

THE MERTON WAY

Merton Football Club

Newsletter 26.02.15





CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

YOU ARE THE CLUB!

Hello and welcome to the second edition of the weekly magazine. First of all thanks to Ram for a really good first edition and thanks to all contributors. We have received a lot of encouraging feedback. So we need to keep supplying the reports and pics to Ram.

It has been a typical Merton week. Great to see "The Merton Way" but then the rains come down and the Hood is waterlogged. With only three games on we still struggle for players because of poor availability and then a disappointing set of results on Saturday. So it's the perennial Merton problems; the reliability of our pitches and the number of players. We have plans both short and long term to deal with these issues but we will continue to rely on the patience and flexibility of our members for which are grateful, to help the club through the immediate crisis and for the rest of the season. For the pitches it is some work in the summer, if not before, to help the Council but ultimately a new ground at Morden and for members a big recruitment campaign in the Summer and a youth section for the future.

But there is a lot to look forward to. As soon as we get through the monsoons and get some more Saturday football and the Long Good Friday, a big Cup Final and awards night. So keep the faith.

A big thank you this week to the dozen or so members from the 2s, 5s and 6s who helped out other teams this week, some at very short notice. A special mention must go out to Kev Locke who stepped up to help out the 3s. He not only went out of his way to pick up the kit but then played out of position, in goal!

Thanks this week to Clappers, Ryan Gresty and for the match reports

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

Social Organiser

Alex Herbert

Players' Representative

Lee Lenihan

Webmaster

Matt Haswell

Discipline Officer

Roger Asling

Communications

Graham Willgoss

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 more crazy thoughts to mull over:

- 1 - Borrow money from pessimists - they don't expect it back.
- 2 - A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- 3 - I almost had a psychic girlfriend but she left me before we met.
- 4 - OK, so what's the speed of dark?
- 5 - How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?
- 6 - What happens if you get scared half to death twice?
- 7 - To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.
- 8 - I once wanted to become an atheist but I gave up. They have no holidays.
- 9 - A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.
- 10 - The five most essential words for a healthy, vital relationship are: "I apologise" and "You are right."

Film of the week - TV
Silver Linings Playbook
- 4/5

Song of the week
Earned It - Weeknd

EDITOR'S WORST HAIRSTYLES EVER!



Ask your mum to braid, dye and then tie it...

The Player: Taribo West is one of the most flamboyant players to ever play for the Super Eagles. The 49-year-old who made his debut for Nigeria in 1994 went on to amass 41 caps in an international career spanning eight years. He played for some of the most prestigious football clubs in the world like Internazionale and AC Milan.

The Hair: It could only be described as braids, but with most of his head shaved, and then the braids put up into pigtails. He even had the cheek to die his hair bright green at one stage during his career.



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.

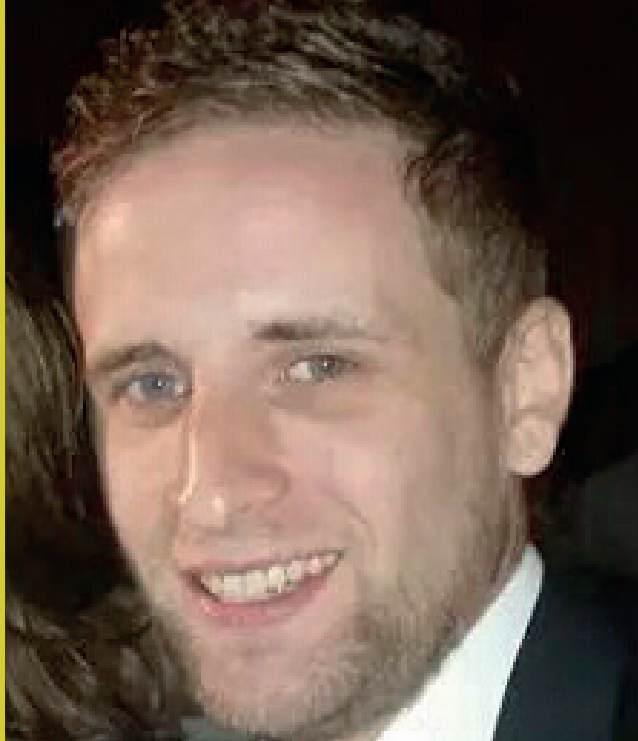
and one that we will all agree on:

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 CHRIS OUTRED

FACT FILE

TEAM: Chris Outred
POSITION: Left back/Left Wing/Centre Back
BIRTH DATE: 1986
BIRTH PLACE: Tooting
CLUBS: Barons (links league, under 14)

RAPID FIRE

Player of the season (so far): Eden Hazard/
Harry Kane
Childhood Team: Chelsea FC
Favourite team outside the UK: LA Galaxy
Childhood Hero: David Beckham
Favourite Food: Pizza
Favourite Drink: Monster Ripper
Favourite Band: Foo Fighters

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

I'd say am an easy going guy, little shy to be people who don't know me. Love my video games, and anything zombie related. Love having a laugh with friends.

2. How did you end up at Merton FC?

My younger brother Dan got me started at Merton in the 09/10 season.

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

11/12 season - last match before the Christmas break, we needed to win to stay top of the league, we were 2 nil down at half time. The 5s managed to get back to 2-2. We then got a free kick on the edge of the box on the right hand side. I stepped up and and put it top left of the goal.

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

Chelsea FC, big fan I'd love to play at the Bridge.

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

Just the order I get changed.

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

Finish the season as strong as possible so the club can strengthen over the summer.



KNIGHTS
TAYLOR
BARRELL

MAN OF THE MATCH:

WILL TAYLOR

I was told it was tough going to Winchmore Hill and getting a result. I didn't count on that meaning a tediously slow journey through the City turning into road works at every turn. Woody now understands the point of meet times!!

When we finally arrived, with Van purple with pain as he needed a wee wee, we found a pitch in very good condition despite the rain during the week.

With a few absentees we drafted in the club's three top scorers, Will Taylor, Rayner and Big Jase. Left wing, left back and the bench probably weren't where they thought their goals would get them, but that's life. Even with the reshuffled pack we got off to a very good start and created a couple of half chances and generally controlled midfield. Winchmore Hill looked dangerous upfront though with a very clever centre forward and a quick, tricky winger who when he wasn't falling over in the area with no one near him was their main source of danger. His quick feet and the wet pitch meant a number of Merton defenders ending up on their backsides. From one such episode a good ball was played across the box and put in at the back post. The rest of the half was reasonably even but Angus was definitely the busier keeper and pulled off a couple of very good saves.

We regrouped at half time, bringing on Jase for the injured Woody, and worked out a plan to snuff out their danger. With this we started the second half strongly and soon equalised through a drilled, Will Taylor effort, from just inside the area. We had two or three more good changes and again generally looked good, containing their danger men. With 15 minutes to go we conceded a free kick, midway into our half, and their centre forward scored a very good header from the resulting delivery. This galvanised us again and driven forward by Al G, captain for the day, we pushed for the equaliser. We were denied a stone wall penalty as Ackers turned his man and was brought down and then as we pushed on, gaps were left and they scored a third with minutes to go.

The score line suggests we were well beaten by a promotion hopeful but the performance told a different story. So, lots of positives to take into next week and more proof that we're in the right league and just need a bit more luck.

TEAM: Angus (GK), Al G, Rat, Browner, Rayner, Will Low, Woody (Big Jase 44 (time he came on, not his age)), Van, Boshier, Ackers, Will Low. Subs: Big Jase



MERTON FC RESERVES



NO GAME

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OLD SALESIANS FC 3XI

1

1

MERTON FC 3XI

MAN OF THE MATCH:

ADAM WOODMANSEY

Last weeks 7-goal demolition of Southgate Olympic was always going to be a tough act to follow, and the 3s duly provided a battling 1-1 draw in Ewell by way of a comedown.

All 4 of the 2014/2015 Merton 3rd XI roster turned out for this one, leaving just 10 'guest' players to bring the matchday squad up to a season-high 14. Unfamiliarity was to be expected, and bearing this in mind Merton did well to weather the early storm from a fresh-faced Old Salesians team who knocked the £2 Sports Direct ball nicely across the enormous, largely grassless pitch. Crossbars were rattled, corners nodded over and chances snuffed out by some committed defending, but Smithy's goal remained unbreached. Then Merton got hold of the ball and started to look like the side that had scored at will 7 days ago.

The pressure grew until a nice move down the right saw Adam cut into the box, skip past a couple of limp challenges and fire the ball into the net. Surely Merton would now kick on and put the game away... or not. After the first of several questionable offside calls (more on that later) denied Liam a clear run in on the keeper, a counter attack the other way ended up with a crunching tackle in the Merton box, nowhere near the ball. Penalty awarded and duly dispatched to make it 1-1 going into the break.

If the first half was largely incident-free, the second was eminently forgettable. Merton were starved of the ball and defended tightly but had the referee to thank for waving away a couple of "marginal" penalty shouts on Darcy that were later described by the player himself as "stone wall".

No sooner had they been written, the thank you cards were ripped up by the Merton management as the referee robbed them of a late winner on a dodgy offside call. The ball was rolled into DQ up top, whose touch deserted him to such a degree that he missed it completely, leaving Adam to jog on to it unopposed from his own half and begin the long run in on goal. Just as he arrived at the box (about 5 minutes later) the whistle was blown for offside. The final whistle wasn't far behind and both sides trudged off happy to settle for a point apiece.

That's 4 points from 2 away games for Merton - always a welcome return. Thanks as always to those who answered the call to arms this week, notably Kev who played the Manuel Neuer sweeper-keeper role with aplomb and Chris Outred who repelled everything thrown at him down the left flank. Here's hoping these 2 games will herald a turnaround in our season as we move away from 'relegation dogfight' territory towards mid-table mediocrity.



ACTONIANS ASSOCIATION FC 5XI

8

2

MERTON FC 4XI

MAN OF THE MATCH:

DENYS ZHURBIY x 2

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Denys scored two good goals. Chappell made some brave stops, in a rather hopeless cause. Would rather not talk about the rest of the game. Embarrassing result.

Hmmm.....





BANK OF ENGLAND FC 5XI



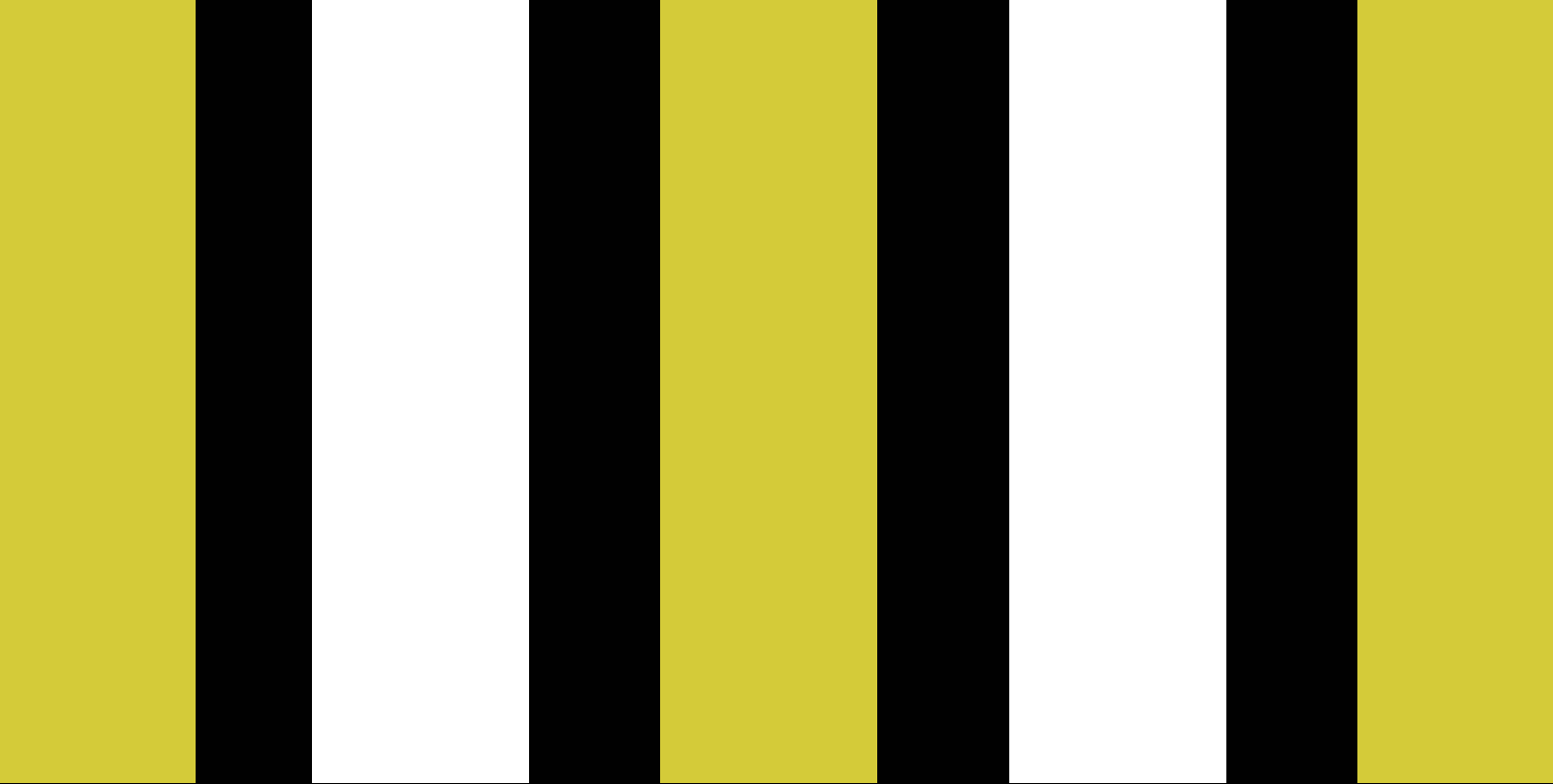
MERTON FC 6XI

MAN OF THE MATCH:

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Merton Football Club

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