Merton Football Club

Annual General Meeting

Review of the Year 2014/15

1. One of the most important factors in the past season has been the fact that we operated at a significant deficit. Len Freeman, our treasurer, has set out the financial issues and the reasons why we have ended the season with this significant deficit. This reflects the issues that have dominated the season.
2. In both sections of the club, adult and youth, we did not have enough members for the teams we were running and so we had a reduction of fees paid and additionally we unable to enforce our financial rules. We were able to fulfil our fixtures and uphold the reputation of the club and the rules of the SAL but often this was only achieved because of the sacrifices made by a great number of our members trekking across London to play for an unfamiliar team knowing they were going to lose and lose heavily. Very many thanks to those members and to Simon Clapperton and Mark Chappell who had the unenviable weekly task of juggling our players so that we could get the maximum number of matches played. We are addressing this issue in the short term with an aggressive recruitment campaign and in the long term with a youth section.
3. On the fields it was slightly disappointing with the 1s being relegated after a very promising start to the season but going down on goal difference. They played well and got through to a Cup Final but in the end they paid the penalty for a disappointing run after Christmas. I am confident that they are good enough to bounce back into the top division. The 2s finished a disappointing mid table, again there was a lack of players at certain times but in truth they did not have lot of luck in running. The 3s 4s and 5s all showed commendable spirit and battled to the end avoiding relegation. The 6s had some good results and were a great presence post match in the bar.
4. The three youth teams had mixed fortunes. The Under 8s had the most successful season but most of those players were scouted by bigger clubs and the manager has moved on. We will not be running anything lower than Under 10s in future. The U11s did well but our Under 12s struggled through lack of numbers but kept going to the end. We will be running five youth teams this coming season and the growth of this section is attribute to Steve Dewsbury for his drive and dedication.
5. Discipline was another issue. Overall it was better than last year but we had two bad incidents and both players involved have left the club. Dave Laughton is joining the Committee and taking over from Roger Asling (Dodge) and will carry on his good work.
6. Off the field on the social side we had some great events in the bar. A lot of work went into these events but they help cement our club together and raise important funds. Some of our best events were Quiz night, Cup Fina day, Awards night, Italian Night and some good Bbqs and bar sessions. Our bar is still one of the best in the SAL and a great asset. Thanks to the Kemps and Steve for all their hard work.

1. For next season the committee is already addressing the issues of concern. We have launched an aggressive recruitment campaign and there will be some strict financial control. We also need to refresh the Committee and will be proposing three new members for roles on the committee, Dave Laughton, Will Low and Ivan Gladkow. We also need to get more people involved in running the club and make sure the younger members get the opportunity to participate. We will continue to pusue The Morden Park project for a new ground but in the meantime make the most of what we have at The Hood.
2. I am extremely grateful to Mike Reed for his sterling work as Secretary of the Club over the past years and to all other committee members, managers, coaches and captains for all the work they have done.

Max Herbert (Chairman)