

THE MERTON WAY

MERTON FOOTBALL CLUB

ISSUE 1 – 24.07.2015



**KEEP
CALM
FOOTBALL SEASON
IS ALMOST
HERE**



ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

WE'RE BACK!!

AGM AND COMMITTEE

We have just had our AGM to sign off the accounts for last season and whilst that runs the curtain down on last season it heralds the start of a new season.

First of all we are addressing the issues that caused us such problems last season.

Membership – we did not have enough members for our six Adult teams so we are really trying hard to recruit new members. To help this we have held membership at £75 and match fees at £10. Fees must be paid by the end of August but should be paid as soon as possible and priority in friendly match selection will be given to paid up members and after August 31st non members will not be available for selection.

Additionally we have introduced an incentive for our existing members to introduce new members. If an existing member introduces an entirely new full member the two memberships will cost £100. (3 is £150 and so on).... this has to be done by the end of August.

We are also encouraging younger members with an Under-21 membership of £30 and a match fee of £5 per game.

We are trying very hard to maintain the Six Saturday teams in the SAL but we will of course have to review this in the light of the memberships paid up by the end of August (so **PLEASE** pay your membership NOW!!!).

The Managers and Captains for these teams will be announced shortly.

FINANCES

The lack of members in both the adult and Youth section was one of the major contributors to our overall operating deficit. We believe that addressing increased membership and larger squad sizes in the youth teams will improve this. We do not have the one off expenditure this year on the defibrillator and the web site (App £2k) and the adults have little new kit requirements. We are also looking hard at expenditure across the patch and have obtained a grant and sponsorship in the youth section of £2k over the next two years.

COMMITTEE AND THE YEAR AHEAD

We are welcoming three new members on to the Committee. David Laughton has rejoined the club as his two sons are involved in youth section (playing and reffing). David is a senior referee now and will take over from the Dodge as Chairman of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee. Last year our disciplinary record improved as did our important ratings for Hospitality and Sportsmanship.

As Dave knows there is plenty of room for improvement. Ivan 'Vanny' Gladkow has joined the Committee as he increases his involvement with the Club. Having completed his Level 1 Training Certificate he has helped the 1s and coached the Youth on Sundays. Will Low, one of our most experienced footballers in the 1s and a Sports administrator with the LTA is another welcome addition.



FROM TOP LEFT: David Laughton, **TOP RIGHT:** Ivan 'Vanny' Gladkow, **BOTTOM:** Will Low

CHALLENGE AHEAD – AMBITIONS AND OBJECTIVES

The 1s 2s and 3s are all in Division 2 of their respective sections. We use to be a nailed on Div 3 club but in recent years both 1s and 2s have been in Div 1 so this season promotion for any of these teams would be great. The 4s 5s and 6s need some new recruits to build on the strong camaraderie of last season in order to succeed in their divisions and not suffer the difficulties of last season. And Cup runs for all.

The Youth section each team to succeed, learn and improve with parents enjoying the social side of the club We need to have a strong financial year with enough members in all the sections to support the number of teams we are running. We have a great bar and we need some strong bar support with some functions for the whole club to get together. It would be good to move up the Hospitality and Sportsmanship table aswell.

YOUTH SECTION UPDATE

This coming season we will be running FIVE youth teams all playing in the Surrey Youth League. This is becoming quite an organisation and Steve Dewsbury is in overall charge of the section and fills the important role of Child Welfare Officer. Each of the Five teams from U10s to U14s has a qualified coach and manager in charge of the team.

Last year's very successful U8s and their coaches Marcello and Tony did not become our U9s but have moved on to other clubs. Howard Meredith, last season's U11s coach has also moved on. We are grateful for what they did at Merton FC and wish them success at their new clubs.

As our youth section expands so does the administrative burden and we are continually looking for parents to come forward and help. It is our objective to have a youth section with teams from U10 to U16 playing in the Surrey Youth League and ultimately transitioning to our adult side.

We charge a very competitive £180 for the full season for players in this section and we hope that these young players will graduate through the teams to play Saturday adult football in due course.

The teams we have are:

U10s Manager – Matt Sasseenthakumar (Just Matt) / Assistant – TBC

U11s Manager – John Head / Assistant – TBC

U12s Manager – Kevin Pankhurst / Assistant – TBC

U13s Manager – Steve Dewsbury / **Coach** – Darius Precsod-Lee

U14s Manager – Nick Hackett / Assistant – TBC

(There are still some slots available in the youth section particularly at U14 and U13 level).



TOP LEFT AND RIGHT: Our Under 10s, **BOTTOM:** Steve Dewsbury & Mackenzie

SUNDAY 19TH JULY

All Mertons five youth teams played matches down at St Catherines Sports Ground, Grand Drive against very strong Doverhouse FC teams. There were some slightly disappointing results but some good individual performances and the lads will know what they need to work on in training before the season gets underway in September. The U10s had the standout performance narrowly losing the final of the mini competition 1-0 after winning their semi final 2-1 but it was a great effort by all teams and Steve who organised it all.

GROUND – THE HOOD

All three pitches had a pounding last season and the weather has not been kind to them this summer. A big thanks to those who joined the working party a couple of Sundays ago to do some much needed divoting and seeding. We will need to do more of this work so eager volunteers are always welcome.

In order to give it time to recover we will not be using Pitch 2 until the season starts. However Pitch 1 will be marked up for the weekend of 15th August and we will use our mobile goals on this pitch until the council put up the permanent goals on Pitch 1 and 3 in mid-September.

FIXTURES

The League have informed us that for the 1s, 2s and 3s the season will commence on Saturday 5th September and for the 4s, 5s and 6s it will start on 12th September. This year all our teams will play in the AFA Cups and SAL Cups. We have not entered the Surrey F A Cups as we used to but the 1s and 2s will now play in a new SAL Cup. Additionally for lower divisions the season will start with a round-robin cup competition. This will involve our 6s before the season kicks in.

Friendly Schedule (see below)

EVENTS CALENDAR

Every Wednesday – Training at the Hood from 7pm

Saturday 8th August – Merton FC 1s & 2s v Polytechnic FC and Bank of England FC at The Hub in Mitcham

Saturday 15th/22nd/29th/5th Sept – Friendly matches at the Hood

Saturday 22nd August – Friendlies v Old Ruts with Membership Day and BBQ

Monday 31st August – All memberships must be paid

Saturday 5th September – SAL 1s, 2s and 3s League programme starts.

Sunday 6th September – Youth Section Induction Day at The Hood

Wednesday 9th September – Training switches to St. Marks Academy at Mitcham

Saturday 12th September – Full SAL programme of matches

Saturday 17th October (???) – Merton Way Quiz evening

5th or 12th December (TBC) – Christmas Party

20th December (TBC) – Youth section Christmas Party

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

