

THE MERTON WAY

The background of the page is an abstract composition of overlapping, curved geometric shapes. On the left, there are several dark grey and black shapes that resemble the segments of an umbrella. On the right, there are large, bright yellow shapes that also have a curved, segmented appearance, similar to the segments of a fan or another umbrella. The overall effect is a dynamic, layered pattern of light and shadow.

MERTON FOOTBALL CLUB ISSUE 3 – 17.09.2015

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

WE'RE UP AND RUNNING

The season is now fully under way and welcome to all our new members both in the adult section and the youth section.

With the season now started it is very important that all membership fees are fully paid up if you are intending to join up and play for us this season. Chasing money is no fun for anyone trying to run this club so please pay up as soon as you can. We need to know where we are.

The pitches down at the Hood while still showing signs of the battering they took at the end of last season have benefitted from the wet and warm weather and the seeding and filling that we did. It really was worthwhile.

Whilst we have now got the admin and finances of the footy season up and running we now need to get the football sorted. We have had a couple of good results 2s and 3s beating CEVs but otherwise it has been a little disappointing. None more so than the 5s opposition failing to turn up for the game at Common extensions last Saturday and failed to tell us. A lot of clubs are struggling to get lower teams out and I hope that this will not be repeated. This sort of thing seldom happens in the SAL. Apologies to all our players and the referee.

The youth section has four games down at the Hood on Sunday morning so pop down and see the future. As an experiment the bar is open for coffee and hot dogs and with the weather set fair it is a very nice outing.

We will be keeping the bar open for some of the Rugby World Cup games being played on Saturday evenings but we will also be organising some events before Christmas.

Max Herbert

GOALKEEPER COACHING

In the past few weeks a new member, Colin Brett, has been doing specialist Goalkeeper training with our keepers down at the Hood during Wednesday night training. Colin (inset pic) has also stepped in to show off his skills when the 2s were short of a keeper. He has also helped out with the youth section. It is really great to have Colin on board.



DISCIPLINE

Dear Players,

It gives me great pleasure to come back to Merton FC in my new role as 'Discipline Officer' and importantly be part of a fantastic family club. (My youngest son – Oliver is the Goalkeeper for our U10s).

I joined Merton FC as a player back in 2004 with 6th Team – 2005/6 Manager for 5s where we gained promotion as Champions – I recall this was a very special time for me and all players involved.

Since then I focused on refereeing and been very lucky to have officiated at many senior games within Amateur Football circuit and been blessed with appointments with FA on Vase and FA Cup matches as an Assistant Referee.

For me – refereeing has always been about the players and has allowed me to be involved with the game I love so. I am not saying job is easy – it takes patience and a great deal of discipline to succeed – though I believe that is the case in many aspects of life.

How can I help you – Players/Managers (Bread of Merton FC?)

1. By working together – Call Me if you need to discuss any incidents or have concerns about player/referee.
2. Captains – Make your appointed referee welcome by introducing yourself and asking if they need anything?
3. Captains – Act as true role model/leader on the pitch and work closely with referee to apply conduct and let referee deal with misconduct.
4. Players – Allow your captain to work with referee – no point everyone shouting – show respect and trust me you will get it back from referee.
5. Avoid silly bookings – 'Unsporting Behaviour' - these were largest volume of fines from 2014/15 season. "Walk away – dust yourself up and allow referee to handle the opposition player who has put you up in the air etc."
6. Smile – Smile – we all love the game and so do all officials.

How Will Fines be issued to players?

1. Discipline Officer will be notified by county – AFA through the Online System – Whole Game
2. Fine will be paid immediately to AFA via club.
3. Players – will be notified by email of the fine and breakdown of the incident and costs incurred – Captain & Manager will be cc'd in the email as well.
4. Players will have 14 days from email notification to make payment to Merton FC – details of payment will be shown on email.
5. Player **MUST** Notify 'Discipline Officer' that fine has been paid and by what method and when. (VERY IMPORTANT).
6. Discipline Officer will update Master Tracker Report.
7. Failure to make payment on time could lead to a suspension and should this be case player will be notified and Captain and Manager made fully aware.

How can you help?

Last season 2014/15 Merton FC was issued over 54 fines and 4 of these were for serious related incidents. As a result the club incurs additional penalties and costs when club exceeds different tiers of penalty points (costly to club).

I urge every player to think about how they behave and how they speak to Referee/s – can you improve? Do you think your behaviour is acceptable? Can you be an Ambassador for club and support Merton FC – to win 'Fair Play Award'?

Together I believe we can and will – thank you again for all your support – I am here to help and want to!

David Laughton (AFA Senior Referee/FA Coach/Discipline Officer)

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RAM'S HEADS UP!

(BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND OR YOU HAVE NO CHOICE IN THE MATTER!)



1. When a woman says 'WHAT?'
It's not because she didn't hear you. She's giving you a chance to change what you said.
2. If people winked in real life as much as they do in text messages, this world would be a creepy place.
3. Girls are superheroes! Who else could bleed for 5 days and not die?
4. I will never be over the hill... I am too darn lazy to climb it!
5. In today's world, my voicemail greeting will now say: "please hang up and text me".

EDITOR'S WORST KITS EVER

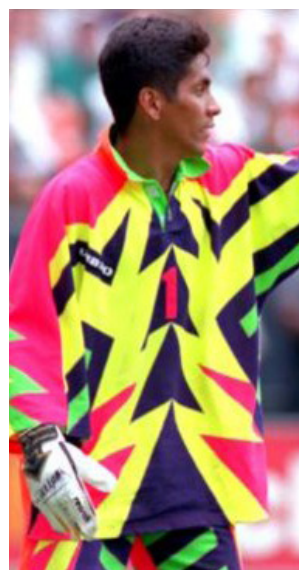
Mexico's amalgamation of the Home & Away Goalkeeping Jersey

As worn by: **Jorge Campos**

Jorge Francisco Campos Navarrete (nicknamed El Brody or Chiqui-Campos or El Chapulín) is a retired Mexican footballer, who played as a goalkeeper and striker.

A notable player of Mexico in the 1990s, Campos was an eccentric player, known for his constant play outside the penalty area, his acrobatic goal style, and his colorful play attire. His strength as a goalkeeper was his leaping ability and speed, which seem to enable him to overcome his relatively short height for a position that could use a height advantage. He was widely regarded as one of the best goalkeepers of his generation.

Campos also made for an effective striker, a rare example of versatility in football. At times, he would start a game in goal, and transfer upfield later in the match, mostly at the club level. His trademark, self-designed bright kits contributed to his popularity.



TV OF THE WEEK

Ray Donovan – Sky Atlantic ****

MATCH REPORTS – 12.09.15

1XIs

MERTON FC 0 v OLD PARKONIANS 4 (HT: 0-1)

This was always going to be a tough fixture and so it proved as our disappointing run continued. We battled well and although a very well organised Old Parks dominated first half possession in our sporadic attacks we created the two best chances but missed them. Old Parks had a wave of well directed corners but Tills won a good share of them.

Just before half time Old Parks measured pressure and passing and our failure to close down allowed one of their players the time and space to pick his spot and put them ahead. The rallying half time talk was undone when we conceded immediately after the break and that was that. A third goal from a good strike was tipped on to the bar by Sherbs but they reacted quickly to score from the rebound and a defensive slip gifted them the fourth.

With a few of our players missing we were always going to struggle but Old Parks looked very strong. They are well organised had some pace and width and looked like a side that will do very well in this division and could hold their own above. Tills captained our side in the absence of Clappers and lead from the front. He could not have done any more and the boys battled to the end.

TEAM: SHERBS (GK), JOE G, ALEX, RAT, BEN COOK, WILL LOW, TILLS (CAPT) ALEX G, CHARLIE, ACKERS, JASE T, CONNOR MURPHY, DQ



2XIs (05.09.15)

MERTON FC 3 v CROUCH END VAMPIRES 1

SCORERS: Denys Zhurbiy, Nick Papanastasiou, Darcy Yates

MOTM: Darcy Yates

They sound like an act on Later... with Jools Holland, but it was the sweet music of Femi Arogundade that Crouch End Vampires had to face as Joseph Hood hosted its first SAL game of the season. Richard Eggleston was ruled out injured an hour before kick-off, but was on hand to deliver his minute-by-minute report to the Team Handsome Whatsapp group. Here are a few choice excerpts, then, that tell the story of how the game unfolded:

14:56: Don't know all the names. Denys and Femi start up front. Good line-up though. Merton to win evens, Crouch End 3/1.

15:27: Wilgo spreads it wide to Femi. Lovely ball. Femi squares up his man. Beats him! Ball goes in to DENYSSSSS!!! 1-0 MERTON. Glancing header from the King of Kiev.

15:42: Femi sent down the line by Mustard. Beats one. Cuts inside. Shoots! Blocked! Lays it square to NICK PAPANASTASIOU ON THE FOLLOW-UP. 2-0.

15:45: [From Liam Stevens] Mustard proving to be garlic for those poor Vampires.

16:03: Vampires play it out of defence. Oh that's sloppy! Ryan Gresty beats two men to the ball and sprints down the wing. Lovely chipped cross. It's Femi! Takes it down beautifully with his first touch. Pulls it back with his second. TO DARCY!! 3-0 Merton! Lovely, lovely goal.

16:07: [From Liam Stevens] Merton [are] like a stake through their hearts.

Vampires notched a consolation thanks to a late penalty, but never looked a serious threat to a defence with Paul Pearce – making a welcome return after a season away – and Vinni bossing it at its centre. Good to see a debut notch from Nick P. Denys was truly a menace up top. Gresty and Neal Davison a quality combo on the right. Femi rightly man of the match. Taylor Swift and One Direction the winning post-match soundtrack – as ever.

LINE-UP: KIERAN LEE (GK); NEAL DAVISON, PAUL PEARCE, VIN DI MATTEO, MIKE REED, CHRIS PAPANASTASIOU (SIMON WHITE), GRAHAM WILLGOSS (C) (LIAM ANGEL), DARCY YATES, RYAN GREY, FEMI AROGUNDADE, DENYS ZHURBIY (NICK PAPANASTASIOU)

CROUCH END VAMPIRES 2 v MERTON FC 3

SCORERS: Darcy Yates x 2, Denys

MOTM: Darcy Yates

With just two survivors from the team that lost 4-3 on the same ground last season, the new look Merton 3's kicked off their season to the steady thrum of the North Circular at Crouch End. In a surprise turn of events, the referee for the day appeared to be Jeremy "Jez" Corbyn, which was very good of him considering he'd won the Labour leadership only a few hours beforehand.

Whilst a new team (of mostly old players), it was a case of history repeating itself as traffic issues meant that Merton only succeeded in reaching the requisite 11 players a few moments before kick-off. That said, this approach removed any selection dilemmas, and the trusty 4-4-2 was called upon after some brief discussion, and accompanied by a hurried team talk, complete with all the standard advice any self-respecting football club should be covering. Having duly agreed to "keep it tight", "take no risks in our defensive third" and "put fullbacks on the posts at corners", Merton were ready to go.

On an uneven, bobbly, and narrow pitch the game took a while to come to life, but Merton eventually found their feet first and began to exert some sustained pressure on the Vampire's goal. After a couple of wasteful set pieces, Merton took a deserved lead after 15 minutes; following some good work to win the ball back in midfield, the ball was passed in to Dan, who turned away from one defender, before shielding the ball from another. There didn't look to be much danger at this point, but an on-rushing Darcy cleverly shouted for the ball, took it off Dan's toes and left the covering defenders for dead who were still trying to work out where the ball had gone. Darcy drew the keeper and slotted in (slightly bobbly) via the far post. 1-0.

Crouch End responded well with a spell of pressure of their own, forcing Artur into a couple of relatively comfortable saves, but having soaked this up Merton went straight back up the other end and added a second. This time, after some pinball in the opposition box, the marauding Tony at right-back ran on the ball from the corner of the 18 yard box and arrowed a shot goalwards. The keeper managed to save, but Darcy was on-hand again to hook the ball home from a very narrow angle. The opposition appealed to Jez that the ball had already gone out of play, despite the impossibility of being able to score from behind the goal, but Jez was having none of it. 2-0.

Again, Crouch End responded, and on the brink of half time created their best move of the match, with a dipping 20 yard volley brilliantly tipped over the ball by Arturs. 2-0 at half time.

With a half time team talk that consisted of agreeing to do the same again, Merton started the second half brightly. In a collector's item moment of creative flair, Dan played Nick in with a perfectly weighted through ball off the outside of his right foot (a proper Fifa R1 through-ball move) and we looked set for 3-0 as Nick bore down on the keeper. Everyone waited for the goal to come, but unfortunately as Nick also waited for the keeper to commit, a Crouch End defender made a stunning recovery tackle to steal the ball away just as Nick was about to strike.

This looked like it could be a pivotal moment, as Crouch End took advantage of this reprieve to get themselves back in it. With Neil off for Riccardo, the midfield lost their shape and Crouch End began to dominate. The goal came via a penalty; the tricky Crouch End no. 10 drawing a foul inside the box, and the resulting penalty emphatically dispatched, not once, but twice after Jez spotted some frankly blatant encroaching by 4 or 5 players. Nothing got past this man.

2-1 quickly became 2-2, via another set piece. This time a free kick; curled around the wall and into the bottom corner from 20 yards. Crouch End sensed victory.

Almost of nowhere however, Merton rallied. Without a lead to protect any longer, Merton came back into the game somewhat, and it was Darcy this time that turned creator, running on to a channel ball towards the corner flag, and tricking his way past the covering defender on the byline. He got his head up and picked out Denys at the back post for an easy tap-in. Crouch End screamed in vain for offside, but once again Jez was not to be swayed, even ruling out an offside Crouch End "equaliser" a few minutes later for good measure. That proved to be the only further alarm though, as Merton successfully saw out the remainder of the game. "World-class" was even mentioned as Mike Reed expertly headed clear a long ball for the umpteenth time during this period.

So, three points a deserved reward for a gritty performance on a tough, narrow pitch. Darcy Yates was man of the match for his two goals and an assist, but special mention should also go to Arturs who made a couple of fantastic saves, and also the centre-back pairing of Mike Reed and John Stones (managed to keep him away from Chelsea by promising him better meals at the Hood) who by and large dealt with everything thrown, kicked, or indeed hooped their way.

4XIs

POLYTECHNIC 4 v MERTON FC 1

SCORER: Arnold Collier

MOTM: Sam Singer-Ripley

The first game of the 2015/16 season saw a new look 4th XI travel to Chiswick with Polytechnic 5s the hosts. Following last week's performance, consistency in availability was vital. The only changes were John Gridley, Chris Dodd and Dan Plaistow coming in to replace Glen Porter (work), Ricardo Iglesias (3s) and Kevin Medina (5s).



With most players jumping up two leagues from last season, we knew that we were going to have a difficult time out on the field but we were buoyed by the great performance that everybody gave last week. If we managed to start how we left of last week then the hosts were in for a tough day.

We were on the back foot from the start, some sloppy passing along with players not tracking their runners allowed Poly to dominate possession. They had pace on each flank which they used to their advantage, with the majority of the time causing our full backs (one of them being me!) problems all game. We managed to keep them until ten minutes before the break. A corner from the left wasn't cleared properly and following some pinball in the box the ball was blasted into the roof of the net. 1- 0 to the home side going into the break.

The team talk during the five minute break was one of many works with everyone chipping in with improvements that needed to be made. Changes were made; Aaron came back on to replace Chris Dodd and Arnold replaced Ryan. These changing didn't really change much, neither did the team talk!

A sloppy free-kick was given away on the left ten minutes into the second period. More concerned about ensuring a tight line is kept, I allowed their number eleven an easy header that Sam could do nothing about. 2 – 0 and we were being dominated at the point when the second goal was conceded and this allowed Poly to add to their tally. Sam did well to parry a shot following a break down the left only for their number 11 to bag his second by smashing the rebound into the bottom left. 3 – 0.

With just under thirty minutes left to go at the moment the third goal went in, we knew that there was still enough time to get back in the game. It was going to be tough but there was still a chance. With each and every one of us encouraging each other we were able to get into the game and dominate for fifteen minutes or so. During this time we reduced the deficit. Great hustling by Dan Plaistow on the right allowed Dom possession to free the ball to Dulanie on the left. A ground pass found Arnold, who under pressure, found the back of the net. A great team goal and I would say the best of the game. Not that I am biased!

We were putting more and more pressure on the opposition and pushing players up at every opportunity that we had. This backfired as they caught us on the counter to add another to their tally. 4-1 is how it finished.

Even though the score line doesn't suggest it, Sam put in a Man of the Match performance between the sticks. Great distribution and playing the sweeper keeper role in a way that even Manuel Neuer would be proud of.

Obviously there are a number of things that we need to improve on however many positives to take from the second half performance. Next week we host Weirside Ranger at Joseph Hood where hopefully the end result is three points that will kick-start are season.

LINE-UP: SAMUEL SINGER-RIPLEY (GK), JOHN GRIDLEY, CHRIS OUTRED, JOE PLUMRIDGE, EDWARD PLAISTOW, RYAN BURCHELL (ARNOLD COLLIER), AARON ACKERMAN (CHRIS DODD), DAN GRIDLEY, DULANIE RICHARDS, DOM PLUMRIDGE, DAN PLAISTOW

6XIs

MERTON FC 0 v OLD WILSONIANS 3 (ISEH CUP)

MOTM: Sam Buckley

The 6s started off their season with a disappointing defeat in the new ISEH League formatted cup competition, but the scoreline doesn't do justice to the game.

With many of the 6s squad having not played together before, and with a couple making their season debuts, it was always going to be a tough ask for the s to hit the ground running. But the 1st half was largely dominated by Merton, and but for a couple of fantastic saves from Wilsonians' keeper to deny Ram Mahbubani and Matt Haswell – as well as a thumping shot that hit the bar from new boy George – the 6s should really have gone into the break with an advantage. Sadly it wasn't to be and in this game you need to score when youre on top. 0-0 it was at the break

Inspirational words from Steve at half time, and a few changes in personnel had the desired effect... for Wilsonians that is... A bit of confusion (lets call it that) left the Wilsonians' forward with a free head from a free kick (likely given away by Kev) to make it 1-0. Merton pressed and pressed, and I think we can be honest enough to say we had sufficient chances to get back on terms – clinical we are not, criminal perhaps...! Wilsonians then scored twice more when we pushed a little to hard going forward and lacked the fitness to keep the shape at the back.

Lots of positives to take from the game that said, and at least we can say we are still unbeaten in the league. Impressive debut from Sam in goal, and given he did little wrong he deserves the MOM award

**LINE-UP: SAM ELLIOT (GK), HARRY HARE , DARREN AVEY, MARK CHAPPELL
KEVIN LOCKE, STEVE BURCHELL, GEORGE HALL (RAM MAHBUBANI), JAMIE BUCKLEY, MARVIN
(ADAM PRIOR), DAN ALLY, MATT HASWELL, DAN PLAISTOW**



YOUTH SECTION

The youth section's season is now well underway. It really started on 6th September with a couple of friendly matches and the 'Induction Day'. This is an important part of the Charter Standard award process where the players and parents are told of their responsibilities in youth football about the code of conduct and Respect. Surrey County FA brought their Respect Roadshow to Merton FC with a quiz and handouts.

We also gave out all the kit to the players. It was a well organised event and consequently a great day.

Thanks to Steve and Dave Laughton for all the work they and their families put in.

SUNDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

Another big day down at The Hood with all our youth teams at home. The results were as ever mixed but everyone seemed to enjoy the day with the weather favourable. The rain in the past weeks has helped the pitches which were all in great shape.

The U10s had a great win against Raynes Park 6-3 and showed a lot of talent and the benefit of all the work Matt has put in with the lads in the summer. The U11s showed great spirit but were up against very tough opposition in the very strong Doverhouse. Whilst they lost 7-3 they played some cracking football and with John guiding them they should have a good season.

The U12s put up a really good performance to draw 2-2 with Sheen Lions and the U13s lost 4-3 to Moormead but put up a good show with a man short and the oppo's keeper the clear Man of the Match.

The U14s lost heavily to Kew Park but battled to the end. They had a lot of new players and showed the fighting qualities that they will need.

That is the Merton way!



U11s v Doverhouse



U13s v Moormead



U12s v Sheen Lions



U10s v Raynes Park



U10s v Raynes Park



U14s v Kew Park

U10s

MERTON FC 6 v RAYNES PARK 3

U10s lined up to play their very first match together and on what was a great pitch and a fantastic turn out from parents.

Team really worked well under Matt's (Coach) leadership and all encouragement from mums and dads.

Overall, football was the clear winner here on this day!

Well done to every player on pitch – Home & Away teams

David Laughton
Parent of Oliver Laughton (Merton Goalkeeper)





MERTON FOOTBALL CLUB

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