

THE MERTON WAY

Merton Football Club

Newsletter 24.04.15



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER



A pretty good weekend for the Club. The 1s put in a really good performance to beat relegation rivals Old Salesians 3-0. Tom Rowe started the scoring with a 28 yard top corner screamer, Snooks headed the second to finish off a great move and Criag Usher volleyed home a Will Lowe cross for the third and to all intents and purposes relegate Old Salesians. The 1s need a similar performance next week against West Wickham as we need another win to ensure first division survival. The 5s had a good ding doing 4-4 draw. The 6s beat Old Blues 1-0 to keep their end of season run going. And I hear it was a good night in the bar with the footy on TV aswell.

To round off the weekend ,on Sunday the U12s lost 5-2 to Twickenham Tigers. 4-0 down at Half time and rallied really well in the second half. The U11s beat Kew Park Rangers 9-2 to round off a very good season. Congratulations to all and thanks to Howard the manager.

I have been in Portugal this week and as the picture shows seeing the facilities for amateur football there. This year as I have travelled around I have seen many pitches in poor condition but generally my

sympathy does not last too long as it is obvious that the reason for their neglect is that they have a brand new state of the art floodlit 3G/4G pitch just up the road and they don't need the grass/dirt pitch anymore. Even the small communities in Spain and Portugal have these but London is badly served and the lack of facilities for our National Sport a scandal. Now it seems that London has the money to subsidise the rest of the UK but what about looking after ourselves. We desperately need better facilities in London and we are continuing to press ahead with the Morden Park scheme for our 4G floodlit pitch but we need help from the Council the F.A. AFA SCFA and anyone else. It will be worth the effort in the end.

Good luck to all our teams next weekend but especially the 1s who will be battling West Wickham at the Hood and our 4s who have a vital double header at Alleyns.

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:

Those we love don't go away, they walk inside us every day...
unseen, unheard,
but always near,
still loved,
still missed
and very dear.

How far back in history do you have to go before it's considered Archaeology instead of grave robbing?

When you drink alcohol you are just borrowing happiness from tomorrow!

When you say the word 'crisp' it moves from the back of your mouth to the front as you say it.

Just so you know, drawing a leaf in my latte foam is not legitimate or worthwhile use of your Art degree!

There are over 1 billion Chinese people. I have never seen a homeless Chinese man or woman.

TV of the week – C4
The Vow – 1/5

Song of the week
Don't You Worry Child
– Swedish House Mafia

EDITOR'S WORST HAIRSTYLES EVER!



Can I have a semi-circle fringe please?

The hairstyle: This hairstyle is neither a mohican, nor a 'baldy', but it is very dodgy indeed.

The Player: Ronaldo Luís Nazário de Lima commonly known as Ronaldo, is a retired Brazilian footballer. Popularly dubbed "the phenomenon", he is considered by experts and fans to be one of the greatest football players of all time.
He is one of only four players to have won the FIFA World Player of the Year award three times or more, along with Zinedine Zidane, Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.



INTERVIEW WITH BIG WILLY T

FACT FILE

TEAM: Team Handsome (Unless Clappers uses his Dial-a-Goal facility)

POSITION: Striker

BIRTH DATE: 7th September

BIRTH PLACE: In the Valleys

CLUBS: Valleys FC

RAPID FIRE

Player of the season (so far): Alexis Sanchez

Childhood Team: Arsenal

Favourite team outside the UK: Real Madrid

Childhood Hero: Clappers

Favourite Food: Italian

Favourite Drink: Predators, if I'm up against Wilgo or Sherbs

Favourite Band: One Direction. Marc Wilson showed me the way. #Directioners

1. Tell us who is Big Willy T outside of the club. What do you do, how would you describe yourself?
Ivan Gladkow mentor and commander. I go and visit nice hotels and tag Sherbs, Wilgo & Rayner in my pictures to make them jealous.

2. How did you end up at Merton FC?
Moved to London and needed some friends.

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

4. If you could play for a professional team, which would be it and why?
Arsenal. They play a similar style that I am used too.

5. Do you have any pre-match rituals or superstitions?
Vigorous compliment giving at Eggs Ben.

6. Lastly, share us your thoughts for the rest of the season.
Scoring the winner on Saturday. Keeping the 1's up and securing my 20th glorious goal of the season.





INTERVIEW WITH CHARLIE SHINN

FACT FILE

Nickname: Shinny
TEAM: U12s
POSITION: Striker
CLUBS: None

1. How did you end up at Merton FC?

I was selected from the Wimbledon Little League.

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

Scoring a hat-trick twice in a month.

3. If you could play for a professional team, which would be it?

Arsenal, because I have supported them since I was born and I look up to most of their players (even if I am taller than some of them!)

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

None

RAPID FIRE

Player of the Season: Alexis Sanchez

Childhood Team: Arsenal

Favourite team outside the UK: Juventus

Favourite Food: Italian

Favourite Drink: Lemonade

Favourite Musician: Usher and Ed Sheeran



YOUTH SECTION

Under 8s

NO MATCH

Under 11s

**MERTON FC U11s 9
KEW PARK RANGERS U11s 2**

NO MATCH REPORT

Under 12s

**MERTON FC U12s 2
TWICKENHAM TIGERS U12s 5**

A welcome return to the Hood after several weeks without a game (one game played in the last 7 weeks) saw us hosting Twickenham Tigers. Having previously secured the 3 points in the away fixture, we went into the game with a reasonable degree of confidence. However, it was not long before our lack of match practice started to become evident. We like to pride ourselves on our positional discipline and not leaving ourselves open to counter-attack. Whilst possession and chances were even between the two sides in the first half, and, but for a great goalkeeping performance by the Kew keeper to deny Charlie what, on another day, would have been a first half hat-trick, and some close efforts from Joe and Mason, we found ourselves going into the break at 4-0 down. Twickenham had counter-attached with great pace and we showed too much respect to their number 11 who was both quick and skilful and took full advantage to make us pay for the lack of discipline and cover

The second half started much as the first with chances aplenty for both sides. Again we were unlucky not to have scored 2 or 3 early goals. Our movement and spatial awareness were far better and we started to take more of a grip on the game. Ayush put in some thumping tackles to break down several Twickenham attacks. Although Twickenham scored a well-taken goal to go 5-0 up, we managed to score a much-deserved first goal. Charlie made a break but the keeper blocked his close-range shot again. Jacob, having taken a more advanced role for the last quarter of the game, was on hand to slot home the rebound. It was then one-way traffic from Merton and we were attacking in waves. Charlie finally got on the scoresheet with a left-footed drive from just inside the box. There was then only one team in it. Mason and Chris fired in numerous crosses and corners and it was only a series of goalmouth scrambles that saved Twickenham from conceding more. Unfortunately, the final whistle came far too early for us but great credit goes to the efforts of all nine players – Jamie, Jacob, Mackenzie, Jack, Joe, Chris, Mason, Ayush and Charlie.

MAN OF THE MATCH:

Captain Mackenzie's work-rate throughout was exemplary and rightly deserving of man of the match

SENIOR SECTION



FIXTURES

(18 APRIL 2015)

MERTON FC 1XI VS OLS SALESIANS 1XI

SAL SENIOR DIVISION 1

MERTON FC 5XI VS OLD SALESIANS 4XI

SAL MINOR DIVISION 2 SOUTH

MERTON FC 6XI VS OLD BLUES 4XI

SAL MINOR DIVISION 5 SOUTH

MERTON FC 1XI

3

0

OLD SALESIANS FC 1XI

MAN OF THE MATCH: WILL LOW

TOM ROWE
SNOOKS
CRAIG USHER

Another week, another good performance and another three points.

This was a must win game in our quest to avoid relegation. Old Salesians were rock bottom and we needed the win to make sure safety remained in our hands.

We started with a strong side but not without injury concerns. Would Willy T's hamstring hold up, should Angus be playing with a hairline fracture in his foot and had Will Low's heel healed?

We started very brightly helped by a strong cross wind that actually blew across the pitch but with just enough left to right to be in our favour. Our midfield very quickly gained control. Tilley and Will Low dominated their battles and with Snooks pushed further forward we had a more attacking look.

After 10 minutes the mercurial Tom Rowe, heeding his manager's instructions to shoot on sight, looked up, took aim from 20 yards and scuffed his shoot harmlessly wide. This was obviously playing on his mind 10 minutes later. He found himself 30 yards out, with Al G screaming in his ear to leave the ball, so he looked up saw the keeper off his line and curled a perfect shot over and around the keeper. 1-0 and we our tails were up.

Our second goal was equally impressive. Will Low met a clearance midway into the opponents half, opened his body, and played a delightful first time ball out wide to Vanny. He took a touch, looked up, and drilled in an inviting cross which Snooks headed in from the edge of the six yard box. We were now playing some good football and looked likely to capitalise further on the wind advantage.

TR again found himself 20 yards out with only the thought of another goal. He hit a delicious half volley that smacked

against the post and bounced to safety. He later tried to explain to Browner how he'd hit the ball with the outside of his boot and dragged his foot across it to get the required swerve. He very quickly realised that striking technique would not be Browner's chosen subject on Mastermind.

We went in at half-time buoyant but slightly concerned that the wind was more a 3.0 wind.

We needn't have worried as we adjusted very well, using the wind to our strength when we could, and defended strongly when the inevitable push from the oppo came. The back four kept their shape well and held firm even though they could've pushed up quicker, as Al G pointed out during his leisurly stroll back from the half way line. Will and Tilley regained control of midfield and Snooks was prompting and feeding the ever willing Willy T. Willy's non-stop running was only matched by his offside count.

Midway through the half Conor came on to strengthen midfield then with 15 minutes to go Craig Usher (yeah, yeah) entered the fray to freshen it up. Within five minutes another telling contribution from Will Low saw him beat two men out wide a drive a good low cross in. Usher (yeah, yeah) powered into the box and drilled home a first time shot to make it 3-0.

This was an excellent performance with three good goals and sets us up perfectly for Saturday's relegation play off against West Wickham.

TEAM: Angus (GK), Al G, Browner, Rat, Jonesy, Tilley, Will Low, Snooks, Tom Rowe (Conor 65), Willy T (TR 80), Van (Usher 75). Subs: Clappers



"Good Luck" to Willgo and Ackers who are running the London Marathon on Sunday.





MERTON FC FC RESERVES

NO MATCH

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MERTON FC 3XI

NO MATCH

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MERTON FC 4XI



NO MATCH

.....



MERTON FC 5XI

4

4

OLD SALESIANS 5XI

NO MATCH REPORT

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MERTON FC 6XI

1

0

OLD BLUES 4XI

NO MATCH REPORT
(SKIPPER STILL LEARNING
TO USE COMPUTERS)

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Merton Football Club

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