

# THE MERTON WAY

**Merton Football Club**

Newsletter 01.05.15





The relegation battle hotted up at the weekend. The 1s had a battling draw against West Wickham in a tense game. A late (92nd min) goal from Will Taylor gave us the point that keeps our hopes of staying in Div 1 alive... just! West Wickham need to beat Poly on 9th May to stay up and relegate us. The 4s got a vital pint in a double header at AOBs to survive in their division and our 5s won a thriller 5-4 against South Bank but still have relegation issues.

Whilst at the Hood I bumped into two Merton stalwarts. John Gridley (pic) had just played with the 5s and told me that he has played 30+ years at Merton, has played for all teams and in just about every position. He kept goal for the 1s a few times when I was in charge. That must mean that he has 700+ appearances and rivals Martin Quinlan. I wondered who else has notched up that sort of record. It is a tremendous achievement particularly in view of the enthusiastic way they support our bar. In the 1s on Saturday there were 3 players who had a good few games under their belt. Jonesy and Sherbs (the not so 'young keeper') must have 15 years each and Browner 12 years or so.

The other was a discussion with Chris Spencer who quite fairly asked me what we were going to do so that we don't have the same postponement player shortage that we have suffered this season. This is not an easy question. At the moment the SAL are reviewing the rules about

structure and we hope will come up with a bit of flexibility that will allow us a bit of room to manoeuvre. But we need to recruit more members, we have a plan but our existing membership can continue to help by introducing friends and workmates. Next season we need to get the right number of teams into the correct SAL divisions and that may not be as easy as it sounds but we will give it our best. We are keen to meet the needs of our long standing members. I believe the SAL is the place to play our football and that our lower teams are a major constituent in the fabric of our club. After the game on Saturday our bar was buzzing and I was able to show John Miller (President of the AFA) who is chairing the SAL Committee looking into these issues the importance of our sixes who were engaged in their weekly assault to drink our bar dry. This is what the SAL used to be like and long may it continue.

The 1s and 6s played darts and drank and managed to combine the two. It was great. And the same will happen next Saturday with the 2s and 3s. We have a really good club and it has been a difficult season but I am immensely proud of the way a lot of our members have responded.

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

## **Youth Section Representative**

Steve Dewsbury

## **Entertainments Organiser**

Alex Herbert

## **Players' Representative**

Lee Lenihan

## **Webmaster**

Matt Haswell

## **Discipline Officer**

Roger Asling

## **Bar**

Peter Kemp

## **General Duties**

Graham Willgoss, David Quainton, Darren Avey

## **Honorary Life Presidents**

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





# WHAT'S GOIN' ON

## FA Cup Final Day

Saturday 30th May

**Reasons to attend:**

- Bar open all day
- Two friendlies to involve everyone who wants a game
  - BBQ
- Watch the FA Cup Final live in the bar

**Betting available on:**

- 1st Goalscorer with £25 prize
- Time of the 1st goal with £50 prize

Wives, girlfriends, kids, friends, potential new members, all welcome

## End of Season Awards Day

Saturday 6th June

**Reasons to attend:**

- Bar open all day
- President's v Chairman's game  
(everyone who wants a game will get one so please let Clappers know if you want to play)
- BBQ
- Watch Epsom Derby day live in the bar
- Live online betting available as well as a Merton FC Tote with prizes including:
  - FREE membership for next season
  - End of season awards presentation
- Watch the Champions League Final live in the bar

**Betting available on:**

- 1st Goalscorer with £25 prize
- Time of the 1st goal with £50 prize

Wives, girlfriends, kids, friends, potential new members, all welcome



# MORE UPCOMING EVENTS...

## Merton Youth Football Club

**PLAYERS NEEDED for all ages for 2015/16 season**

**Football Trials – Sunday 17th, 24th and 31st May 2015**

Merton Youth Football Club will be running SIX youth teams for the season 2015/16. There will be teams of Under 9s, 10s, 11s, 12, 13s and 14s. Players of above average ability are needed for all ages.

The teams play in The Surrey Youth League, one of the best youth leagues in the country, and the home matches are played at Joseph Hood Recreation Ground, Martin Way, Raynes Park, SW20 9BU on Sunday mornings during the season which lasts from September to May. This is well organised competitive football.

Merton Youth Football Club is part of Merton Football Club, both are FA Charter Standard Clubs and run to the highest standards. Each youth team has a qualified FA coach and will have organised training.

Players are needed at all ages from 8yrs to 13yrs old. (School Year 4 to 9 for September 2015)

**TRIALS** will be held at Joseph Hood Recreation Ground, Martin Way, Raynes Park, SW20 9BU at the following dates and times:  
Sunday 17th, 24th and 31st May from 11.00 am to 12.30pm

If you need any further information or to register interest you contact:

**Steve Dewsbury**

t: 07875 275 663

e: kenzoplumbers@yahoo.co.uk

Further information about the club can be found on the club's website [www.mertonfc.co.uk](http://www.mertonfc.co.uk)



## RAM'S HEADS UP



**I'm back with my crazy mind... what goes around in there this week:**

I changed my password everywhere to 'incorrect'. That way when I forget it, it always reminds me, 'Your password is incorrect'.

I don't need a hair stylist, my pillow gives me a new hairstyle every morning.

If people are talking behind your back, then be glad you're the one in front!

I lost my teddy bear, can I sleep with you?

Alcohol, what's that? It's not in my vocabultery, but let me check in wikipedia.

I don't understand what's bothering you honey, I bring you coffee in bed every morning, all you have to do is grind it.

Remember that without stupidity there wouldn't be intelligence, and without ugliness there wouldn't be beauty. So the world needs you after all.

**TV of the week – C4**  
First Dates – 5/5

**Song of the week**  
Ignition – R-Kelly

## EDITOR'S WORST HAIRSTYLES EVER!



Has anyone played football with a pineapple on their head?  
No....OK I will!

**The hairstyle:** He earned the nickname "Pineapple Head" due to his distinctive tied up dreadlock haircut. Lee's fame did not derive so much from his talent as the decision of Frank Skinner and David Baddiel to lampoon him, obsessively taking shots at his "pineapple" haircut on their football comedy show Fantasy Football League.

**The Player:** A prolifically average striker whose career spanned an impressive 21 years, bookended by stints with Charlton Athletic and Ilkeston Town. His biggest honour came at Watford, contributing 10 goals towards their 97-98 Second Division Championship win.

# NET IS WORKING



## **JOB VACANCY**

NEAL DAVISON is looking for a sales professional or anybody with a keen interest in fitness with an outgoing driven personality. Selling health club memberships in Kensington Olympia with a basic of £17k and potential earnings of £26k based on hitting targets.

Anyone who feels they are interested should send Neal Davison a text on 07994 495918.

# YOUTH SECTION

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## Under 8s

**MERTON FC U8s 6**  
**SUTTON UTD U8s 8**

## Under 11s

**NO MATCH**

## Under 12s

**MERTON FC U12s 3**  
**AFC EWELL U12s 6**

After a tough and ultimately unlucky game last week, we knew that this week would again be a battle as we were playing 3rd placed AFC Ewell. We were also unfortunate to lose a player late in the day, reducing the starting line up to 8 boys only. However, we were determined to put on a good display. We started brightly and took a deserved lead early in the game with Chris firing home the rebound off the keeper from a Charlie thunderbolt.

We continued to attack whenever possible, worked tirelessly and held our shape for most of the game. However, despite two quality finishes from Charlie and Mackenzie, and some very close efforts from Joe, Mason, Chris and Jacob, we again ended on the losing side, going down 6-3. The scoreline hardly does the team justice. Whilst Jamie, for whom we owe a great deal of thanks for leaving his sick-bed, made some quality saves, the luck all seemed to run for the opposition. They were a well-organised and energetic side and ultimately the lack of a full team for us and no subs probably made the difference. Again, all the players – Jack, Jamie, Joe, Jacob, Mckenzie, Chris, Mason and Charlie – all deserve great credit for their commitment from the first to last whistles

# SENIOR SECTION



## FIXTURES

(18 APRIL 2015)

**MERTON FC 1XI VS WEST WICKHAM 1XI**

SAL SENIOR DIVISION 1

**MERTON FC 4XI VS ALLEYN OLD BOYS 5XI**

SAL MINOR DIVISION 1 SOUTH

**MERTON FC 5XI VS SOUTH BANK CUACO 4XI**

SAL MINOR DIVISION 2 SOUTH

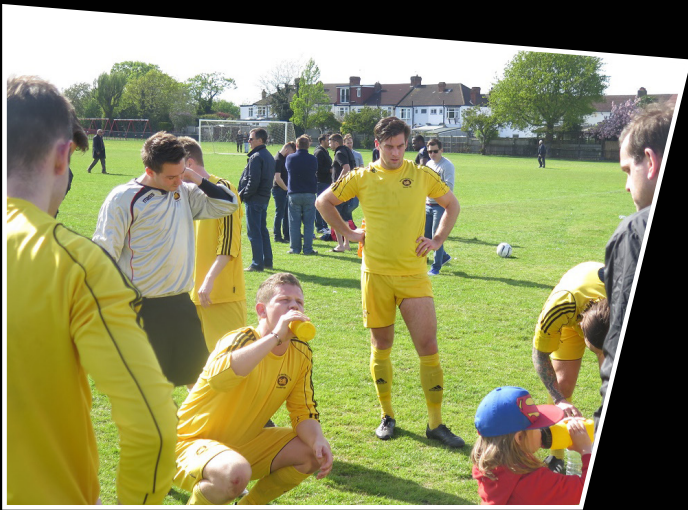
**MERTON FC 6XI VS BANK OF ENGLAND 5XI**

SAL MINOR DIVISION 5 SOUTH



# THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE GOD DAMN UGLY

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WILL TAYLOR

### MEN OF THE MATCH: SNOOKS, AL G AND RAT

It's not over until the fat lady sings!  
It was Saturday and it was crunch time. West Wickham were the visitors to the Hood for what was potentially a relegation play off. If we won we were safe, if they won they were safe and the draw meant we spent two weeks biting our finger nails. How are yours?

Confidence was high after two great results and we had another strong squad ready for the battle. Last week's wind had gone, the grass had been cut and both sides had 20+ spectators. The scene was set.

Unfortunately we didn't play to the script in the first half and were rightly behind at half time. We gave their sprightly forward line too much space, got outfought in midfield and when we did regain possession gave it up far too cheaply. West Wickham dominated in all areas and we were lucky that our young keeper (Sherbs prefers youthful or even baby faced given he's in his 30s now) was only beaten once. We gave the ball away and their right winger jinked inside, unchallenged, and tried a curler. His first effort rebounded to him and he curled his second effort round the defender and into the bottom right hand corner.

The half time break brought some sole searching and agreement that going down like this was not the Merton Way.

The second half was polar opposite to the first with us dominating midfield, biting into tackles in defence

and running in behind their back four. It was all Merton pressure but West Wickham defended very well. As time went on we became camped in their half, Peter Pan was a spectator by now, but we couldn't find that crucial gap or lucky ricochet. Spirits and application never dropped though and there was a genuine feeling that the goal was when and not if. Then it came.

With about five minutes left on the clock a deep cross was played in. Clappers' challenge on their big centre mid was enough to take the power out of his clearing header. The ball fell to Snooks on right hand edge of the box, he controlled and drilled in a cross that Willy T headed in from a yard. Jubilation ensued as the Welsh Dragon roared around the pitch before being mobbed by anyone with enough energy left to catch him.

We continued to push but couldn't find the second goal which would've made us safe and the game finished a draw. The boys threw everything at it but this was probably the far result.

We know need a Poly win or a draw on the 9th May to make us safe. So back to those finger nails!

**TEAM:** Sherbs (GK), Al G, Browner, Rat, Jonesy (Clappers 45), Tilley (Woody 50, Tills 85), Will Low, Snooks, Tom Rowe, Willy T, Van (Bosher 70)



MERTON FC FC RESERVES

NO MATCH

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MERTON FC 3XI

NO MATCH

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MERTON FC 4XI

0

0

ALLEYN OLD BOYS 5XI

MERTON FC 4XI

0

4

ALLEYN OLD BOYS 5XI

**MAN OF THE MATCH:**

MIKE REED

Well we traveled to deepest darkest Dulwich needing a point to survive in Minor Division 1, and a point is what we got. We actually manage to come out of this season unscathed, a season that saw the 4s lose 11-0 and 13-0 without actually fielding a 4s player. Keeping 4 clean sheets when we did, and just about managed to stay up despite a -31 goal difference. If I had any hair, it would definitely be all grey!

How we played 2 hours of football without scoring I will never know. We played the first 30 minutes of the first game perfectly, taking the game to Alleyns and keeping it tight at the back. We could easily, and probably should have, gone in 5-0 up with chances by Dan (2), DQ, David and Ricardo - but then the 4s haven't done anything the easy way this season, so why start now. I half expected a pen to be given and us miss it again!. As the 2nd half began - the wind picked up - and it became a harder game for us to defend. Alleyns had made changes and put up speedy Gonzales against our aging left back. Probably because he was fed up of covering me, Welch

chose to take me off and introduce Ryan to the Frey. Whilst I sulked on the sideline, the game went on. The game continued to be a battle in midfield with Reedy and Dave coming out on top and Frazer never letting them settle. Then out the blue, with minutes remaining a long ball left Neal and Eric (Alleyns 3 captain) battling for the ball - and despite being a gym manager - Neal was shrugged off and Eric crossed with the net gaping - but by fortune the Alleyns player completely missed the ball having been distracted by the on rushing Arturs, and we were saved.

The second game was a little bit of anti climax - all be it a tad farcicle. All I can say is I'm glad our defending in the first game was sound, as it was far from it in the 2nd. 3 of 4 goals having been gifted to Alleyns. At the other end we were having the same luck in front of goal, with Pete Jennings hitting the bar from distance, and Denyz hitting the corner flag from close range.

We retired to bar - well most of us - and 'celebrated' our survival, whilst Neal loitered in the car park.



MERTON FC 5XI

5

4

SOUTH BANK CUACO 4XI

NO MATCH REPORT

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MERTON FC 6XI

0

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BANK OF ENGLAND 5XI

**NO MATCH REPORT AGAIN!**  
(TEAMMATES STILL LEARNING  
TO WRITE)

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## **Merton Football Club**

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