

# THE MERTON WAY

MERTON FOOTBALL CLUB ISSUE 10 – 26.11.2015



# CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

# WELCOME TO OUR CLUB

Watching the first team this week was even worse than last week and that had nothing to do with the football. You can leave that aside as both teams seemed to do, playing in atrocious conditions. At Polytechnic they had nice playing conditions, changing rooms, showers, good communication and although we lost we had a good game. This week we played at Old Salesians and had none of this. They have lost their own ground to developers, a lot of players to Nottsborough, control of their own destiny and remembering them as one of the big clubs who won senior cups and first division titles quite recently, their identity and it is very sad to see. They are struggling to survive and sadly this is what is happening all across the SAL and London 11 a-side football. Poor facilities will drive even more people out of the game.

So that was pretty sad but we came back to 'The Hood' to our cosy little bar and there was Mustard and Pete Jennings basking in the glory of a 6-0 win for the 3s and waiting patiently for the Merton Way Quiz to begin.

So the lesson I learnt from Saturday is to be grateful for what we have got at the Hood but also to be good hosts for our guests, players and officials, who come to play against us. Show them where the changing rooms and bar is. Welcome them and engage with them and try to make it a pleasant experience for them. But also what made me feel so good was what was happening in the evening, a club event, a get together with about a hundred members and friends coming along to have fun together and support the club. And that is what we need to keep doing. And so good to see a few of the wives and girlfriends joining in. We need to keep building that club camaraderie.

**Max Herbert**

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## TESTIMONIAL

"Hi Steve,

I thought I should just drop you a quick message to tell you how impressed I am with James Laughton as a referee.

Despite his young age his skills as a referee are outstanding. His decision making is clear, both audibly and visually, the way he encourages the young players is a credit to him. As somebody who has held various roles in football it is rare to find such a talent and I hope you are able to convey my message to James, thank him for his work. With his continued hard work I'm sure the sky's the limit for him".

Many Thanks

John Head

Sport Stars Coaching



## **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 hate how chocolates melt on my fingers. I mean, am I that HOT!
2. I'm not crazy, I'm just special!...no, wait... Maybe I am crazy! One second... I have to talk to myself about this, hold on...
3. The police are looking for a suspect described as sexy, funny and great in bed.  
Your ugly ass is safe, but where should I hide?
4. A man talks dirty to a woman and its sexual harassment. A woman talks dirty to a man and its £3.95 a minute!
5. Caller: Hello 999?  
Police: Yes, what is your emergency?  
Caller: two girls are fighting over me.  
Police: so what is the problem?  
Caller: the ugly one is winning!

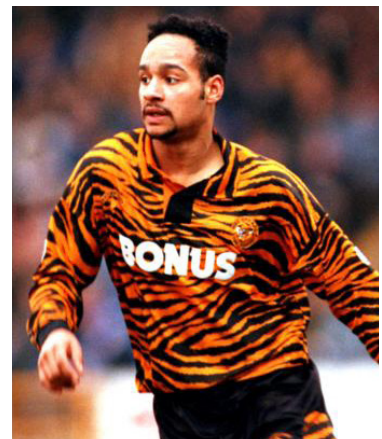
## EDITOR'S WORST KITS EVER

### Hull's Home Kit: 1992/93

As worn by: **Andy Carroll**  
Manufacturer: **Can you tell?**  
Sponsor: **Bonus**

To the bright spark who thought the Tigers should come out as footballing representations of their nickname, we say this: do Sheffield Wednesday appear in bird costumes?

Popular with the fans in the same way that people will stop to stare at a car crash, the kit had the effect of making the players look like car seats from a Ford Escort parked in a Harlow backstreet circa 1985.



## TV OF THE WEEK

Robert Peston Goes Shopping – BBC2 \*\*\*\*

**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 – 21.11.15

## 1XIs

### OLD SALESIANS 2 v MERTON 1 (HT: 2-1)

**SCORERS:** Charlie

**MOTM:**

This was a dismal day for the first team. It was bitterly cold and we had to hang around outside to find out we had no changing room and then we had to hang around on the pitch which was the farthest corner of a very large playing fields.

We lost the toss and were 2-0 down kicking into the gale. We really found it difficult to get out of our half and we squandered the few good chances that we had. We were awarded a hotly disputed penalty just before half-time which Charlie (pic) buried like a hero. I thought that would be the turning point of the game as the change of ends gave us the advantage. We did not get the early goal we needed although we had some good chances. Their keeper made a good save and we had a good shout for another handball penalty.

The wind died a little and so did we, as we became more frustrated and they came into the game with a shout for a pen and some chances.

They held on to win the battle for the three points between the two sides relegated from the first division last season and both struggling in the second this season Clapps reminded me that there was only one or two of our players who played in our winning side last season that started in this match. In all honesty I am not sure they had that many.

Alex Perrin (pic) was playing his last game for Merton as he is off back to the USA and we thank him for his great help this season and wish him well. A very good man.

The game was reffed very well by John Sperry and the assistants did very well aswell on a bitterly cold day. I have great sympathy with Old Salesians who have lost their ground and their current facilities are not what they are use to. It makes The Hood look quite acceptable and we should be thankful for what we have.

The 1s could do with getting some of their regulars back and fit and a few wins would help.



**OLD BLUES 0 v MERTON 6 (HT: 0-1)****SCORERS:** OG, Denys (2), Dan, Mustard, Tom**MOTM:** Sebastian**DOTM:** Reece

An emphatic scoreline masked a somewhat odd game worthy of the moniker "a game of two halves," as Merton returned to winning ways at the hood.

Once again there was pre-match drama as the game was switched from Ham to the Joseph Hood and then threatened once again by the familiar end of week rain and in this case the less familiar snow.

Neal in particular was so convinced the game was going to be off he kept talking about his planned Saturday IKEA trip and Pete Jennings confided that he was staring a long day of carpet shopping full in the face if the rain didn't let off.

What other home furnishing plans the rest of the squad had on was not disclosed, but it wasn't all bad news for the industry when the game was declared on as Dan bought a broom from homebase (and dressed for a full-on Arctic expedition) to sweep some excess moisture from the pitch.

With the returning Denys back in the first XI in the only personnel change from last week, Merton did revert to a 4-4-2 for the visit of Old Blues, with Tony, Reece and Joel (also all returning) cheering the "polar bears" from the subs bench.

Old Blues started with 10 as players were running late, and Merton had the benefit of a Baltic wind at their backs so the plan was to use this advantage to build up an unassailable first half lead. So the scene was all set for an onslaught and it duly arrived with Old Blues struggling to get out of their half and Merton well on top.

The chances came thick and fast. And went thick and fast as Merton put on a masterclass in how not to finish. Dan got in behind two or three times and couldn't pick out a square pass or finish. When he did find Denys courtesy of a fortunate ricochet that left the ball at Denys' feet and both keeper and defender sprawled on the floor, Denys incredibly managed to hit the previously KO'd defender with his shot. In a rare moment of quality, Dan crossed to Reece (on for Tom midway through the half) who controlled and laid the ball off for Dave to hit from 12 yards, only for the strike to go wide.

Dave then returned the favour to Reece a few minutes later a little later, looping the ball over the stranded keeper and centre back for Reece to steer home at the back post with the goal at his mercy. You can guess what's coming. With Merton players already celebrating, Reece (some would say unforgivably) leaned back and blazed over the bar. It was not going to plan.

Merton did get the one goal, and perhaps unsurprisingly it came via the boot of the opposition, the full back showing Merton how it was done by slicing a crossed free kick over the keeper and into the top corner under some pressure from Dan at the back post.

At the other end, Old Blues were sporadically threatening down the right wing, with Mustard drawn into a few clumsy tackles by their tricky winger. As per usual however, his penchant for sods (that's sniffing out danger) remained undiminished and resulted in a crucial goal-line block after Old Blues had got in behind and managed to beat Paul Ellis.

So, to Merton's disgust it was just 1-0 at half time and with a second half into the wind to come there were concerned discussions at half time. Had we missed our opportunity? A change was made (Tony on for Mustard) and the team was put on notice that more would be made if we didn't shape up. The strikers were particularly singled out and warned that included them if they didn't take their chances.

And so the second half kicked off with Merton desperate to atone for their first half profligacy. But how would the wind affect them? As it turned out not very much, Merton continuing to dominate just as they had in the first half.

The second goal came quickly. Dan and Seb harried the full back off the ball on the halfway line and Seb played in Denys. There was still a bit of work to do, but with an easy square ball to Dan removed as an option by an outrageous off the ball foul, Denys instead calmly guided past the keeper from a narrow angle for 2-0.

Two quickly became three when Neal played in Dan with a beautifully weighted through ball for him to tuck under the keeper. 3-0 and Mustard, seeing his strikers react to the threat of substitution for poor finishing by both scoring within 10 minutes, promptly subbed off Dan to bring Tom back on. Lesson learned.

Merton were now utterly dominant as Old Blues lost all shape. Tom bullied his way past the frankly rather beleaguered left back, drove into the box, and finished very crisply indeed, waiting a moment for the keeper to commit himself before blasting the ball home from 12 yards.

Denys bagged a second with a close range finish following good work down the left with Reece.

Neal then strode imperiously through a series of tackles only to air kick just as he went to clip the ball past the keeper. Mike Stone, moving into centre mid as Joel came on for Neal, then did something similar to Neal (less imperious ghosting past players, more actual finish), only for Tom to poke the ball in on the line and cruelly deny Mike a first Merton goal. There was some slight justification in the nearby presence of a covering defender.

At 6-0, more changes were made to rotate the team and game somewhat petered out in terms of Merton chances.

There was, though, still time for some defensive shenanigans (to be fair this is more related for amusement purposes as the defence were very good throughout).

Mustard managed to pass to the opposition striker ten yards from him instead of Vin when everyone else was forward waiting for the free kick to be crossed in. The oppo could not take advantage though as Merton recovered well.

Secondly, there was much hilarity on the sidelines as first Vin slipped, and then slipped again trying to turn and catch an attacking winger. Mustard then threw himself in to intervene only to miss man and ball entirely but just when all seemed lost Joel slid in on his knees platoon-style and block the ball out for a corner... that is commitment.

Last but by no means least, the final action of the game saw Paul Ellis make a great full length stop and then Mustard (the sod - that's sniffer of danger) to bag another goal line block and ensure a clean sheet.

So, very much the proverbial game of two halves (in terms of finishing at least) and ultimately an emphatic win.

Defense was solid throughout, good to see Joel, Reece and Tony back and all did well. Tom B continues to improve and had a great second half when he returned, but MOTM this week went to Seb who picked up an assist in a high energy display from the right wing.

DOTM went to Reece for that miss. The ball is probably still rising.



# PAST EVENTS

## QUIZ NIGHT

as it happened!

Saturday evening turned out a lot better than the afternoon with the Merton Way Quiz and Curry night. Peter and Jasper Kemp provided a great Curry selection with Chicken, lamb and vegetable curry, rice, poppadums, chutneys the lot. Matt Haswell helped out in the bar whilst they weaved their magic in the kitchen.

The U13s waited on table and Sherbs provided a really entertaining Quiz. All the teams were represented and Terry brought along the Jerry Hatchetts. The Youth section were well represented not just as waiters but with six teams.

It was a closely fought battle but playing their joker on the last round of general knowledge just got Quizmas Quackers the title with five or six teams close behind. Quizzy Rascals, Quizteam Aguilera, Its beginning to look like Christmas and The Boars all in with a shout at the end.

Thanks to all those who helped put on this great Merton event and all those who supported it.

Next event is the annual Fancy Dress Christmas Drinks on Saturday 12th December.



# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

## CHRISTMAS CAROL & THINGS

Merton Football Club will be holding **'Annual Merton Christmas Carol'**  
– the event's just keep getting better

**SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER 2015**

Drinks and festive food in the bar!

Fancy dress for those who wish....

Everybody's invited...

Celebrate Christmas with your teammates and the club down at the Hood!

Please spread the word for an excellent night!!

# UPCOMING FIXTURES – 28.11.15

## **1XIs**

Merton v Bank of England  
(League)

## **2XIs**

Honourable Artillery Company v Merton  
(AFA Cup)

## **4XIs**

Merton v Old Wilsonians  
(League)






































































## **5XIs**

Merton v South Bank Cuaco  
(League)

## **6XIs**

Merton v Old Wilsonians  
(League)

# TOP GOALSCORERS 2015/16

Player	Key:		 League Goals	 Cup Goals			
Denys Zhurbiy							
Dulanie Richards							
David Quainton							
Richard Gibbs							
David Donovan							
Nick Papanastatiou							
Oli Ross							
Tom Benham							
Darcy Yates							
Pete Obeng-Adu							
Yomi Aladade							
Dan Gridley							
Malcolm Kandulu							
Matt Paxton							
Dom Plumridge							
Mark Chappell							
James Tilley							
Lewis Ackermann							
Kelvin Aboidyn							
Arnold Collier							



Player	Key:	 League Goals	 Cup Goals
Alex Gladkow			
Ivan Gladkow			
Matt Haswell			
Charlie Hockless			
Dan Kelly			
Kevin Locke			
Chris Outred			
Elliot Phipps			
Tony Postlethwaite			
Martin Quinlan			
Mike Reed			
Tom Rowe			
David Scott			
Kyle Smith			
Reece Smith			
Marc Wilson			
Dwayne Bedford			
Chris Dodd			
Vincent Driver			
Alex Perrin			
Glen Porter			
Liam Stevens			
Ryan Stevens			

# TOP GOALKEEPERS 2015/16

Player	Total Points	1st Team	2nd Team	3rd Team	4th Team	5th Team	6th Team
Alex Herbert	6	1-0-0	0-0-3				
Arturs Ivanovs	5	0-1-1		0-0-1			
Paul Ellis	3			1-0-0			
Dharmesh Vaghela	1						0-0-1
Martin Quinlan	1						0-0-1
Sam Ripley	1				0-0-1		
Mark Edmunds	1					0-0-1	
Total	18	3-3-1	0-0-3	3-0-1	0-0-1	0-0-0	0-0-2

## Key:



Clean sheets



Penalty saves



1 Goal conceded

# MERTON FC CLUB SHOP

## MERTON FC CLOTHING NOW AVAILABLE AT THE NEW CLUB SHOP

New Merton FC clothing range, now available at the link below. From training gear to leisure wear for men, women and juniors take a look and get kitted out the new season. For better value take advantage of the bundle packs.

Order now from the [Merton FC Club Shop](#)



## CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Get your partners to the Merton FC Club Shop, pick-up some club attire instead of a Christmas jumper!

Some great bargains and new stock for all your football needs.



### HOODIE

Hooded polyfleece sweatshirt  
Kangaroo pocket  
Elasticated waist and cuffs  
Embroidered Merton FC badge

Click on the image above to take you to the club shop and look the part at training and your next match on a Saturday!

**Price: £29.99**





**MERTON FOOTBALL CLUB**

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