

THE MERTON WAY

MERTON FOOTBALL CLUB ISSUE 14 – 24.02.2016



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

THAT'S ALL FROM ME FOLKS

It is the same in every season but the issues just build up as the season develops and that is hardly surprising. We all know about the Hood's pitches, recruitment and our plans, but there is another pressing issue. We need some volunteers to step forward and get involved running the club.

Our immediate need is to get an editor for the Merton Way. Ram Mahbubani has been promoted at his workplace and has too much on his plate to carry on with this. He has done a great job and we are very grateful, but this is his last issue and we need a volunteer to pull it all together...it is approximately three hours work each week.

Also we need a new secretary to take over from me at the beginning of May. I agreed to step in when Mike Reed stepped down but this could only be on an interim basis but will not be able to continue for next season. So we need to identify someone now. The administration for next season starts in May and that is an ideal time to show someone the ropes. The job is not as arduous as it was as Dave Laughton does 'Discipline' and Darren Avey does 'Registration' so the workload is much reduced and the new secretary should be able to manage the time to fit his own commitments. It is a wonderful opportunity to get involved in running the club. So if you are interested in the club and can do more please let me know by email at max.herbert@btinternet.com

All amateur clubs are dependent on volunteers to come forward and help with the admin. We understand that one of our neighbouring clubs is in real danger of folding because of lack of volunteers and 'Succession Planning' dictates that we must get more people involved to help us progress.

There are lots of areas where we need more help: running teams, the bar, hospitality, events, match day organisation, etc etc etc.

So please give me a call or drop me an email so we can discuss what you can do. The lack of helpers is holding the club back.

Max Herbet

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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JOB VACANCY

DESIGNER/EDITOR

RAM'S HANGING UP HIS BOOTS

An opening has arisen at The Merton Way to take over the creative and editorial layout of the newsletter as Ram Mahbubani has been promoted within his current full-time job and with the paid freelance work he does, has found it difficult recently to juggle his time to continue to put the time and effort to keep producing what has been (I'm sure you all agree), a very worthwhile, interesting and successful read.

So if there are any budding designers/editors in this club that would like to take on the newsletter and continue the good foundations laid down already then please feel free to contact Max or Clappers.

RECRUITMENT

WE NEED YOU AT MERTON FC



Just a reminder to everyone that we are still on the lookout for players at all levels to join our club. So please put the word out to friends, family, work colleagues, people you meet at the park, at the bus stop, in the betting shop or in the fruit & veg aisle of your supermarket!

MATCH REPORTS – 06.02.16

4XIs

ACTONIANS ASSOCIATION 1 v MERTON 2 (HT: 1-1)

SCORERS: Dom Plumridge, OG

MOTM: Joe Plumridge

John Gridley said it best after the men in yellow had made the not-insignificant trek from the Actonians clubhouse to the fields where the game would take place: "This is going to be proper grassroots football today, lads." Indeed, with ominous skies, a howling wind and a truly awful pitch, the 90 minutes that followed were never going to be a footballing masterpiece.

Nevertheless, the 4s, on the back of an impressive 3-0 win at Weirside Rangers, fancied their chances against the struggling Actonian Association 6s, and once again lined up 4-5-1. Starting off with much of the wind against them, they made a fine start, keeping good shape, working hard, and even showing some composure on the ball.

The first 15 minutes were a bit of cat and mouse, with no real opportunities coming for either side. But Merton were just starting to build some momentum, and just shy of midway through the half, they hit their hosts on the counter. Some good interplay in midfield saw the ball find its way to Dulanie, who made a great run and fed Dom in the box. Hustled by a defender and with the keeper to beat, he made a decent stab at it with his left boot, but the wind took the ball agonisingly wide of the post.

Salt was then rubbed in the wounds soon after, as from about 30 yards out, Actonians took a shot that was seemingly well blocked. However, it lobbed up, rode the wind, and somehow snuck just under the crossbar, 1-0 to the men in blue and a cruel blow for Merton.

But the lads seem to be made of sterner stuff these days, and kept their heads up from the resumption. They continued to work hard, and after some resolute defending, again produced a counter attack. Once again, it was Dom who found himself carving out a shot in the box, despite being circled by numerous defenders, only this time it was the keeper who tipped his effort inches wide of the same post.

But he wasn't to be denied for too much longer. Five minutes before the break, Merton won a free kick 25 yards out, 10 yards to the left of the left post. For Dom, and a man who had scored his previous two free kicks, you could barely have placed it better. And so 10 men in yellow held their breath. The 11th, Dom, had no such doubts though. The ball once again absolutely flew off his left boot, seemingly picking up speed as it went despite the wind. The keeper dived despairingly, but never had a price. It smashed into the goal off the inside of the far post, and every man to a tee mobbed the little genius. 1-1, a crucial equaliser before half-time, and unbridled joy for the lads.

Nothing much more doing in the closing minutes, and the talk was good at the interval. The 4s fancied putting 3 or 4 past these opponents, especially with a bit more help from the wind. But first and foremost, it was the three points which were needed. Actonians came out after the kick-off with purpose, but the midfield three kept digging their heels in, and, in truth, didn't leave a great deal for the defence to do.

And the surging home side were always going to leave themselves vulnerable to a counter attack. This time it was good work from Joe and Jake up the right which led to a free kick in a dangerous position around 10 minutes into the second period.

Now it was Mikey who stood over it, and he delivered a menacing ball into the box. With a sea of yellow trying to get on the end of it, the Actonian defender appeared to be taken by surprise as the ball landed at his feet, and his attempted clearance resulted merely in a meek finish past the keeper. Own goal, Scholesy might just about claim the assist for a "flick on", but Merton didn't care a monkeys how it had come. It was 2-1, and another 3 points were in sight.

But there was still a long way to go, and the key was going to be to keep the focus and concentration up. No team really bossed it at any stage, but it's fair to say the opponents spent more time in the Yellows' half than the alternative. But each time any man was called upon to thwart the Actonians, they did their job, and the manager made some good substitutions too with Arnold and Billy showing good energy when they came on.

In truth, for 85 minutes, the home side weren't even allowed a clear opportunity at any stage, with even their earlier goal being somewhat fortuitous and speculative, but a generally peaceful game had a bit of late drama, as Dom took exception to the harrying of an Actonian defender. He put an impressive rugby tackle in after the whistle had gone for a foul, which incensed the opponents. This in turn drew all in sundry to throw their handbags in – including those on the bench – with rumours that a punch had been thrown escalating things.

The fracas eventually died down and play resumed for the final few. Perhaps a now slightly distracted Merton side had their first real heart-in-mouth moment in the dying stages, as the opposing winger put a ball in that awkwardly trickled across the face of the goal in front of Sam. But with no blue shirt able to get on the end of it, that hairy moment passed as quickly as it had begun, and the sweet sound of the final whistle followed soon after.

And so it was... a 2-1 victory. Not one that will go down as an all-time classic. Far from it, in fact. But the steadily improving 4s had done what they needed to do, and largely cruised to what was now a 4th win in 5. This really is a team beginning to hit its straps, and although HSBC will likely present a tougher challenge next week, Merton will have every confidence that they can do the business.

STARTING LINE-UP: SAM SINGER-RIPLEY (GK), JOHN GRIDLEY, CHRIS OUTRED, MIKE TODT, EDWARD PLAISTOW, JAKE HEWITT, MICHAEL ELGAR, NEAL DAVISON, MIKE ELGAR, DULANIE RICHARDS, DOM PLUMRIDGE

SUBS: BILLY DOWIE, ARNOLD COLLIER

MATCH REPORTS – 13.02.16

2XIs

EBOG 0 v MERTON 0 (HT: 0-0)

SCORERS:

MOTM: Alex Herbert

Unusually the weather in North London was better than South London, as you know in the south we get lots more sunshine and it is several degrees warmer but not this Saturday and whilst the Hood was unequivocally unplayable, EBOG was on.

Although as we travelled slowly round the M25 news came in of the 1s postponement we felt increasingly concerned that our game would be called off but no the game was on their pitches were playable. They were very boggy however and it was a credit to both teams that we had such a good game to watch with both teams trying to play.

The bad news was that our ref was being assessed and this may be why our game had linos whilst EBOG 1s playing and losing 4-0 to CEV did not. We had played EBOG a few weeks ago at WCE and drawn 3-3 and they had shown themselves to be a pretty good and organised side. The game was pretty even although EBOG had the best of the chances. Mustard came the closest to scoring when he got first to the near post cross and put a bullet header just wide and out for a corner to our immense relief. Sherbs saved well when their forward was through and acrobatically from a header. Mustard cleared off the line from a great header from one of their many corners.

The only other feature of the first half was DQ being flagged offside a record number of times which not unreasonably he attributed to advancing years. Firstly the linesmen and also that the lino did not understand that the greying DQ could still have such blinding pace. We started the second half with some optimism as we had the wind to help. It was in fact a pretty even second half with Sherbs continuing to keep them out and us getting forward better. We had three good shouts for a pens but not given although the lino gave one only to overruled by the ref. They had the ball in the net from a great move in the last five mins but the flagging lino came to our rescue for what looked like a good goal.

A draw was affair result and all of our boys put in a great shift. The back four with a changing cast of Joe/ Clowesy/Mustard/Connor/ Pearcey/Liam were outstanding and Sherbs deserved his unanimous man of the match vote. The talk in the dressing room before the game was that no one could remember us ever having a goalless draw (or a clean sheet probably) so next week DQ was suggesting we should remember that we have not spanked anyone 5 or 6 for a long time or more realistically we have not beaten anyone for a while. The ref and his linesmen did a good job and EBOGs hospitality and welcome was appreciated. They had some good signs up in the changing rooms that we could learn from.





MATCH REPORTS – 20.02.16

1XIs

BANK OF ENGLAND 5 v MERTON 1

PICTURE GALLERY



2XIs

MERTON 0 v ACTONIANS ASSOCIATION 3 (HT: 0-1)

SCORERS:

MOTM: Alex Herbert

We managed to get the game played but only by dint of booking the 3G surface at Tooting and Mitcham and then by kicking off at 5pm. This cost us a few players but with the 3s being washed out at King Georges we had a full compliment with the welcome addition of Will Taylor back from Sydney for the rest of the season.

It was a good game but on a fast 3G surface it discouraged any measured football with Merton especially playing a fast and furious game. Actonians were a strong well organised side and deserved their win. They went ahead on 25 mins when a miscommunication at the back allowed the free kick in at the far post... Strangely although Actonians had the majority of play the two best chances fell to Oli who was played through but could not finish and their Keeper made a couple of really good saves. Their second half dominance deserved two more goals and the final score of 3-0 was not totally unfair.

The game was played in a pretty good spirit and it was a nice to watch. For our part Connor Murphy had another outstanding game, Pearcey put in another solid performance and Robin in midfield looked a class act. Will Taylor, Oli and DQ worked well upfront but they were feeding off crumbs. There are enough games left for us to pull out of this relegation position but we need to turn this round pretty quick. Whilst we are pretty good now at getting are kit on we still have not quite mastered taking it off and there are some miscreants. Shirts should be the right way round (Name and shame – Oli/22 and Robin /4) and socks are still seem to be a mystery. So put it in the laundry bag the right way round, stretched out and individually, resisting all temptation to tie them together or put one inside the other. Simple!!!



YOUTH SECTION – 06.02.16

U10s (Cup – Quarter Final)

CB HOUNSLOW 1 v MERTON 7

From banks of river Wandle to shores of Scilly Merton U10s continue marching to cup victory.

Away to CB Hounslow they gave a brilliant display of passing and moving and destroyed the opposition 7-1.

Jamal (3)
Zion (2)
Stevie (1)
Nayman (1)

Nayman's goal curved like a boomerang into top corner

Jamal danced like a beat boxer around the goal using his twinkle feet and smashing ball into net like an exocet missile.

Zion ran faster than Usain Bolt down wing and finished with 2 surplime finishes.

Stevie continued with his great discipline and finished with a great goal from a Jamal pass.

Hard work continues and if we stay with passing and moving who knows we could reach cup final.

MOM tough call..... Nayman for all his hard work and control.

Onwards we travel to next journey.



UPCOMING FIXTURES – 27.02.16

1XIs

Ibis Eagles v Merton
(League)

2XIs

Old Finchleians v Merton
(League)

4XIs

Merton v HSBC
(League)

5XIs

HSBC v Merton
(League)

6XIs

Merton v Old Blues
(League)

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