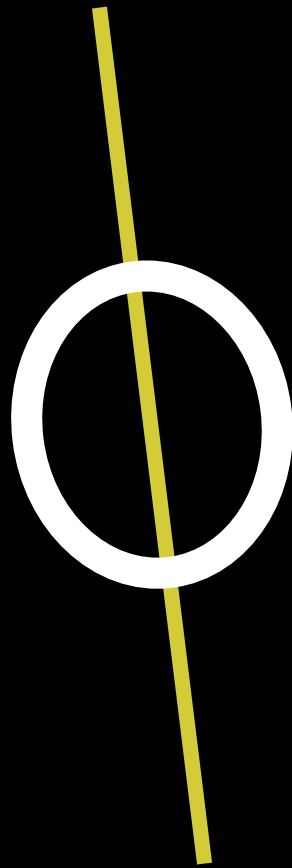


THE MERTON WAY

Merton Football Club

Newsletter 06.03.15





CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

DO YOU WANT TO PLAY?

We're back with the third edition of the weekly magazine. Amazing that we have managed to get the newsletter out so consistently each week so far. If you enjoy what you're reading then please send in anything you wish to see/read....anyone can contribute!! Thanks to Simon, Jason & Ram for this week's match reports.

A mixed bag of results. The 1s and 4s losing with the 2s getting a good point away at Polytechnic with DQ going in goal and making a late run for the Golden Gloves award. However, the result of the week has to be the 6s. Good to see that they got a game on, but even better that they won 2-0 at Old Wilsonians 9s. I am looking forward to their match report which is always such a good read.

I am currently out of the country and really enjoyed reading The Merton Way again. Well done to Ram and the contributors.

We are already turning our thoughts to next

season and we recognise the need to restructure our lower teams and perhaps drop one of them down into lower divisions and if we do not have enough players we may have to look at dropping one of the middle teams altogether.

Whilst we are looking to recruit new players so that we can retain our current compliment of six teams we are keen to ensure that we do not repeat this season's postponements which have affected the lower teams so badly.

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 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

This week I have come up with some obscure thoughts:

- 1 - I don't mean to interrupt people, I just randomly remember things and get really excited
- 2 - Do not ever underestimate my ability to find shit out
- 3 - Blink if you like me!
- 4 - I used to be a people person...but people ruined it for me.
- 5 - If you mated a bulldog and a shitzu, would it be called Bullshit?
- 6 - A fact of Life: After Monday and Tuesday even the calendar says W T F
- 7 - If you are an archaeologist, does that mean your life are in ruins?
- 8 - Smartphones finally have cameos with decent megapixels and everyone uses Instagram to blur photos!
- 9 - Asked my girlfriend out on 29th February, only have to celebrate the anniversary every 4 years!
- 10 - Here's my take on the high school reunions...if I haven't contacted you in the last 20 years, then there's a reason

Film of the week - TV
The Tuxedo - 2.5/5

Song of the week
Hold Back The River
- James Bay

EDITOR'S WORST HAIRSTYLES EVER!



Time to knick the missus' curlers...

The Player: Raheem Sterling is a Jamaican-born English professional footballer who plays as a winger, attacking midfielder or striker for Premier League club Liverpool and the England national team.

The Hair: Best described as curlers left in too long and no other man will be found dead with a hairstyle like this.



TRAINING

Location: St Mark's Academy School, Acacia Road, Mitcham CR4 1SF

Time: 8pm-9.30pm on Wednesday evenings
(please arrive after 7.30pm to stretch and warm up)

Surface: Astro Turf – please wear appropriate footwear

We still have Darren and Nathan, so everyone will have a good 45 minutes with each. The format will be exactly as pre-season with a mix of football skills from Darren and high intense fitness from Nathan. We can only justify the expense of both trainers if we maintain the numbers.

Each player is responsible for their own physical fitness. Attendance at training is encouraged and preferable but not yet compulsory, however training is likely to affect team selection and there may be occasions when attendance is required.

BY TRAIN

Mitcham Eastfields train station is a five minute walk from the pitch and trains go from Victoria, Clapham Junction and Balham.

When you exit the station, walk up Grove Road with the school on your right. Just after the new building there is a path on your right saying **'Entrance to Adventure Playground'** which brings you to the pitches.

BY CAR

If you're driving - Acacia Road is off Tamworth Lane. Drive all the way to the end of Acacia Road, with the school on your left, and then follow the road round to the left and you reach the entrance to the pitches.

RAM'S HEADS UP

I've recently gone deep in my mind and thought of some obscure things, here a few that have rolled around in my head:

1 – I dream of a better tomorrow... where chickens can cross roads and not have their motives questioned.

2 – I'm never wrong. I once thought I was wrong, turns out, I was mistaken.

3 – Last night I was looking at the stars and I wondered... where the hell's my ceiling!

4 – Whoever said nothing was impossible never tried slamming a revolving door.

5 – When tempted to fight fire with fire, remember that the fire department generally uses water.

and one that we will all agree on:

6 – Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy.
Benjamin Franklin

Film of the week – DVD
Finders Keepers – 2.5/5

Song of the week
Gravity – DJ Fresh feat Ella Eyre





INTERVIEW WITH RICARDO IGLESIAS

FACT FILE

TEAM: 3XI & 4XI

POSITION: Right Back/Right Midfield

BIRTH DATE: 20/02/1980

BIRTH PLACE: Ecuador

CLUBS: Tigres JV (South American league in London)

RAPID FIRE

Player of the season (so far): Eden Hazard

Childhood Team: FC Barcelona

Favourite team outside the UK: LDU Quito
(Ecuadorian team that played 2008 FIFA Club World Cup Final)

Childhood Hero: Diego Maradona

Favourite Food: Spanish Tapas

Favourite Drink: Sparkling Water

Favourite Band: Muse

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

I consider myself a friendly person, committed to the beautiful game of Football and a proud new father of a 11 month baby called Ethan who hopefully would join Merton in a few years. I do work as an Account Manager for a Cleaning and Security company in London.

2. How did you end up at Merton FC?

Through a work client Peter Heyne who was involved in training at Merton FC in 2009.

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

I would say my first goal scored for Merton but to be honest I hardly remember it now, there is a bit of a best moment in every game I play for the club as I enjoy playing for Merton.

4. If you could play for a professional team, which would be it and why?

Crystal Palace, I live near the Stadium and I have gone to a few matches the atmosphere there is fantastic and although I always liked Manchester United I would feel honoured to play for the Eagles.

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

Just a prayer before the match for a free injury match, and the victory of course lol.

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

Pick up points in all games as possible and also hoping that more players commit with the club to have full squads through out the teams.



YOUTH SECTION

MERTON FC U12S VS SHEEN LIONS U12S (match postponed)

MERTON FC U11 3-1 SCR COLTS U12S

Merton FC U-11s' made hard work of beating lowly SCR Colts.

Numerous chances went begging and both post and bar were hit before Merton finally took the lead. Kieran picked up the ball on the right hand side and using his electric pace and surged past 2 defenders before rifling the ball into the roof of the net with his right foot. Illane, Deveonte and Thomas all had shots well saved, leaving the score at 1-0 at the break.

Further chances were missed at the start of the second half and this seemed to give SCR renewed hope and they equalised from close range following a defensive mix up. Rather than deflate the team, this seemed to inspire Merton and they retook the lead with a brilliant individual effort from Devonte, he waltzed past 3 players before slotting the ball past the on-rushing goalkeeper.

The 3 points were clinched when Nikoy intercepted a goal-kick and rifled the ball into the corner.

Man of the Match: Thomas Meredith for his excellent passing and link up play.

MERTON FC U8S 3-1 SHEEN LIONS U8S

A sunny but chilly morning in sheen saw two closely matched teams battling away on a muddy pitch.

Both teams played a tight 1st quarter which Merton just edged to lead 1-0 with a well taken goal. In the second quarter it was great defending by both teams resulting in no goals the third quarter saw Merton play back to there passing best which saw them score a second goal with a great move and superb top corner finish. Great all round defending again saw the game out at 2-0 to Merton.

Man of the Match: Miller with an all round energetic display.



SENIOR SECTION



AL G
IVAN GLADKOW

MAN OF THE MATCH:
Not today I'm afraid

As the score line suggests this was a pretty dreadful display by us.

Nottsborough had a very good forward but he didn't score any of their goals and we should've been able to defend the crosses he put into the box. We didn't and were 4-0 by half time. Three of the goals were identikit back post headers which we should've learnt from each time.

We regrouped at half time and most people raised their games. Not that hard given how poor the first half was! We scored twice but still managed to score an own goal and ANOTHER back post header to compound our misery.

The most annoying aspect of the day was that they

looked fitter and more committed than us and it's very rare that's the case.

A bad day we need to put behind us, look forward to the cup final, and learn from to ensure we get the points we need to stay up.

Thanks to Darcy and Tony who stepped up from the 3s and Cookie who went in goal for the last 20 minutes.

TEAM: Ryan Tomlin (GK), Cookie, Browner, Rat, Jonesy, Al G, Snooks, Darcy, Vanny, Boshier, Dan Whiteman. Subs: Alex Hope, Tony

Action shot from the 1s Subbuteo game



Darcy and Tony stepping up from the 3s to make their 1s debuts



MAN OF THE MATCH:

WILL TAYLOR

On the back of a fine run of form, the 2s headed to Chiswick to take on promotion rivals Polytechnic. Wilgo had a strong outfield ten at his disposal with some young club players helping out to give us three on the bench. Notable absentees were Craig Usher, midfield stalwart, and the dangerous Femi Arogundade, still recovering from a knock. With Sherbs hunting whales in Mexico, we tried not to blubber too much about the lack of a keeper and when Wilgo threw down the gauntlets, DQ stepped in to pick them up.

As the match kicked off, the Chiswick wind was blowing sharply across the pitch, but Merton started strongly, the Polytechnic backline immediately finding themselves under considerable pressure. Taylor's marauding runs prompted by Thomas's probing passes were backed up by some strong running from midfield, Wilgo leading by example. Two or three decent half-chances came and went before Taylor burst through and struck firmly past the Polytechnic custodian. The goal had been coming and was due reward for a great first half. The good work was, in true Merton style, almost immediately undone, when we failed to deal with a teasing set piece which ended up in a back post huddle and the ball deflecting away to safety off the outside of a post. But that was as tense as it got for DQ before half-time.

Polytechnic are a good team and an improvement in their play duly arrived after the break. That said, in the early stages of the second half, we had a couple of very promising counters which could have resulted in the game being put to bed. The build-up play was excellent, but we just couldn't find the final pass. Polytechnic sensed they were still very much in it and began to apply pressure. A series of free kicks and corners penned us in and eventually the opposition broke through with a low shot, DQ having no chance (the writer of this article confesses that he can't really remember the goal, but considers the above description 'close enough' for publication). It was very tough on the hard-working Merton defence who excelled throughout the contest, lead by captain Marc Wilson, who just seemed to be everywhere.

Buoyed by their goal, Polytechnic were in the ascendency by the end of the game and we found ourselves hanging on a bit. Merton hearts were in mouths when a low shot flashed past the post in the final seconds, but on the balance of the whole game, a draw was a fair result.

We retired to the bar, where Marc Wilson wasn't presented with the MMH trophy even though he won it. The miscreant who had left the trophy at home placated the baying crowd with a Predator, but it was tough on Marc whose performance more than merited holding it aloft with pride.

Pete and Ryan stepping up from 3s to 2s last week



Hitch (Roger Daltrey) over the moon that Jason is about to down a Predator for forgetting the Man most handsome (Man of the match) award





MERTON FC 3XI

NO GAME

.....



WEST WICKHAM FC 4XI

6

1

MERTON FC 4XI

MAN OF THE MATCH:

.....

No match report supplied, but.....we do have a pic!!

*Chris, Ed (is that the ball under your top?)
and Josh stepping up to help out the 4s*



MERTON FC 5XI



NO MATCH

.....



OLD WILSONIANS FC 9XI

0

2

MERTON FC 6XI

MAN OF THE MATCH:
CHRIS SPENCER

NUNO JESUS x 2

“DO WE HAVE ENOUGH PLAYERS GAFF?”...

...along with “do we have a keeper?” was the build-up to this game.

Once we established who was playing and that Kevin ‘The Cat’ Locke was going to cover the goal for the first 45 mins, we made the journey across South London to the quaint area of Hayes Hill, well compared to Wembley anywhere else is ‘quaint’!! Even travelling to Old Wilsonians didn’t stop the drama of getting to the game, players established how they were arriving....well everyone apart from Nuno who had travelled to Tooting to go wake up Ruben, but to be told by the latter that he won’t be playing as he didn’t want to get up! This prompted frantic messages and calls from Nuno as he panicked to get to the ground from Tooting 2 hours before the game.

Onto the game, finding out that we had to travel the short walk to the back pitches which looked like they were someone’s back garden and they hadn’t opened the gates for anyone to play, we found that there was a slight slope to the pitch and winning the toss was important to establish we played down the slope in the second half.

The first half started evenly but once Old Wilsonians started to take advantage of the slope, we found ourselves struggling to hold onto the ball and make consecutive passes, instead panicking to clear it. The centre midfield of Matt and Ram suffered neck ache as the ball kept ping-pong around and over them as the ball spent more time being hoofed up in the air than either team risking to bring the ball down and attempt a pass.

Old Wilsonians started to increase their attempts on goal, but nothing to worry Kevin as he swept/slipped/ate everything thrown to him and Spencer and Darren clearing everything else before it reached the penalty area. Steve then decided to ask a romantic question to the ref, who did not take kindly to his approach and we could only assume he was not interested. With the whole team telling him to ‘shut up’ and take the rejection, he was not giving up on asking again and with risking getting his name taken, but not out of choice by the ref, I don’t think he wanted it that much. Fair to say that was his only contribution to the game!

With about 30mins gone, Merton finally had their first attempt on goal with their first passing move. Ram controlled the ball in the centre circle and passed it out to Harry at right back, with a look up he pinged a great ball down the channel which Nuno ran onto, he pulled the ball back to the left edge of the penalty area where Matt ran onto and narrowly missed the target.

This gave Merton belief that we could take an important lead into the half before the advantage of the slope in the second half and this came a few minutes later where a blatant shove in the back of their number

5 by Ram, (I admit it) led to Jay knocking it back to Matt just outside the area and with his eyes lighting up to add to his 3 goals for the season duly smashed into the mid-drift of Ram and fortunately ran across the penalty area to the unmarked Nuno who made no mistake and slotted it passed the keeper.

With talk of trying to take control of the ball at half-time and take advantage of the slope, the next decision was to decide who was going to takeover in goal and just falling short of deciding by rock, paper, scissors – Harry donned the gloves and looked every part a keeper (unfortunately no pics were taken to justify this).

Half-time subs were Nikhil replacing Ram in centre midfield with Kevin playing at left back with Baz operating the right side of defence.

The second half continued the same way as the first half ended....scrappy! With no team able to take control of the game, it became a bit of a tense game as a goal to the oppo would have given them the confidence to have gone on to win the game. With 60 mins gone, Adam replaced Darren at the heart of defence and carried on where Darren left off.

With the ball finding our strikers more regularly, the new chant for the second half was ‘NUNO...PASS!!! All to avail, as everytime he had the ball to feet and the chanting became louder and louder, the more he rebelled and tried to take their defence on single-handed. This week, along with ensuring Nuno has the postcode for the match on Saturday morning, we are going to send him post codes for every player on the pitch so he can locate them!

Comedy moment of the game came when one of the oppo players hoofed the ball up in the darkening sky and goalwards...with Harry looking like he was praying to Allah, the ball was falling pretty much on the goal-line, this led to a discussion between the back four guessing if it will be a goal or not. Spencer could not bare to look and fell to his knees to give his own version of praying to Allah, Harry kept focus and caught the ball under the bar.

The game was pretty much wrapped up midway in the second half as a shot on goal was parried by their keeper, but as he tried to pounce on the bouncing ball, his teammate decided to try and help him out by trying to clear the ball but was closer to taking the keepers head off and the ball rolled away which Nuno went round the keeper and knocked in at the opposite corner. This was his last contribution as he was subsequently substituted for Ram with Nikhil moving upfront.

Merton saw out the last 10-15mins without any harm and ran out winners, more through hard work and perseverance than good football.

LINEUP (4-4-2)

Kevin (GK), Baz, Harry, Chris & Darren, Steve, Matt & Ram, Jay, Nuno & Ryan Subs: Adam & Nikhil



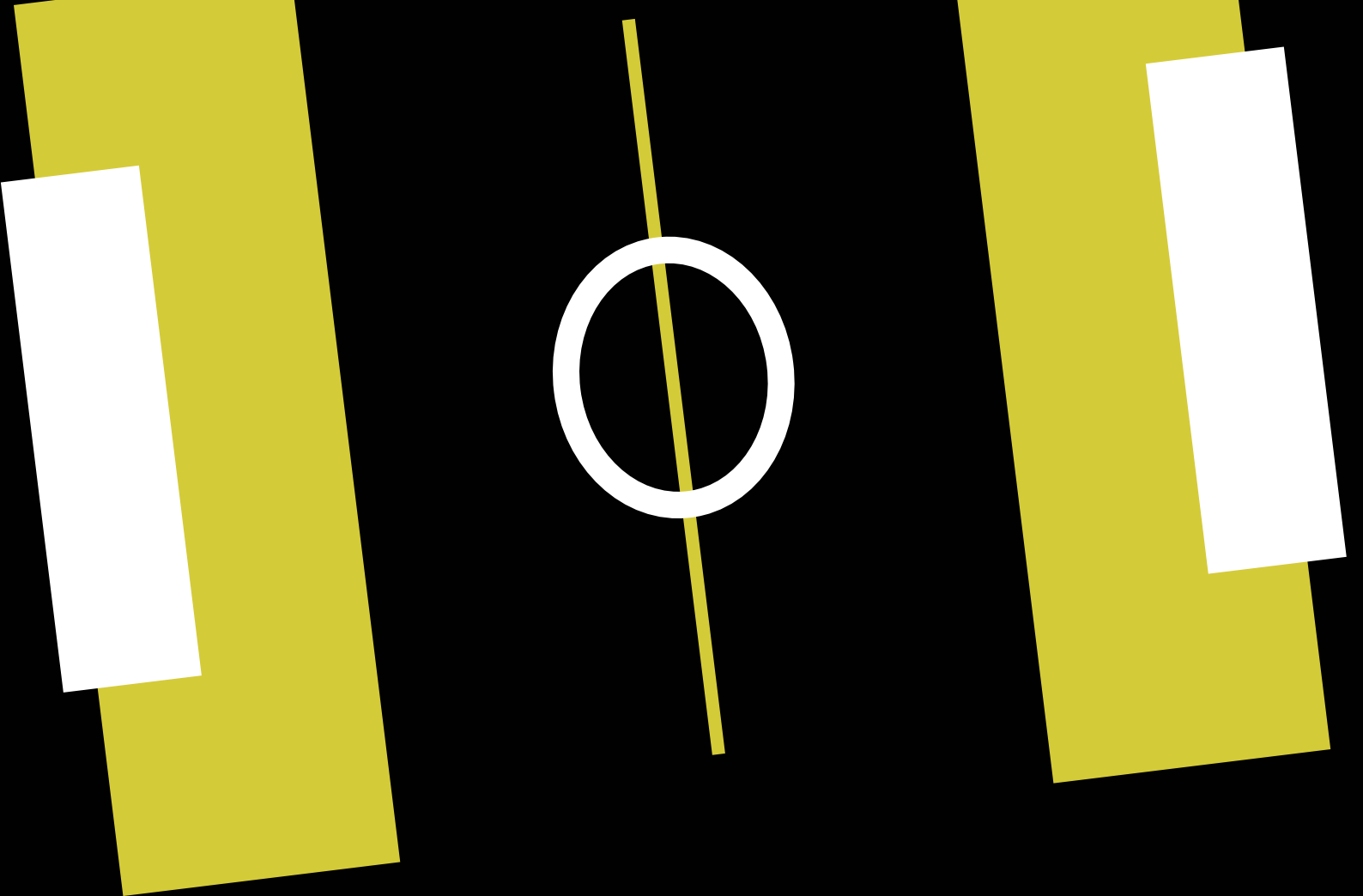
GOAL-TOPPERS

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

Player	Total League	1st XI	2nd XI	3rd XI	4th XI	5th XI	6th XI	Total Goals
35. Jay Carr	1						1	1
36. Mark Chappell	1				1			1
37. James Craig	1				1			1
38. Steve Cross	1					1		1
39. Neal Davidson	1				1			1
40. David Donovan	1			1				1
41. Andrew Graves	1	1						1
42. Dan Gridley	1					1		1
43. Joe Griffin	1		1					1
44. Ricard Iglesias	1				1			1
45. Chris Jones	1		1					1
46. Micheal Kelly	1		1					1
47. Kevin Locke	1						1	1
48. Dan Loni	1				1			1
49. Ram Mahbubani	1						1	1
50. Rob McLaughlin	1						1	1
51. Cameron Paddock	1			1				1
52. Max Plummer	1		1					1
53. Adam Prior	1			1				1
54. Chris Spencer	1						1	1
55. Kieran Yanson	1					1		1
56. Chris Wood	0	3						3
57. Alex Gladkow	0	1						1
58. Will Low	0	1						1
59. Adamair Moreno	0					1		1
60. Chris Outred	0					1		1
61. Tony Postlethwaite	0			1				1
62. Paul Welch	0				1			1
63. David Williams	0			1				1
64. Own Goals					1			1
TOTAL	128	12-27	49-9	20-7	20-3	13-5	15-1	
CUP GOALS	52							

Age (years)	Percentage (%)
18	10
19	12
20	14
21	16
22	18
23	20
24	22
25	24
26	26
27	28
28	30
29	32
30	34
31	36
32	38
33	40
34	42
35	44
36	46
37	48
38	50
39	52
40	54
41	56
42	58
43	60
44	62
45	64
46	66
47	68
48	70
49	72
50	74
51	76
52	78
53	80
54	82
55	84
56	86
57	88
58	90
59	92
60	94
61	96
62	98
63	99
64	100
65	100

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



Merton Football Club

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