

THE MERTON WAY

Merton Football Club

Newsletter 16.04.15



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

WAGGANCY

Well we are coming to the end of the season with the 1s in a real relegation battle as are the 4s. I managed to get back to the club on Saturday and the 1s were still in the bar celebrating their win. I particularly enjoyed Woody's comment after all their draws 'we got 3pts from just one game' Vanny bought me a drink which has unsettled me and I've been wondering why. He didn't get sent off did he???

It really does feel like the season is nearly done. Weather improving and we only have one pitch at the Hood so we have to juggle KO times. Just another headache for Mark and Clappers.

We have some important club events coming up. Cup Final day May 30th and Awards night (and Day) June 6th. There will be Football and lots of things to do

and drink to on the days. These are great opportunities to get to know others across the club and show your support for the club and your mates.

But we already need to start planning for next season.

The youth section will have six teams U9s through to U14s. We need to get a vigorous targeted recruitment campaign underway and we need people to help with this and volunteers generally in the club. We need an administrator to volunteer to be the Club Secretary to take over from Mike Reed. So please get in touch with me on 07768 303423 or Clappers.

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



RAM'S HEADS UP



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

Haters don't really hate you. In fact, they hate themselves because you're a reflection of what they wish to be.

Dear Life, When I say 'Things could not get any worse', it is NOT a challenge.

You can tell alot about a woman by her hands. For instance, if they're placed around your throat, she's probably slightly upset.

Isn't it weird how people talk crap about you, when the only thing they actually know about you is your name.

No, I don't need to walk a mile in your shoes. I can see that you're a train wreck from all the way over here.

There are over 1 billion Chinese people. I have never seen a pregnant Chinese woman.

TV of the week – C4

My Big Fat Asian Wedding – 2/5

Song of the week

Lost Stars
– Steve McCrorie

EDITOR'S WORST HAIRSTYLES EVER!



How do you decide?

The Player: Austrian retired footballer. He operated mainly as a defender, although he could play almost every midfield position as well. He was known for his great flexibility and haircuts.



INTERVIEW WITH ANGUS LEES

FACT FILE

TEAM: 1XI
POSITION: Goalkeeper
BIRTH DATE: 02/04/1991
BIRTH PLACE: London
CLUBS: None

RAPID FIRE

Player of the season (so far): Me, but I messed that up after the cup final

Childhood Team: Chelsea

Favourite team outside the UK: Don't have one

Childhood Hero: Some artistic bugger who none of you will know

Favourite Food: Sticky Toffee Pudding

Favourite Drink: White Russian

Favourite Band: The Strokes

1. Tell us who is Angus outside of the club. What do you do, how would you describe yourself?

Part time property developer and freelance photographer looking for a full time job. (Woody or anybody else please give me a job.)

2. How did you end up at Merton FC?

Scouted out by Max through his next door neighbour.

3. What was your best moment in your MFC career till now?

Semi final pen win this season

4. Do you have any pre-match rituals or superstitions?

3 doobies on a friday night.

5. Lastly, share us your thoughts for the rest of the season.

Please please please can we not get relegated, league 2 it is so shite.



SENIOR SECTION

FIXTURES

(11 APRIL 2015)

MERTON FC 1XI VS POLYTECHNIC 1XI

SAL SENIOR DIVISION 1

MERTON FC 2XI VS ACTONIANS ASSOCIATIONS 2XI

SAL INTERMEDIATE DIVISION 2

MERTON FC 3XI VS OLD FINCHLEIANS 3XI

SAL JUNIOR DIVISION 2

MERTON FC 4XI VS BB EAGLES 4XI

SAL MINOR DIVISION 1 SOUTH



MAN OF THE MATCH: THE BACK FOUR

Finally!! The result that our good performances over the season have deserved.

This was the first of our last three games in which two wins is probably a necessity and the one that was going to be hardest to achieve it. We had given ourselves a good chance by having almost our full strength squad available which even allowed us to cover for Rat's late arrival as he played King Canute to a rising tide of Dartford's finest sewage. Poly however are a good, quick, athletic team and it was going to take a good team performance.

The game started at a good competitive pace as both sides found their feet but it was Poly who probably got into their playing stride quicker. They found a bit of space in midfield and attacked well especially down their right hand side. Thankfully they found our back four in terrific form especially Browner who made two excellent blocks during this early spell.

We started to come into the game with Woody and Snooks getting a grip of midfield, Al and Jonesy at full back defending tightly and starting to push their men back whilst Willy T marauded around upfront giving their back four no time to think. So this was obviously a perfect time for us to press the self destruct button. We worked a poor throw deep into our half and from their resulting throw their centre forward managed to fool three of our players with a back heel by the corner flag. It fell to their unmarked full back who squared it for their centre mid to shin it in.

Their goal deflated us briefly and Poly pushed forward but were held at bay by the Merton wall. A forced reshuffle in midfield, with Tills replacing Will Low, and a tactical switching of wings for Vanny accompanied by a row with the manager

got us back into the game. We were dominating midfield again now and winning our battles all over the pitch.

We came in at half time in good spirits with a firm belief that we could get back into the game. The second half started well as a result and we continued to win first and second balls, harry their midfield and defenders and defend strongly anything thrown at us. Al and Van were linking well down our right, Woody and Snooks were getting forward and a deserved equaliser soon arrived. A good move down our right looked dead as Woody miskicked his pass however the ball bobbled up and Woody hooked it over his shoulder where Willy T was lurking. He nicked in front of the keeper and passed the ball into an empty net.

We were now on top and dominating our battles all over the pitch and with the introduction of Dan Whiteman from the bench were starting to craft some openings. Another good move down the right sent a deep cross in. Dan squared it back across goal and Bosh fired in. 2-1 and nothing less than we deserved. Poly pushed on leaving gaps at the back and Bosh exploited this with a lovely turn and flick. He broke into the area and with just their stand in keeper to bet 3-1 was inevitable until he decided to turn back into trouble and lose possession. This didn't matter though as the full time whistle was not far behind.

An excellent all round performance with special mention to the back four who were superb all afternoon.

TEAM: Angus (GK), Al G, Browner, Rat, Jonesy, Woody, Will Lows (Tills 30), Snooks, Bosh (Dan Whiteman 65), Willy T (Bosh 75), Van. Subs: Clappers



MAN OF THE MATCH: CRAIG

TOM
CONOR

On a barmy Saturday afternoon the reserves travelled to Acton. With a match day squad of 11, the Club Chairman and Club Treasurer were dangerously close to putting on the famous yellow kit. Fortunately for them, Craig arrived from the grim North with just a few minutes to spare before the kick off and he wasn't just there to make up the numbers.

The Northerner's arrival boosted team morale and this was reflected in a gutsy first half performance. On a picturesque setting and what looked a 'handsome' pitch, conditions were far from favourable. There were some scrappy touches with a bobbling ball, not even Peter Quainton's sparkling new white boots could address this problem. After several hoofs and 'have its' from Chris Rayner's slicing left boot onto the rugby pitch nearby, our opposition had a plan. Change the ball. Would this be the difference? No. It wouldn't.

Dave 'The Rock' Hitchcock marshalled the defence superbly at the back, his centre half partner 'The Egg' settled into his new role superbly and with a battling midfield we had made it to the break, nil-nil. After numerous tactical theories emerged from a plethora of footballing scholars; we decided to keep it the same way. One student of the game had outlined concerns over long-range efforts. Unfortunately this worry came to fruition, one of their more talented players received the ball in a dangerous attacking by professional standards and had a crack. A stunning crack it was, not even club icon Alex 'The Cat' Herbert could get in the way of this one. One Nil Acton.

Happily Merton reacted. With a ropey Acton defence and the pace and power of Femi and Tom combined with the delivery of Conor on the right side of midfield surely Merton would get a couple of chances. On the counter attack, a superbly weighted pass from Conor made its way to Femi who was shrugging off one of the chunkier, slower

centre halves he headed it inside to Tom, who controlled the ball with his chest and half volleyed passed the Coloccini lookalike goalkeeper. That's 6 goals in 3 games for Tom in the reserves this year, but who's counting?

Merton tails were up. The elation of a goal prompted some pressing and again the ball was ours. Some neat passing from much of the team eventually saw the ball make its way into the box and a neat pass from Femi to Conor meant the chance of another goal. Conor was composed and a clinical. Merton suddenly led 2-1. This was short lived. An obvious aesthetic difference between the sides was the height difference, a real deficiency for Merton in this area. Handsomeness was no substitute, what was really needed was a number of stepladders for defending set pieces. Their 6'8" left midfielder bent down to nod one home from a well-delivered corner. With Merton eyes strangely perplexed by the giant's ability to head, it was now 2 each.

The game ebbed and flowed and with the Grand National on in the bar later, the betting men had already placed their punts. It could go either way, it was going to be Merton on the counter attack or Acton with the sustained pressure. With moments to go and a bouncing ball whipped across bobbling box it was a defensive nightmare for Merton. Defenders were treading on a number of mines (potholes) and Acton's overwhelming desire to score a goal at the expense of the Merton player's safety meant the ball eventually made its way into the away team's net. Heartbreak for Merton, 3-2 to Acton. With the full time whistle blown immediately afterwards, this was a tough defeat to swallow.

Craig had been fantastic all game and everyone else had given their maximum effort. However this was no consolation after the game. Although there was some consolation for Alex Herbert when his horse won the National at 40-1.



OLD FINCHLEIANS FC 3XI

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MERTON FC 3XI

MAN OF THE MATCH:

MIKE READ

Another Saturday away day for the third eleven with the usual mix from the lower teams unfortunately due to some late drop outs, we only had 10 men on the pitch.

The team worked hard for the 90 minutes with plenty of encouragement from Ryan G's Dad on the line, our weakness was we lacked a striker.

In the first half there was a little between the two teams, it was difficult to tell that we only had 10 men. We defended well as a team particularly by Harry as right back and some good stops by me in goal. The goals were a bit of a blow.

The second half their extra man and the heat began to tell. Readie put in another strong performance in the centre

of the park, with Old Finchleians mostly attacking on the break and where our offside trap worked in the first half, it was less effective in the 2nd half and the referee seemed to let them go, this meant I was called to be sweeper or making one-on-one saves, and even worried the team once by running with the ball nearly to the half way line. Their three goals was a soft penalty and the with last two goals taken well.

Well done to the 9 outfield players as they did the running, I was just working in the 18 yards mostly!

TEAM: Martin Quinlan, Harry Hare, Glen Porter, Chris Outred, Ryan Burchell, Darcy Yates, Mike Read, Ryan Gresty, Jamie Scott and Clive Corrigan



MERTON FC 4XI

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BB EAGLES 4XI

MAN OF THE MATCH: ARTURS IVANOV

In the helter-skelter season that has been the 4s in 2014/15 this game was a perfect example, the nightmares of getting a team out, early promise and eventually just enough to survive.

Having lost 11-0 to BB Eagles earlier in the season (all be it than none of the 4s played in the game, we were busy playing as the 3s) we knew it would be a tough test, and one we ideally needed to win to secure survival, but certainly could not lose. The draw leaves us level on points with both West Wickham and Alleyns - so just a single point needed from our last 2 games or face the ignominy of going down on goal difference.

With only 9 players at the start of the week, I had to pull out all the favours and bring in a number of ex-merton players to help out. Luke Buchan pulled on the mighty yellow for the first time in a while and Zeki AKdeniz for the first time in even longer. Both did the club proud and I thank them for their help.

There was a gale blowing over Joseph Hood, this far from helped the ability of either side to play anything like attractive football for the watching masses (well Terry, Steve and McKenzie!). The pitch in addition was more likely to tackle you as any opposition player! That said Merton made the more confident start, and we were rewarded when great work from Ricardo (who was a thorn in BB Eagles side all day) won a clear pen. Now the way he grabbed the ball when it was given and then confidently

strode over to the spot - I was sure we'd go 1-0 up. BUT... The curse of the 4s penalty taker struck, when first Ricky had a sudden change of heart and started offering the ball to anyone close (I think he even offered it a BB Eagles player just to get rid of the ball) and Denyz took up the mantle. A tip for Denyz - You're up against the shortest keeper in the league, on a blowy day - Pick your side, and confidently and powerfully place it into the side netting - simple - DON'T, (as Neal Davidson said when he missed against Polytechnic a week earlier "try and do a Hazard, do the keeper with your eyes and roll it the wrong side". Because when he guesses right and lands on the ball .. you look a tad silly! I leave you to guess when path Denyz took.

Sadly.. and ultimately... that was the game. It was the clearest chance either side had. Decent saves from both Arturs and the BB Eagles kept the scores level, and both defences played well. So whilst the draw was certainly the fairest result, we have that nagging what might have been.

I must commend the tireless running of my team and the efforts of the day. MOM was tough and I only gave it to Arturs because of one particular save that was classic Arturs. The performances of Matt Haswell, Dan Kelly, Ricardo and new boy Kevin Bourne are certainly worthy of mention.

It would have been nice to travel to Alleyns without the need for points, but I'm confident we can get the single point we need.



MERTON FC 5XI



NO MATCH

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MERTON FC 6XI



NO MATCH

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GOAL-TOPPERS

Player	Total League	1st XI	2nd XI	3rd XI	4th XI	5th XI	6th XI	Total Goals
01. Will Taylor	18	3	15-1					19
02. Dan Kelly	12			7-1	5-1			14
03. Jason Thomas	9		9-3					12
04. Nuno Santos	9						9-1	10
05. Femi Arogundade	8		8					8
06. Chris Rayner	6		6-1					7
07. Matt Bosher	5	3-4	1		1			9
08. Denys Zhurbiy	5				5	1		6
09. Ivan Gladkow	4	4-4						8
10. Dulanie Richards	4					4-1		5
11. Rob Greenway	4					4		4
12. Matt Haswell	4						4	4
13. Lewis Ackermann	3	1-8			2			11
14. Chisanga Nshindano	3	3-3						6
15. Jamie Scott	3			1-1	1		1	4
16. Graham Willgoss	3		3-1					4
17. Ricardo Iglesias	3			2	1			3
18. Richard Moore	3		3					3
19. Conor Murphy	3		3					3
20. David Quainton	3		1	2				3
21. Craig Usher	3		3					3
22. Darcy Yates	3			3				3
23. Ciaran Moorhouse	2			2-3				5
24. Tom Rowe	2		2-3					5
25. Aaron Ackermann	2					1	1	2
26. Tee Nash Bizayi	2			2				2
27. Ryan Burchell	2						2	2
28. Charlie Craig	2				2			2
29. Igor Curtis	2			1	1			2
30. Ryan Gresty	2			2				2
31. Frazer Haswell	2						2	2
32. David Hitchcock	2		2					2
33. Patrick Mhondiwa	2			2				2
34. David Scott	2			2				2
35. James Tilley	1	1-3						4

Player	Total League	1st XI	2nd XI	3rd XI	4th XI	5th XI	6th XI	Total Goals
36. Alex Gladkow	1	1-1						2
37. Jack Hamill	1					1-1		2
38. John Orobator	1						1-1	2
39. Adam Snook	1	1-1						2
40. Dan Whiteman	1	1						1
41. Joshua Bennett	1					1		1
42. Simon Brown	1						1	1
43. Jay Carr	1						1	1
44. Mark Chappell	1				1			1
45. James Craig	1				1			1
46. Steve Cross	1					1		1
47. Neal Davidson	1				1			1
48. David Donovan	1			1				1
49. Andrew Graves	1	1						1
50. Dan Gridley	1					1		1
51. Joe Griffin	1		1					1
52. Chris Jones	1		1					1
53. Nikhil Kanani	1						1	1
54. Michael Kelly	1		1					1
55. Kevin Locke	1						1	1
56. Dan Loni	1				1			1
57. Ram Mahbubani	1						1	1
58. Rob McLaughlin	1						1	1
59. Cameron Paddock	1			1				1
60. Shane Payne	1				1			1
61. Max Plummer	1		1					1
62. Adam Prior	1			1				1
63. Chris Spencer	1						1	1
64. Ryan Stevens	1		1					1
65. Kieran Yanson	1					1		1
66. Chris Wood	0	3						3
67. Arnold Collier	0						1	1
68. Will Low	0	1						1
69. Adamair Moreno	0					1		1
70. Chris Outred	0					1		1
71. Tony Postlethwaite	0			1				1
72. Paul Welch	0				1			1
72. David Williams	0			1				1
Own Goals				1	1			2
TOTAL	159	16-28	57-9	30-8	21-3	13-5	22-3	
CUP GOALS	56							

yellow = denotes cup goals

white = denotes clean sheet
yellow = denotes penalty saves
red = denotes goals conceded

TEAMSHEET

1s v Old Salesians 1s
Senior Division 1
3pm KO at The Hood

Manager: Simon Clapperton
07951 158536

01. Angus Lees (GK)

02. Alex Gladkow

03. Andrew Graves

04. Chris Jones

05. Connor Murphy

06. Craig Usher

07. Ivan Gladkow

08. James Tilley

09. Peter Brown

10. Simon Clapperton (C)

11. Tom Rowe

12. Will Low

13. Will Taylor

5s v Old Salesians 5s
Minor Division 2 South
3pm KO at Wimbledon Common
Extensions

Manager: Ed Plaistow
07595 373694

01. TBC (GK)

02. Aaron Ackerman

03. Chris Outred

04. Dan Kelly

05. Danny Gridley

06. Darren Avey

07. Denys Zhurby

08. Dulanie Richards

09. Ed Plaistow (C)

10. John Gridley

11. Lee Lenihan

12. Neal Davison

13. Rob Greenway

6s v Old Blues 4s
Minor Division 5 South
1pm KO at The Hood

Manager: Steve Burchell
07549 403219

01. Alex Herbert (GK)

02. Andrew Bassett

03. Arnold Collier

04. Harry Hare

05. Jason Carr

06. Kevin Locke

07. John Orobator

08. Martin Quinlan

09. Matt Haswell

10. Nikhil Kanani

11. Nuno Jesus

12. Ram Mahbubani

13. Ryan Burchell

14. Steve Burchell (C)

Would be great if the 6s could enjoy a couple of beers after their game and cheer on the 1s in their crucial relegation battle. Also hopefully the 5s will make the short trip back from Common Extensions to tell us all about their second win of the season????



Merton Football Club

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