

THE MERTON WAY

Merton Football Club

Newsletter 27.03.15



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

WHY GO HOME? STAY IN THE BAR AND ENJOY!

It was bitterly cold on Saturday down at the Hood. I got there early for the 6s 1pm kick off.

The 6s had kicked off early to accommodate the four scheduled home games but Southgate had pulled out as they could not get a team to travel leading to the 3s game being cancelled. We know we are not the only club struggling.

Our Sixes put up a really good fight against Old Wilsonians 8s who are unbeaten and top of the division but ultimately lost 2-1.

Lenners reffed the game pretty well. Our boys deserved to get something out of the game. It was soon 3pm and time for the 1s and 3s kick off. That did not go well and I took the results quite badly. So with 1s and 3s losing and a heavy heart, I adjourned to the bar and things started to perk up. The money that our bar provides is an important revenue stream for our club and we have an excellent, well managed bar that is at the heart of our club.

And there, bless them, all sitting round the table were our sixes going full blast at 'Apres Footy' and they were soon to be joined by our fives. All of them socialising, drinking and supporting the club and contributing to the great club bar atmosphere, win or lose. (should that be lose or draw). It is the best bar in the SAL by a long way so thanks to Peter, Jasper and the Steves and all those who drink in it.

It has been suggested that we ought get the 6s to kick off early every Saturday. 1pm or even earlier. So thanks also to all the contributors to The Merton Way and to Ram who I had the pleasure of meeting on Saturday.

Good Luck to all our teams on Saturday and I look forward to the Vets fixture on 'The Long Good Friday'.

Thanks
Max

George (Georgie) Blackford

I joined Merton at around 23 years of age and was selected, I believe, for the third team. One of the first chaps to welcome me into the Club was stalwart George (Georgie) Blackford. He was a tough uncompromising centre back who always played the game fairly. He was already considerably older than any other player in the team but he was super fit, downright quick for a centre back and usually kept younger players coming up or down through the sides in their places. I was told that he was often the first name on the Skipper's team sheet. He never failed to turn up no matter where we played and could not abide "no show" players. In those days it was a bare 11, no subs and he knew how important it was not to let your side down and impressed this upon anyone in his team. Georgie taught me more about respect for referees than anyone before or since. I had a VERY bad habit of getting in the referees face and arguing or complaining about the slightest mistake. "Coombsie boy leave the poor man alone, you wouldn't want his effing job" he would often say.

He used to travel to both home and in those days (un-regionalised) away games mostly in North London by Public Transport although I think he did have a car. He lived in Wandsworth I believe, as a few times I would drop him off in Garratt Lane.

He was always the life and soul of any away Club's bar post match. EVERYONE knew him as Georgie and it was clear that he was hugely respected by opposition players, officials and referees alike. He had a brilliant sense of humour and at home games would be the first Merton man to take the jugs round the opposition.

Every Club needs players like George Blackford. Whilst we had not seen him for several years, I know that there will be lots of past players of MFC who will remember him with the upmost respect.

With best regards

Graeme Coombs



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



UPCOMING EVENTS...

Friday 3 April is Long Good Friday. We'll have two or three games and the bar will be open from 1pm so come down, play, support or just enjoy a good drink. Matches + Bar = TV Football

Saturday 30 May is FA Cup Final Day. Again we'll have a couple of games followed by a BBQ and the final on in the bar. They'll be the usual time of the first goal and first goal scorer prizes so come along and potentially go home with £75 in your pocket.

Saturday 6 June is our end of season awards day and the Champions League final. You can congratulate, commiserate and laugh at, and along with, your fellow players as you remember the highs and lows of the season. This will be followed up by the Champions League final so we can watch how it should be done.



RAM'S HEADS UP



The trip around the thoughts that go on in my head continues:

They say we learn from our mistakes. That's why I'm making many as possible... I'll soon be a genius!

Am I the only one who has never seen anyone in real life slip over a banana?

Strangers think I'm quiet, my friends think I'm outgoing, my girlfriend knows that I'm completely insane!

Laughter is the best medicine but if you laugh for no reason, you need medicine

The awkward moment when you realise that you spent the last hour developing thoughts and building opinions that you will never share with anyone.

Funny how I have a better conversation in my head with myself than I do with most people.

If I've offended you with my opinion... you should hear the ones I keep to myself.

Film of the week - Sky
Blended - 4/5

Song of the week
So Freakin' Tight
- Tough Love

EDITOR'S WORST HAIRSTYLES EVER!



Couldn't decide...so I leave it up to you guys!

The Player: Abel Xavier is a Portuguese retired footballer who played as a full back, and is the current coach of S.C. Farense.

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





INTERVIEW WITH ALEXIS BARRIOS CRUZ

FACT FILE

Nickname: Al

TEAM: U11s

POSITION: Defender/Winger

CLUBS: Wimbledon Little League

1. How did you end up at Merton FC?

I was scouted last year and asked to come along.

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

When I did an amazing shot from well outside the box. I thought it wasn't going to go in, especially as I did it with my left foot. It just seemed to take ages going through the air, and landed nicely in the back of the net. Everybody was amazed!

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

Crystal Palace. They are a great team, not money orientated. They play in an exciting style.

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

I do the sign of the cross and kiss the ground.

RAPID FIRE

Player of the Season: Marouane Chamakh

Childhood Team: Crystal Palace

Favourite team outside the UK: Real Madrid

Favourite Food: Spaghetti Carbonara

Favourite Drink: Super Malt

Favourite Musician: Michael Jackson



YOUTH SECTION

Under 8s

MERTON FC U8s 2
ESHER WIZARDS U8s 2

The penultimate game of the season, away at Esher Wizards, turned out to be the most challenging, so far. A very good side, Esher went close to taking the lead 3 times but the cross bar helped our ever fighting boys to remain in the game.

Under great pressure the boys picked themselves up and took the lead with a great team effort.

Esher brought the score to one all with good passing football. Our boys went back in front with a great individual goal in the second quarter. In the last two quarters the game was very balanced and both teams had their chances to score.

However, it was in the dying minutes of the game that a penalty was awarded to the home team, who, despite the great effort of Merton FC Goalie, equalised to bring the score to a final 2 all.

Under 11s

MERTON FC U11s 0
CARSHALTON ATHLETIC U11s 3

NO MATCH REPORT

Under 12s

NO MATCH

SENIOR SECTION



FIXTURES (21 MARCH 2015)

MERTON FC 1XI VS CIVIL SERVICE 1XI
SAL SENIOR DIVISION 1

MERTON FC 4XI VS ALLEYN OLD BOYS 4XI
SAL MINOR DIVISION 1 SOUTH

MERTON FC 5XI VS SOUTH BANK CUACO 5XI
SAL MINOR DIVISION 2 SOUTH

MERTON FC 6XI VS OLD WILSONIANS 8XI
SAL MINOR DIVISION 5 SOUTH
(picture special)

MERTON FC 1XI

0

3

CIVIL SERVICE FC 1XI

MAN OF THE MATCH:

This was an important league game and so this was a very bad result.

It started badly. Ackers had a nasty calf injury in his warm up and could take no part in the game and is probably out for the rest of the season. We went 1 nil down within 20 secs of the kick off with a bad blunder at the back. I have heard it said that if you are going to concede a goal do it early but I am not sure I saw the merit in that point on Saturday.

Shortly after that it got worse as Will Low had to come off with a foot injury. Luckily though Al Gladkow just back from hols and was on the bench, he came on but that only left Sherbs on the bench. We rallied well and held Civil Service at bay for the rest of the half. Whilst we did not produce too much threat ourselves, even with the strong wind in their favour Civil Service did not cause that much trouble and Angus only had to make one good save, saving well at his near post.

With only a one goal deficit and a strong wind to help us I was very optimistic about the outcome of the game. We pressed for the first 20 mins but our pressure did not lead to a goal but Civil Service were starting to creak under severe pressure. Sadly after a scare when they did break out they scored a very good second goal on the break. They added a third when we were very untidy and if Angus had not made another good double save it could have been 0-4. But 0-3 is bad enough. We have 5 games left and we are perilously close to relegation and we need some points sooner rather than later. We have some tough games but also play our relegation rivals which may well decide our fate. It is still in our own hands.

TEAM: Angus (GK), Jonesy, Clappers (capt), Browner, Will Low (Al G), Tills, Woody, Snooks, Vanny, Wilgo, Dan W. Sub not used: Sherbs



MERTON FC RESERVES



NO MATCH:

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MERTON FC 3XI



SOUTHGATE OLYMPIC FC 3XI

**MATCH CALLED OFF BY
SOUTHGATE OLYMPIC**

.....



ALLEYN OLD BOYS FC 4XI

2

2

MERTON FC 4XI



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NO MATCH REPORT



MAN OF THE MATCH

RYAN TOMLIN

South Bank 5s were the visitors to Joseph Hood this time around. With the opposition having lost all ten of their league outings, this was one match we felt we could capture three points and give everybody that much needed confidence boost having only won one in fourteen.

One of our main problems throughout the season has been finding a goalkeeper. We didn't have that problem this week as we were helped out by Ryan Tomlin who is a regular in the youth set up. Big thanks to him for the effort.

We started brightly, passing the ball around well with everyone working to get onto the ball. This was expected as the starting XI, with the exemption of a couple of positions, was the strongest we have had all season. Unfortunately we fell behind ten minutes for the break. Miscommunication between Glen and Ryan following a through ball resulted in gifted goal meaning we went into half time on the back foot.

We were playing some good football so the team talk was one of a few words, carry on with what we were doing and the chance will come. Two changes were made at the break, Aaron came on in place of Sevan and Dulanie, who started but had to be replaced early on in the game by Rob, took the place of Chris Dodd. We reverted to a more common 4-4-2 formation to tighten things up and it seemed to pay off. Dan Plaistow delivered a ball into the box after receiving the ball from a throw in and Rob stepped in to claim it before the keeper could claim it to draw us level.

We were not playing as well as we did in the first half but felt we were doing enough to push on and grab another goal. Another goal came shortly after our equaliser but it was the visitor that claimed it. Their number eleven received the ball on the edge of the box with his back to goal. Unfortunately he was given too much space to turn

and fire a shot into the top left hand corner. 2 - 1.

We then found ourselves 3 - 1 down. Glen, under no pressure what so ever, got his ankle stuck and miss-controlled a ball on the half way line. With Glen being the last man back, this allowed their number eleven to easily slot past Ryan on a one-on-one situation. We felt hard done by at this time as we felt we should have been playing against ten men. Dan Plaistow won a fair challenge in our half however the player on the receiving end seemed to differ by running to the ref shouting "Ref! That's a red card offence, that's a red card offence!" As expected the ref confirmed that the challenge was fair and waved play on. Not two minutes had passed when Dan Plaistow had the ball on the touchline when the player that was on the receiving end of his challenge thought it was a good time to get his revenge with lunging with fists and feet at Dan. It took the ref some time to decide what a fair punishment would be and we were all shocked, including some of his own players, when it was only a yellow card that was shown. We found out after that the yellow was given for dissent and not the challenge!!!!

I want to thank those players that are consistent in making themselves available week in week out.

It was frustrating to be on the back on another defeat but we need to put this season behind us and plan for next season.

TEAM: Ryan Tomlin (GK), Clive Corrigan, Glen Porter, John Gridley, Edward Plaistow (Capt.), Chris Dodd, Sevan Mutfayan, Danny Gridley, Chris Outred, Dulanie Richards, Dan Plaistow. Subs. Rob Greenway, Aaron Ackerman, Martin Quinlan



FRAZER HASWELL

MAN OF THE MATCH: DARREN AVEY

The 6s were up against top of the table leaders Old Wilsonians 8s. They knew this was not going to be an easy match having lost to them at their ground earlier in the season, but felt they could be the ones to end their undefeated run. Due to 4 home games at the hood, it was a 1pm kick off, everyone on the What's App 6s group were told to turn up nice and early, get changed and have a good warm up prior to the game. A certain person obviously didn't read the meet time turning up half an hour late. There was also a no show, which to Steve's Friday night miscalculation meant he could put on a strip. With the team out on the pitch having a good warm up, it came to naming the team. With Alex a regular keeper in goal, confidence was high. Starting line after deliberation from Rob and Steve was: Alex (GK), Harry (RB), Baz (LB), Spanner and Darren (CB), Ram and Rob (CM), Ryan (RM), Jay (LM), Matt (number 10 roll!!!), Nuno (CF). Subs: Frazer, Steve and Simon.

We started reasonably well for a change, but Old W's caught us a few times on the break and their first goal came from a corner, which was poorly defended and fell to their midfielder who, just inside the box, curled the ball into the top right top, there was nothing Alex could do to stop it. We picked ourselves up from the kick off and tried to get the score level. 20 minutes gone and a couple of changes, Frazer for Ram and Baz for Steve. Then came their next goal, a hesitated pass by Steve saw their midfielder get the ball and from right side of the pitch crossed the ball which caught Alex out and looped over

him into the net, 2-0 .

We could have brought a goal back when the ref awarded us a penalty after Frazer was pushed by their defender. Matt Haswell picked the ball up and felt he had the confidence to put it in the back of the net. How wrong he was, dragging the shot just wide of the post, keeper also diving the right way. It wasn't till later in the bar that Rob mentioned he has never missed a penalty, bet Matt wished he had snatched the ball off him and taken it.

Half time came and we knew we needed to play a bit better 2nd half, especially as we had the wind against us.

Second half began and we upped our game and played some better football. Darren came off for Ram and Rob dropped back into defence. We continued to attack and wear out the 11 men of Old Wilsonians when we eventually got one back with Nuno putting the ball across the box, pass the keeper and Frazer putting the ball into the net. Simon came on for Harry, and then came off for Harry after picking up yet another injury. Not sure if he was on longer than Gerrard and it's a good job there are no Football Injury Lawyers For You out there as Simon would be a rich man by now!!! As the time wound down we couldn't get the equaliser, the game ended 2-1. Four more games left, HSBC next week at home, Alexandra Park away on 11th, and Bank of England and Old Blues, both at home, dates TBC, let see if we can end the season with some wins and move a bit further up the table out of the bottom two.

Well done to those who stayed behind after the game for a beer (Coke for the Burchell's) in the bar.







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Merton Football Club

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