

It gives me great pleasure to come back to Merton FC in my new role as 'Discipline Officer' and importantly be part of a fantastic family club. (My youngest son – Oliver is the Goalkeeper for our U10s).

I joined Merton FC as a player back in 2004 with 6th Team – 2005/6 Manager for 5s where we gained promotion as Champions – I recall this was a very special time for me and all players involved.

Since then I focused on refereeing and been very lucky to have officiated at many senior games within Amateur Football circuit and been blessed with appointments with FA on Vase and FA Cup matches as an Assistant Referee.

For me – refereeing has always been about the players and has allowed me to be involved with the game I love so. I am not saying job is easy – it takes patience and a great deal of discipline to succeed – though I believe that is the case in many aspects of life.

How can I help you – Players/Managers (Bread of Merton FC?)

1. By working together – Call Me if you need to discuss any incidents or have concerns about player/referee.
2. Captains – Make your appointed referee welcome by introducing yourself and asking if they need anything?
3. Captains – Act as true role model/leader on the pitch and work closely with referee to apply conduct and let referee deal with misconduct.
4. Players – Allow your captain to work with referee – no point everyone shouting – show respect and trust me you will get it back from referee.
5. Avoid silly bookings – 'Unsporting Behaviour' - these were largest volume of fines from 2014/15 season. "Walk away – dust yourself up and allow referee to handle the opposition player who has put you up in the air etc."
6. Smile – Smile – we all love the game and so do all officials.

How Will Fines be issued to players?

1. Discipline Officer will be notified by county – AFA through the Online System – Whole Game
2. Fine will be paid immediately to AFA via club.
3. Players – will be notified by email of the fine and breakdown of the incident and costs incurred – Captain & Manager will be cc'd in the email as well.
4. Players will have 14 days from email notification to make payment to Merton FC – details of payment will be shown on email.
5. Player **MUST** Notify 'Discipline Officer' that fine has been paid and by what method and when. (VERY IMPORTANT).
6. Discipline Officer will update Master Tracker Report.
7. Failure to make payment on time could lead to a suspension and should this be case player will be notified and Captain and Manager made fully aware.

How can you help?

Last season 2014/15 Merton FC was issued over 54 fines and 4 of these were for serious related incidents. As a result the club incurs additional penalties and costs when club exceeds different tiers of penalty points (costly to club).

I urge every player to think about how they behave and how they speak to Referee/s – can you improve? Do you think your behaviour is acceptable? Can you be an Ambassador for club and support Merton FC – to win 'Fair Play Award'?

Together I believe we can and will – thank you again for all your support – I am here to help and want to!

David Laughton (AFA Senior Referee/FA Coach/Discipline Officer)

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RAM'S HEADS UP!



1. I don't have a dirty mind, I have a sexy imagination
2. I'm not lazy, I am on my energy saving mode
3. When my girlfriend and I fight, I tighten the top to every jar and bottle in the house. Just so I can say "Oh yeah, you need me now, huh?"
4. A quiet man is a thinking man, a quiet woman is hatching a plan!
5. So let me get this straight... Women wear fake hair, nails, lashes, contacts. Buy fake tits, lips, ass and get botox... but want a real man???

EDITOR'S WORST KITS EVER

Liverpool's Away Kit: 2013/14

As worn by: **Steven Gerrard**

Manufacturer: **Warrior**

Sponsor: **Standard Chartered**

Liverpool cannot be accused of creating an away kit that is equally plain. In fact, I've not seen a kit quite like it, other than in football history books. Even Stevie fails to make the tragic kit look good.

When I saw this kit, I couldn't help but wonder whether this was some kind of joke, a PR stunt, anything but the truth.

And if I thought the away kit was bad enough, I was in for a real shock when I saw the third kit – thank goodness I'm a Spurs fan.



TV OF THE WEEK

The Apprentice – BBC1 ***

PLAYER PROFILE



MARTIN QUINLAN

800 NOT OUT

TEAM: Currently 6th however have played for every team from 1st to 8ths and Vets

POSITION: Have boots will travel

BIRTH DATE: 24.08.1961

BIRTH PLACE: Clapham

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Only Merton on a Saturday playing since 1978

1. TELL US WHO IS MARTIN OUTSIDE OF THE CLUB. WHAT DO YOU DO, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF?

Training hard to keep playing for as long as possible and to do other sports X-country when games are called off. In the summer have do Track & Field athletic's, Aussie Rules football and now Triathlons. I do enjoy a drink at the weekend!!

2. HOW DID YOU END UP AT MERTON FC?

Dad joined in 1959 after leaving Pearl FC. I have been with Merton man & boy

3. WHAT WAS YOUR BEST MOMENT IN YOUR MFC CAREER TILL NOW?

There are 3 that jump out:

1984: 4th team v Old Stationers in the cup Home win 4-3 AET with 30 mins left we were 3-0 down

2001: 4th team v Nottsborough, home league win 2-1 – Man of the Match performance

(John Gridley was in Goal)

200: 7th team v Kew 9ths, home League win 7-6 coming back to score 2 including the winner before rolling subs, opps agreed because of an injury on an Easter Saturday

There were also the land marks of 600, 700 & 800 games along with all 270 goals.

Worst: Breaking my cheekbone playing for the 4th team at home (2 months after the Nottsborough game)

4. CAN YOU REMEMBER YOUR FIRST GAME?

It was along time ago in 1978. It was a pre-season friendly against Old Workingians for the 7th team followed by home can game against Crouch End Vampires. The first game I remember is for 3rd team away against Old Latymerians on the Saturday between Christmas & New Year 1978

5. IF YOU COULD PLAY FOR A PROFESSIONAL TEAM, WHICH WOULD BE IT AND WHY?

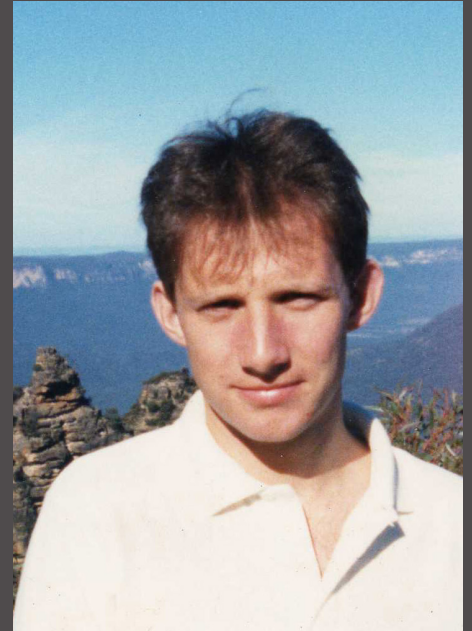
Wimbledon FC in their day, playing the way Merton played.

6. DO YOU HAVE ANY PRE-MATCH RITUALS OR SUPERSTITIONS?

Stretching & Strides (Shaving after the match)

7. LASTLY, SHARE US YOUR THOUGHTS FOR THE REST OF THE SEASON.

Early days and after slow start in the Cup games we look like the 6th team could have a good season ahead. It certainly looks like it's going to be good fun.



QUICK FIRE

PLAYER OF THE SEASON SO FAR (PREMIER LEAGUE OR ANY LEAGUE): Riyad Mahrez
CHILDHOOD TEAM: Manchester United
FAVOURITE TEAM OUTSIDE THE UK: Barcelona
CHILDHOOD HERO: Daley Thompson
FAVOURITE FOOD: Italian
FAVOURITE DRINK: London Pride
FAVOURITE BAND: Status Quo



MATCH REPORTS – 10.10.15

3XIs

MERTON FC 4 v SOUTH BANK CUACO 0 (HT: 2-0)

SCORERS: Donno (3), Yommo

MOTM: Donno

On a blustery day at Joseph Hood, Merton 3's welcomed back a few previously missing familiar faces for, which was for some, the first home game of the season.

FIRST HALF

The first 5 minutes were very 'stop-start', in terms of holding the ball and any developing play from the Merton half, in to the oppositions' half.

The first 10-15 minutes followed with consistent long balls from South Bank's midfielders and back line to their attacking wingers. Tony and Mike had to mark these two players very tightly, and with the wind in the opposition favour, this was an early threat posed by South Bank.

Following a period of sustained pressure which the back line cancelled out well, Merton realised that the ball was not being held in the middle of the field by the opposition and balls out wide were their main outlet for any attacking/pressing play.

Both pairings of Seb and Mustard on the left, and Reece and Tony on the right broke well to counter attack and overlap.

The consistent tracking by both midfielders either side nullified the threat that the opposition posed midway through the first half. From this point onwards, the remainder of the half was all Merton.

A combination of solid defending from Vincenzo and Mike Stone allowed the two central midfielders Dave and Neal to have a lot of the ball at their feet and allowed Merton to attack down the wings and through balls to Donno and Denys in their forward roles.

Merton created a number of chances which should have been finished, although the wrong decision in the final third proved costly as these chances were not taken for what should have been a comfortable game up to the 30 minute mark of the first half.

Shortly after Neal had an 'unfortunate incident' with a low flying ball which some say his squeals could be heard from all over Surrey, Donno tested the opposition keeper with a volley from 20 yards out which was spilled nervously.

To follow, a through ball from the back line to a Donno who was hanging on their last man, provided a one-on-one scenario which was coolly slotted in to the bottom corner. 1-0.

Merton could see the pace of Donno and the wing play was causing South Bank trouble. Shortly after a short corner from Tony slotted to Neal who was unmarked on the corner of the opposition box was struck well, and cleared off the line by the opposition.

Following this effort, another corner was swung in from the left and landed at Vincezo's feet on the edge of the opposition's box- after a chip over the back line in to the box, the ball was then struck in to the ground by Denys, spilled by the keeper on the goal-line, and a gleeful Donno accepted the invitation to scoop this in to the net to make it 2-0 to Merton.

The momentum was very much with Merton and the oppositions' back line sat deep for the remainder of the half.

Five minutes from the half time whistle, several Merton chances were created but again, the wrong decision in the final third was costly. Donno almost put through Tony for a one-on-one with the keeper, made possible by more great tracking and overlapping by Reece on the right wing, but the opportunity was not taken.

Constant talking and communicating by the two centre backs and two central midfielders enabled Merton to see out the remainder of the half comfortably.

SECOND HALF

After a deserved lead in the first half, Merton knew the next goal to the game was crucial. Although the opposition had very few chances the first half, a goal early on would provide some much needed momentum for South Bank.

The game started as the first half did, while Merton knew wing play was a great outlet to develop in to the oppositions half, South Bank adopted an 'man-for-man' tactic early on which made this difficult to create anything of note down either side.

With Donno and his obligatory energy drinks before kick-off, Merton knew they had an outlet for consistent running and the next goal was to come from a through ball down the centre of the pitch.

Vincenzo played a through ball to the far edge of the box from just inside the Merton half, with which he took down and controlled well, beat the two centre backs, and took the ball to the edge of the box, past the goal line.

What followed is surely the best goal of the season for Merton FC so far. Prompting shouts from the right back of 'show him some support' (which was evidently not needed) Merton's striker rounded the two centre backs along the edge of the box, drove towards, and then danced past the keeper, with such a tight angle remaining that the goal could barely be seen from his angle.

With a strike that would have prompted Thierry Henry to clutch Jamie Carragher's thigh in such a fashion, Donno then slotted the ball underneath the keeper to nestle in to the far corner of the net to make it 3-0 to Merton.

This was the next crucial goal- and what a goal!

The game from this point was all Merton FC and solid performances by all on the pitch allowed Merton to make a substitution with 20 minutes left of the game to be played.

With the opposition now disheartened and sick of the sight of an on rushing, 'tongue out of mouth wagging' Donno in their memories, he was substituted and Yommo was brought on as a replacement to see out the game.

Great hold up play by Yommo and a hard-working Denys allowed further wing play to develop down each side of the pitch.

With 10 minutes to go, by great team play in which almost all of the Merton players touched the ball, Neal won a header in the centre, which was then played through to Denys. Yommo was by the opposition penalty spot with time and space, collected the ball from Denys, and a quick 'shimmy' and shoulder dip from Yommo, which demonstrated that he as an avid 'Strictly Come Dancing' fan, prompted the keeper to dive one way, which allowed Yommo to slot the ball in to an empty bottom corner of the net to make it 4-0.

Merton ran down the clock for the remainder of the game, even prompting a speculative 40-yard strike from Denys, which was narrowly wide of the goal post – not quite Charlie Adam esque'- but the confidence and comfort of the Merton play for the remainder of the game was a result of the hard teamwork, and jobs done before.

A few flying elbows and choke holds from the frustrated opposition at the end of the game in the direction of Tony and Neal respectively, demonstrated that the Merton starting 11 are clearly more handsome than they thought – but also that the opposition were willing to wind down the clock on the behalf of the Merton 11 at their own cost.

Queue the final whistle to complete a great display all round, a well-deserved 3 points at home, and a very important clean sheet.

TEAM: ARTURS (GK), MIKE REED, VINCENZO, MIKE STONE, TONY, REECE, SEB, DAVE, NEAL, DENYS, DONNO SUB: YOMMO

MATCH REPORTS – 17.10.15

1XIs

OLD SALESIANS 2 v MERTON FC 3 (HT: 1-1)

SCORERS: Liam Stevens, DQ, Tilley

MOTM: David "Weasel" Graves

Finally after three previous good performances with no luck we got the win our form deserved.

Not surprisingly it wasn't the most fluid performance given the number of changes to the team and the fact that the wind and slope at Salesians' temporary home is like playing on the side of a hill!!

Whilst we were getting used to our 4-4-2 formation, and the new faces who'd stepped up to help out, Salesians had the better of the opening period but despite dominating possession didn't really create anything. On the flip side we had less of the ball but played the more fluid football and created the best chances. One of these fell to Liam Stevens who stroked home from a yard after good build up play and cross from Will Low.

The rest of the half was pretty even. They ran around a lot whilst lacking any real shape and we tried to play some football but lacked a bit of quality all over especially in our final ball. The highlight of the half was Rat getting bullied by the Salesians crowd of three, two of which were women, but then with less than five minutes to go until half time we struggled to clear a free kick and the ball broke to them near the penalty spot and they smashed home.

The second half was a much better affair. We got to grip with their fluid "formation" and were calmer on the ball which resulted in us creating a few half chances and them struggle to get near our box. Our back four were well organised, snuffing out any threat, and very quickly turning defence into attack with good balls over the top where DQ and Denys were willing runners. One such delivery put DQ one on one with the keeper and he calmly lobbed the keeper. It even looked like he meant it!!

We were well in control now and a third for us looked a probability but no sooner had we taken control we conceded a sloppy equaliser. Kieran was a bit slow coming off his line, no one went with the runner and an aimless ball over the top ended up with us being pegged back to 2-2. The disappointment of conceding a poor goal drove us on and prompted by Al G, Rat and Weasel from the back and DQ and Denys continuing their hard work up top meant we regained control. A good move from right to left finished with Denys squaring well for Tilley to smash in from the edge of the box.

A deserved win in the end with a good team spirit pulling us through. A special thanks to DQ, Denys and Seb who stepped up at late notice and made important contributions.

TEAM: KIERAN (GK), RAT, WEASEL, COOKIE, AL G, LIAM STEVENS, WILL LOW, TILLEY, SEB, DQ, DENYS SUB: CLAPPERS

MERTON FC 1 v OLD FINCHLIEANS 1 (HT: 0-0)

SCORERS: Darcy

MOTM:

An interesting game with a lot of good passing football with the goals coming from two really good strikes. The first half finished goalless with both sides creating opportunities and both keepers being kept busy.

The second half continued in that fashion but with about twenty minutes to go OFs failed to clear a corner other than out to Darcy, who scored with a great strike from 25 yards. There were times when we looked like scoring the important second goal but were prevented twice by unpunished cynical fouls and finally by their keeper felling our player through on goal. The red card he received about five mins from time seemed to galvanise OFs into a late rally.

With Merton under the cosh there was some naïve defending and we ultimately conceded a free kick in a bad position. So with only seconds remaining their striker buried the equaliser with a great strike. In fairness a draw was probably a fair result.

Old Fs had some good players out there and played some good attractive passing football. They were very vocal and I felt intimidated the referee. Brian West is a ref who likes to let things roll which can be good but this game needed a firmer hand.

It was good to see Rich Moore back in midfield after his bad injury last season. It would have been a good three points but one is OK.

Our defence did well to limit their lively forwards and Marc Wilson and Paul Pearce were outstanding. We need to kick on from this and try and get some consistency and regularity in availability.



3XIs

MERTON FC 1 v EAST BARNET OLD GRAMMARIANS 1

PICTURE GALLERY



MERTON FC 3 v OLD LYONIANS 5

SCORERS: OG, Dulanie Richards, Glenn Porter

MOTM: Sam-Singer-Ripley

So following last week's heroics in the AFA Cup, this week we welcomed a young Old Lyonians side to Joseph Hood for an ISEH Cup game that we were hoping would have the same outcome as 7 days prior.

We welcomed Dom, Jake and Arnold back into the starting XI leaving myself and Aaron to warm the bench. Also starting was Elliott Phipps, another friend on the Plumridges who was looking to get back into the game following a serious injury.

Watching from the side-line was frustrating as ever! The visitors were playing with confidence from the off, not what was expected from a side that hadn't won a single game in a year! They were passing and moving causing confusion to both the midfield and defence. This paid off after 10 minutes when a ball was played over the top to their striker who, with his back to goal managed to get a shot in that found its way under Sam's body... 1-0 to the visitors.

We had to make an early sub 15 minutes in, Chris Dodd overstretched while chasing a defending ball meaning Aaron had to replace him. Not long after, all of five minutes to be exact, we had to make our second substitution. Glen twisted his ankle while attempting a header. Chris Outred moved into the centre to support John at the back with myself coming on to take up my usual left back position.

After conceding we were chasing every loose ball and letting Old Lyonians know that we were not a push over. This pressure paid off on the half hour mark. Dom hustled the ball down near the touch line, and could have been awarded a number of fouls in the process, to release the ball to Elliott which was lost. A bizarre incident followed. When the ball was lost, the left back attempted a pass back to the keeper when the ball bobbled over the keeper foot and into the back of the net. All credit must go to Dom for that and if I could I would award the goal to him personally, however that is not how the game goes. We let him know that it was down to him though... 1-1 with 15 minutes to go until the break.

The young blood was still finding ways to cause us problems and this was proved when they were awarded a penalty just before the break. John tripping their number 11 following a mazy run. Fortunately their number 9, who was playing off of the right wing (but left footed), took the penalty and hit it wide.

We were showing grit and determination towards the end of the first period so the team talk at half time was one was more positives than negatives.

The second half (apart from the final 10 minutes) was dreadful from a Merton perspective. Old Lyonians were calm and collected on the ball and were playing with more confidence than we were. Quick pass and move plays were causing us all sorts problems. This style of football allowed them to score 3 goals that could have been avoided. It could have been worse had the ref not overturned his original decision or awarding a



penalty against John for a handball. John did well to convince him that it actually hit him in the crown jewels and the ref took his words for it and called a drop-ball.

A few late changes had to be made, Chris Dodd came back on to replace Aaron and Glen came back on to replace Jake in the middle. Due to his injury, I felt best to stick Glen up top and drop Elliott back into the middle as the former would have found it hard to track back.

With 10 minutes to go we were piling the pressure on and it was only down to their keeper that we didn't score sooner than we did. The opposition finally gave in when a ball in by Elliott from the left was parried by the keeper and Dulanie was there to smash in the rebound. We were now full of confidence and our third goal followed no longer than a minute later when Glen volleyed into the top corner after a great cross from yours truly.

Unfortunately we didn't have enough time to get back into the game but that renewed confidence will be good to take into next week's reverse league fixture against HSBC 5s.

TEAM: SAM SINGER-RIPLEY (GK), RYAN BURCHELL, JOHN GRIDLEY, GLEN PORTER (EDWARD PLAISTOW), CHRIS OUTRED, CHRIS DODD (AARON ACKERMAN), JAKE HEWITT, ARNOLD COLLIER, DULANIE RICHARDS, DOM PLUMRIDGE, ELLIOTT PHIPPS



CIVIL SERVICE 1 v MERTON FC 5

SCORERS: Richard Gibbs (2), Matt Haswell, Kyle Smith, Pete

MOTM: John Katandika

Another away day for the Mighty Merton Sixes and this time it was across the river to Chiswick to play Civil Service 9. The squad were nearly 3 members light due to the hair raising journey made by Smithy, as he was put off from the smell of the local brewery, and nearly took out 4 vehicles in the process!

With half of the squad arriving early and the other half lost, it was not the most promising start prior to kick off. Once the team was changed, it was down to the now infamous 5 minute quick stretch and warm up routine, this time led by Ram.

Starting line-up was as follows: Merton's new number 1, Dharmesh in goal, new centre half pairing of Smithy (Gaffer) and Chappell, full backs of George and Quinlan. Holding midfielder was John with Matty at the top of the diamond. Ram and Paul were on the wings with Kyle and sixes debutant Richard up top. Impact subs were new lad Ricky and ex-civil service player Pete.

Smithy gave the team talk and outlined the well thought out pre-match plans to the troops and off we went.

So now to the game, as per usual, the pre-match team talk was nearly out of the window, as within 30 seconds Civil Service found themselves through on goal as Merton panicked at the back. It was Dharmesh to the rescue with a great save!

Now this normally never happens to Merton, as once a team smells blood against a shaky Merton 6's defence they normally punish any mistake with a quick fire two or three goals, however, from the panic above a clearance from the back and a further great ball forward which held up beautifully in the wind enabled Richard to round the sluggish Civil Service goalkeeper and put the ball in the net, 1-0 to Merton after a minute!!!

With this feeling new to most players it enabled the mighty Merton to relax and settle in the game. Unfortunately after 5 minutes, Paul suffered an injury and was replaced by Ricky. As the half progressed Merton defended extremely well, without creating too much going forward, everyone knew their role from the forwards holding up the ball and the defence clearing their lines.

Merton successfully made it to half time with the lead still in tact and feeling buoyed by a good first half display, the troops were watered and given a breather whilst much of the same was requested.

The second half started a more even affair with Merton looking more comfortable on the ball and finding their range with some good passes. With the forwards being rotated at regular intervals to ensure fresh legs, Merton was looking dangerous on the counter attack, whilst Civil Service pushed for the equaliser.

After approx 60 minutes, Merton broke down the right with a good ball from George to Richard, who then got to the touchline and whipped a cross in for Matt to nod in at the back stick. 2-0 to Mighty Merton and the home crowd of 4 showed their discontent with a few boos, whilst Merton celebrated!

For the next 10-15 minutes, I can only describe witnessing the most disciplined of Merton defensive displays of years gone by. John was a beast in centre midfield, winning a number of tackles and breaking up play and with Smithy heading the ball approx 7 times in 30 seconds to clear the lines from corners and throw ins! Quinlan and George put in numerous tackles to stop crosses and Chappell organised the back line superbly with Dharmesh off his line to sweep up over hit through balls.

With the minutes ticking by, Civil Service pulled a goal back through their best player as the number 10 hit a looping shot just out of reach from Dharmesh – 2-1 Merton led. This is where the experience of last week came to the fore, as Merton sixes in the past would have folded with heads down and expecting the opposition to equalise, however the new Merton sixes kept their heads up and kept on going!

With the opposition now pushing for the equaliser and looking tired, Merton started to create some great openings on the break with players picking the right ball to release Matty and the strikers. After Merton were awarded a corner, Matt swung a peach of a ball in and Richard rose like a salmon and headed the ball past the goalie, 3-1 to Merton and we sensed a victory.

With around 10 minutes left the Mighty Merton were now doing to Civil Service which teams have done to us in pre-season, which was picking them off at will! Even Martin decided to goal on a rampaging run (without the ball) sensing there was a goal in him from left back. The look on Ram's face as Martin sprinted past him was priceless and fall out that followed from Chappell, who told him to use his vast experience to see the game out was even funnier!

Another break led to a 4 on 1 counter-attack for Merton and with Pete playing in Kyle, he calmly dummied the defender twice and placed the ball in the opposite corner to the goalie for 4-1 lead to Merton, "Unbelievable Jeff" and the game was surely won!

There was even time for another, as a great ball from Matty at a corner found the head of Smithy and the keeper made a good save, only for Pete to score the rebound against his old club – the icing on the cake and it was 5-1 to Merton on the road!

Full time blew and the final score was 1-5 to Merton, yes 1-5 to Merton 6s! It was nice to see the fitness starting to improve and team starting gel!

After the game a good post beer was had by everyone, with all happy to finally experience that winning feeling! The sausage and chips went down a treat with Smithy, who even held back some spare raffle tickets to get more, but with the words from Clappers ringing in his ears from during the week, he decided to leave some food for the new players!

Man of the Match:

Special mention to the ref, who I thought was probably the best we have had at this level, as he was joining in the banter and made it clear why he had awarded free kicks by speaking to the players.

Every Merton player had a great game, with the back five and Ram deserving great credit for the solid defensive display.

Matt had a great game with two assists and a goal, with Ricky impressing on debut!

The strikers were superb with all three on the score sheet and with Richard grabbing a brace on debut!

This week, though I am going to give it to John. He left everything on the pitch and broke up play with some great tackles – the beast deserved this!

Next week, back to the hood for a cup game, let's hope we can keep up this winning run!

TEAM: DHARMESH (GK), GEORGE HALL, MARK CHAPPELL, KEVIN LOCKE, MARTIN QUINLAN, PAUL ONOMOR, MATT HASWELL, JOHN KATANDIKA, RAM MAHBUBANI, RICHARD GIBBS, KYLE SMITH, SUBS: PETE, RICKY

UPCOMING FIXTURES – 24.10.15

2XIs

MERTON v BROOMFIELD
(League)

3XIs

MERTON v WINCHMORE HILL
(League)

4XIs

HSBC v MERTON
(League)

6XIs

MERTON v OLD SUTTONIANS
(AFA Cup)

TOP GOALSCORERS 2015/16

Player	Total League Goals	1st Team	2nd Team	3rd Team	4th Team	5th Team	6th Team	Total Goals
Denys Zhurbiy	3		1	2-1				4
David Donovan	3			3				3
Darcy Yates	3		2	1				3
Richard Gibbs	2						2	2
Dan Gridley	2				2			2
Malcolm Kandulu	2					2		2
Nick Papanastasiou	2		1	1				2
Matt Paxton	2					2		2
Dom Plumridge	2				2			2
Dulanie Richards	1				1-2			3
Yomi Aladade	1			1				1
Arnold Collier	1				1			1
Alex Gladkow	1	1						1
Ivan Gladkow	1	1						1
Matt Haswell	1						1	1
Tom Rowe	1	1						1
Kyle Smith	1						1	1
Marc Wilson	1		1					1
Pete Obeng-Adu	1						1	1
Lewis Ackermann	0	2						2
David Quainton	0	1	1					2
Kelvin Aboidyn	0				1			1
Mark Chappell	0						1	1
Chris Dodd	0				1			1
Alex Perrin	0	1						1
Glen Porter	0				1			1
Oli Ross	0		1					1
Liam Stevens	0	1						1
Ryan Stevens	0		1					1
James Tilley	0	1						1

Key:



League Goals



Cup Goals

TOP GOALKEEPERS 2015/16

Player	Total Points	1st Team	2nd Team	3rd Team	4th Team	5th Team	6th Team
Arturs Ivanovs	4	0-1-1					
Alex Herbert	2		0-0-2				
Dharmesh Vaghela	1						1
Sam Ripley	1				1		
Total	8	0-3-1	0-0-2	0-0-0	0-0-1	0-0-0	0-0-1

Key:



Clean sheets



Penalty saves



1 Goal conceded



MERTON FOOTBALL CLUB

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