

# THE MERTON WAY

MERTON FOOTBALL CLUB ISSUE 5 – 15.10.2015





## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

# I'M BUYING NO ARGUMENTS

Last Saturday's results (10/10/15) were better and the Youth section had a really good Sunday. There are two people in the club who have worked tirelessly to get the club to where we are. They are Simon Clapperton and Steve Dewsbury.

Clappers has been the driving force behind our adult recruitment and team selection all through the Summer and now, organising training on Wednesdays aswell. He also manages the firsts and they have not got the points that they deserve but have been playing some good stuff. I am sure it will come. He has done a fantastic job and is carrying a nasty injury all the time which we are hoping will soon be sorted.

Steve Dewsbury has been the driving force behind the Youth section. He has organised recruitment of managers and players, training and trials, collection of subs, registration and also helps us out down at the Hood on Saturdays.

I am deeply grateful to both these guys for all the hard work they have put in and to all the managers and players for the support they give them. If I see either of these guys down the club I am going to buy them a drink very soon.

**Max Herbert**

## **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)**

m: 07984 152070

e: mertonfcdiscipline@gmail.com



# RAM'S HEADS UP!

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



1. It's not you, it's me finally realising you're terrible for me.
2. The only reason women are crazy is because men do stupid things to make us go crazy.  
No stupidity = no craziness
3. A relationship is like a workshop....where the man works and the woman shops
4. She said she wanted an 'open' relationship, so I pushed her out of an 'open' window. The service will be an 'open' casket followed by an 'open' bar.
5. Me, a morning person? Pfft. Most days I'm not even an afternoon person.

## EDITOR'S WORST KITS EVER

### Norwich City's Home Kit: 1992

As worn by: **Jeremy Goss**

Manufacturer: **Ribero**

Sponsor: **Norwich and**

**Peterborough Building Society**

Much like the Hull City tiger strip, this has been the subject of intense debate. Is it actually brilliant? It's almost artistic - and it brings back memories of Jeremy Goss and Chris Sutton at their imperious best. Unfortunately, once someone informs you that it really does look quite a lot like vomit, you can never really get that thought out of your head.



## TV OF THE WEEK

Impractical Jokers – Comedy Central \*\*\*\*



# MATCH REPORTS – 03.10.15

## 1XIs

### OLD ESTHAMEIANS 2 v MERTON FC 2 (HT: 1-0)

#### SCORERS:

#### MOTM:

This was quite a road trip for me as i had to leave just before eleven and go via Harlow to pick up Son and Heir to keep goal. Old Es is never an easy place to get to and best not to go via Harlow. Old Es are now playing at the Ford Sports Ground in Ilford and it is a very nice place too, with good pitches and a comfortable bar and the chicken nuggets and chips were fine.

The 1s have made a poor start to the season with a string of undeserved defeats. But I was very proud of the boys today. We had the full 14 players and we were all there on time being well drilled and organised on and off the field by Clappers.

We were kicking up a not inconsiderable slope in the first half We settled well and quickly mounted attacks but early on Old Es were dangerous but we seemed to have the measure of them and had created some good chances. As now seems to be the pattern of the last few weeks it was Old Es who hit the post and went ahead with a good cross and header .

We continued in menacing fashion and created and missed a hatful of chances. When we were on target their keeper pulled off an incredible block save from an Al G's header (HT 1-0).

In the second half the game was played mainly in their half. Too much so in fact as we seemed to stay in their half when they broke up field and made it an extraordinary 2-0. For all the good it had done us we continued to dominate with Vanny and Kearnsey creating chances from the wing with good crosses but we just could not finish it off.

Just when I had decided it was not to be, Al G rifled home when they failed to properly deal with a cross. Then Vanny made it 2-2. It continued to be one way traffic with the odd break away but it ended 2-2. It was a good comeback if not quite complete.

For the first time this season a lot of our regulars were back in the line up and we had Clappers, Tills and Woody on the bench. Old Es had won both their previous games and must have been disappointed not to win as they had led 2-0 with 25 mins to go.

The ref was excellent explaining his decisions being consistent and getting enough right. He also had to listen to the most amazing whingeing by the oppo. I thought we were bad but Old Es have cornered that market. So it is our first points on the board onwards and upwards. That is an achievement and with Ilford almost diagonally opposite Wimbledon, I was able to drive all the way round the M25. Back to the clubhouse to watch England go out of the World Cup, but its only rugby.

**TEAM: SHERBS (GK) KEARNSEY, WEASEL, COOKY, RAT, LIAM STEVENS, WILL LOW, AL G, VANNY, ACKERS, TOM ROWE, SUBS: TILLS, WOODY, CLAPPERS**

### MERTON FC 1 v CIVIL SERVICE 3

**SCORERS:** Nick

**MOTM:** Nick, with honourable mentions to Ryan (we rather fell apart without him) and Mustard for stepping up and taking the gloves.

Not a good day. A late no-show from our keeper saw Mustard step up manfully and take the gloves and John Cutts make a late dash to North East London (well, frankly Essex) to bring us to a full squad of 14.

#### THE GOOD

The first half saw Merton defend robustly and keep Old Parks at bay, albeit without having too much of the ball. Ryan shielded the back 4 expertly in a holding midfield role, and Mustard effectively played sweeper-keeper in behind, making some timely interceptions. Joel and Vin were contained the Parks strikers well. Going forward, Nick P looked dangerous when on the ball in space, and was having some joy down the right flank. Seb had a chance from the corner of the box after nice work from a throw in but his cross-eluded both the bottom corner and the onrushing Nick. Denys was battling hard for knockdowns and had a couple of half chances. Dan flicked on a free kick past the far post, again neither quite a cross or a shot. Approaching half time, Merton took the lead, rolling substitute Chris P nudging the goalkeeper (who had run miles out of goal for some reason) off the ball, which fell to Nick to lift over the stranded keeper from fully 35-40 yards with a delightful finish. Merton withstood a late first half rally to go in at half time 1-0 up and were feeling pretty good about things.

#### THE BAD

Merton could have got a dream start when Dan intercepted a pass from the keeper to the fullback just a few minutes, but in two minds whether to shoot or pass to the screaming Darcy, instead passed to an opposition defender. **Fail!**

The second half saw Merton under increasing pressure. With the team reshuffled with Ryan off injured, we lost our shape somewhat and were guilty of having too many men piling forward and not tracking back. On top of this the ref, who to be fair had a decent first half, suddenly decided after one too many robust Denys tackles, that "enough was enough" and the game became non-contact, which served to frustrate Merton further. As the pressure built, Joel and Vin were increasingly exposed, and the pressure told with Merton giving away a soft penalty near the touchline. Mustard very nearly made a fantastic save but couldn't quite do enough. 1-1. Very quickly, it was 2-1 as a cross from a (short?) corner found its way along the floor almost along the goal line without meeting a clearance, and was smashed in at the back post. Merton made some changes to try and get back in the game, but unfortunately a miskicked goal kick saw Old Parks one on one and resulted in another goal. 1-0 to 1-3 in less than 10 minutes.

#### THE UGLY

At 3-1, it looked like an uphill battle. Things quickly got worse. Riccardo reacted to a ridiculous challenge (studs around his shoulder/face) with a couple of jabs to the opposition player and was sent off, no complaints there. However, in switching to a 3-5-1 to chase the game, Merton unravelled and turned a 3-1 defeat into a 5-1 hammering. Poor passing, lack of fitness combined with not showing for the ball all led to a horribly exposed back 3, and Old Parks took full advantage, scoring a couple of goals that to be honest were rather embarrassing to concede.

#### THE VERDICT

It was a very disappointing end to a game that had such promise in the first half, but hopefully will be remembered by all concerned to ensure it does not happen again this season. We need to build on the positives from the first half, continue work on our fitness, and fight to the end. If we can do this, we can do well this season.



### MERTON FC 1 v HSBC 2

**SCORERS:** OG

**MOTM:** Jake Hewitt

HSBC 5s were the visitors to Joseph Hood in a week where three points were vital to kick-start our league campaign. Only one point out of a possible nine going into the game explains how important it was that we claimed the points and not the opposition.

With Sam picked up a double wrist injury while playing for his School team, it was down to Chris Outred to step in between the sticks. Joe and Glen made up the centre back partnership with Chris Dodd playing the holding role to give support to the midfield but also provide that extra cover at the back. Dan Plaistow came in for Ryan on the right of midfield with Dulanie once again starting on the left leaving Dom and the lone striker.

We lost Michael and Joe pretty early on so Jake came into the middle of the park to partner Dan Gridley with John reverting to centre park and Ryan coming on to replace him at right full back. It was an even contest for the first 20 minutes of the half. Both teams playing some good football with HSBC maybe shading it.... just. The second quarter was when the opposition stepped up a gear, getting a head to every goal kick that Chris took making the defence work to clean up constantly. 10 minutes before the break was when we found ourselves go behind, albeit controversially, Manny (of all people and who has been in every single HSBC team that I have come up against during my time with Merton) managed to beat the offside trap according to the ref and side foot the ball past Chris to his bottom left. 1-0 to the visitors at the break.

A few changes were made for the start of the second period. The defence stayed the same however Dulanie and Dan Plaistow pushed up to support Dom up top as he was getting no support. The formation change seemed to work with some good possession however the end product seemed to let us down. We did manage to equalise fifteen minutes after the restart through and own goal. Dulanie chased what seemed to be a dead ball however he managed to keep it in a deliver a ball into the box. With Dom waiting in anticipation, the only thing that the HSBC defender could do was head it into the back of his own net.

The game progressed steadily with a few penalty shouts not going the way they should have. With our midfield and attacking three failing to track back and support when the visitors were on the offensive, it was left down to the defence to try and keep them at bay. It was only a matter of time however before HSBC did managed to find what was eventually the winner. Manny, unchallenged, managed to find the smallest gap between the defence to fire into the bottom left again.

Apart from a disallowed goal after Manny had kicked the ball out of Chris's hands (he swore blind that he didn't) there was nothing exciting to mention with the game finishing 2-1 to the visitors to condemn us to a third defeat in four games and still looking for our first win.

Next week we travel to East Molesey to face Old Tiffinians in the First Round of the AFA Cup. Let hope our cup run is better than our league run or current!

**TEAM: CHRIS OUTRED (GK), JOHN GRIDLEY, GLEN PORTER, JOE PLUMRIDGE (RYAN BURCHELL), EDWARD PLAISTOW, CHRIS DODD, DAN PLAISTOW, DAN GRIDLEY, MICHAEL ELGAR (JAKE HEWITT), DULANIE RICHARDS, DOM PLUMRIDGE.**

### MERTON FC 1 v CIVIL SERVICE 3

**SCORERS:** Mark Chappell

**MOTM:** Mark Chappell

After some shuffling about of players between the 5's and 6's we finally managed to agree a last minute switch of Marvin Redmond from the 5's to the 6's to start with 11 and two subs on the way stuck in traffic. It was also new guy Pete's first game against his old club.

After neither teams really taking a grip of the game, it was fairly open without there being any clear cut opportunities. Dharmesh made a couple of saves and tipped a shot bound for the top corner over the post. Matt Haswell's early freekick cleared the wall but didn't drop quick enough to be a threat and Kyle Smith's shot from distance was tipped round the post by the keeper. About half hour into the first half one of the Civil Service players went down with suspected knee ligament damage causing a delay of about 5-10 mins. Shortly after the restart we were caught napping and a quick one-two left the striker one on one with Dharmesh and slotted the ball into the net.

At half time new players John and Paul replaced George and Kyle giving us a much needed boost of energy. Paul created well down the right causing the Civil Service right back a lot of problems. Merton pressed well creating a few good chances, most notably Martin Quinlan bombing down the left hitting a well struck volley, which was equally well saved by the keeper. With about 15 mins left, Merton were caught on the break again resulting in us going 2-0 down. After a quick restart we got a freekick in a promising position just outside the box. Up steps Mark Chappell, the ball went up and over the wall, missing Dave's head by mere millimeters and bounced in the bottom corner untouched by anyone. 2-1 with 10 to go, game on.

As Merton pressed for the equaliser Civil countered on the break again, Dharmesh got a good hand to the ball as Mark chased the striker down, sliding in to prevent the goal, unfortunately missing and to add unsult to injur he collided with the post. The post came away unscathed, but left Mark with a good sized hole in his shin.

**TEAM: DHARMESH (GK), MATT HASWELL, MARTIN QUINLAN, MARK CHAPPELL, DARREN AVEY, GEORGE HALL, RAM MAHBUBANI, MARVIN REDMOND, DAVE, KYLE SMITH, PETE**  
**SUBS: JOHN KATANDIKA, PAUL ONOMOR.**



# MATCH REPORTS – 10.10.15

## 4XIs

### OLD TIFFINIANS 1 v MERTON FC 3

**SCORERS:** Dulanie Richards, Chris Dodd (pen), Kelvin Aboidyn

**MOTM:** Chris Dodd

After a sluggish start to the league campaign, with just a solitary point to show for our opening four games, it was onto the welcome distraction of the AFA Cup. Old Tiffinians (OT) 3s were the opponents, and given their relatively lowly status in the 8th Division of the Amateur Football Combination, the opportunity for a morale-boosting first win of the season beckoned.

Nevertheless, Merton were never going to fall foul to complacency, and especially given the absence of key players, we knew a good performance would be the order of the day. Grist's Memorial Ground in Hampton Court was the setting, and, mercifully, the overcast skies offered mild temperatures - a relief given the searing heat of the previous two weeks. A slight breeze fluttered in from the West, but all in all, perfect conditions set the stage for what turned out to be an enthralling contest.

Sam was back in goal after a wrist injury, while the experienced trio of Steve Burchell, John Gridley and Ed Plaistow headlined the defence. Chris Dodd and Glen were tasked with keeping things tidy in the centre of midfield, while skipper Chris Outred and Burchell junior (Ryan) were to bring pace and guile on the wings. Top scorer Dulanie led the line with Kyle Smith in behind; Kelvin was there to offer fresh legs from the bench too.

And so to the kick-off, and the early exchanges were fairly cagey from both sides. As if to feel each other out, neither side committed many men forward, and chances were few and far between. 10 minutes in, and OT began to venture up the field a bit more, and perhaps looked the more likely. The defence largely had the measure of their attacks, but were ultimately being penned in their half.

The call for composure then came, and suddenly there was a series of moves strung together by the men in yellow. True as bob, the momentum began to shift, and we came into the game. The breakthrough, however, required some inspiration. John received the ball deep in our half, and went on a rampaging run. One, two and then three men in purple were left in his dust, as he surged forward. Having nearly reached the opposing box, he slipped a delightful ball in to Dulanie, who smashed home the finish emphatically. The onion bag was rattled, joy broke out - 1-0 Merton after 20 minutes.

Riding the wave, the good passages of play continued, and there were a couple of half chances. But once again, the hosts wouldn't go away, and the equaliser was to come 15 minutes before the half time whistle. A good move up the left wing centred around their pacey number 7, and he, in turn, released their left-footed striker. The defence was turned, and from 20 yards out, he unleashed a screamer of a shot. Sam got a glove on it, but there was no stopping the projectile as it snuck into the top-right corner. 1-1 and OT celebrated.

Our heads didn't drop, but crucially, the goal lifted OT to another level. Wave after wave of attack followed, as the home side passed the ball around at will. We were being pushed deeper and deeper into our own half, and OT began to carve out a series of chances.

Yet while the momentum of the game had well and truly swung, there was to be good chance for the us too. A clearance was well picked up in midfield, and a superb through ball had the opposing keeper at sixes and sevens. Dulanie picked it up, and, one on one with the keeper, looked a sure bet to put it away. Cruelly, though, the ball bobbled at the moment critique, and the shot went agonisingly high and wide.

In truth, it would have been rather against the run of play though, and the remainder of the opening period was all OT. Amid the carnage, they rattled the bar and missed another glorious opportunity themselves to take the lead.

Needless to say, the whistle for half time offered sweet relief, and, knowing the wind would be at their backs for the second stanza, our chat at half time was all positive.

But again, we were unable to assert ourselves on the match when play resumed, and the ball kept coming

back into our half. Five minutes in, and OT were presented with yet another gilt-edged chance to go in front, but sent it flying high above the bar.

It was one of numerous lucky escapes we encountered in a 15-minute period where we were under the cosh. A looping header hit the post, and each of their strikers sent close-range efforts high and wide when they ought to have scored.

Our grip on parity was becoming increasingly precarious, and other than a fine effort from Glen which hit the woodwork, we offered little going forward. Hearts skipped a beat too as the mercurial Dulanie limped off the field with 25 to go.

But his welcome return 10 minutes later marked a distinct shift in the game. True, OT continued to boss possession, and had large swathes of territory. But our defence seemed to get the measure of them, and began to snuff out their attacking moves with some authority. Our opponents were getting ball to feet, but looked bereft of options as a tide of yellow began to build.

The talking was better, the introduction of Kelvin offered some vital fresh legs, and Dulanie's impressive chasing down of long balls upfront gave everyone a lift. Slowly, we began to cause the home side problems of their own. Perhaps conscious of the fact that they'd squandered so many good opportunities earlier, a hint of panic visibly engulfed OT.

As such, there was an air of inevitability about our second goal; albeit in controversial fashion. The referee had earlier blown a tough call for handball on Steve (just outside the box), and, as if to reciprocate, pointed to the spot when an OT defender's clearance struck the barely-outstretched hand of his teammate with extra time looming.

Protests understandably ensued from the aghast home side. Less understandable though was a truly bizarre three-minute spell where the referee marched up and down the goal line, apparently to measure out where the penalty spot should be. It provided amusement for the bewildered players, but for Doddsy (Chris Dodd), it was an uncalled-for delay ahead of a crucial spot kick. Yet when the time (eventually) came, he made absolutely no mistake, blasting it high into the net with aplomb - the hapless keeper nowhere near it. 10 out of 11 from the spot that makes it for Chris, and 2-1 to Merton it was. Unbridled joy, and with 10 minutes to go, the spectre of extra time, or worse still, defeat, had ebbed away.

Heads were straight back on at the resumption, as we looked to close the game out clinically. The hosts had had the wind taken from their sails, and any pressure they built up was being absorbed by a disciplined Merton side, who were really playing for each other with victory now in sight.

The decisive goal though, was artful. Ryan made a typically determined run up the right wing, and did well to hear the booming call from Scholesy (Ed Plaistow), who'd found himself in acres of space on the other flank. The crossfield ball was right on the money, and Ed took it up the field superbly. The shot that followed was a good one, although the keeper parried it away. However, at the ready to dispatch the rebound was the tireless Kelvin, who poked home from close range - just reward for a fine performance as an impact sub, and one that sent us into raptures. 3-1 it was, with the game now all but done and dusted.

The final whistle followed less than two minutes later, and the mighty 4s marched off the park in an excited buzz. Handshakes, hugs and high fives were traded, everyone to a man thrilled and relieved to have got the first win on the board; especially in light of a performance in which we had genuinely punched above our weight.

Next up is Old Lyonians in the ISEH Cup, and the team will have every reason to feel confident that this result can be a springboard to a good season.

**TEAM: SAM SINGER-RIPLEY (GK), JOHN GRIDLEY, MIKE TODT, STEVE BURCHELL, EDWARD PLAISTOW, CHRIS DODD, RYAN BURCHELL, GLEN PORTER, CHRIS OUTRED, KYLE SMITH (KELVIN ABOIDYN), DULANIE RICHARDS.**



## 6XIs

### OLD BLUES 2 v MERTON FC 0 (HT: 1-0)

#### SCORER:

**MOTM:** Colin Locke

It was a bright and warm autumn day and most of the squad arrived in plenty of time before the start of the game. Some might say that Dan and Darren camped the night there as they were so early, others might say it was to polish off the youth teams BBQ.

Once the team was changed, it was down to the 5 minute quick stretch and warm up routine and we were ready to start.

Smithy gave the team talk and told the team to enjoy the game and try to keep it tight for the first half hour. So now to the game, Merton settled into the game quicker (for once!) and was playing some nice football from the back to the front. Colin and Simon worked well down the right and numerous dangerous crosses were put in the Old Blues box. Then with roughly 20 minutes gone, came Merton's best chance. A corner came in and Chappell headed the ball against the bar, then Dan headed the rebound against the bar again and with the bouncing a yard before the goal line, Simon then managed to miss an open goal and hit the post. The beans on toast and wine bar were still rattling minutes after and Merton and their 3 supporters were left in shock as to how we were not 1-0 up.

Unfortunately, that was the best chance of the half for Merton barring some long range efforts.

Shortly before the break, disaster struck and the rub of the green definitely was not with Merton. A very dubious free kick was given away, whereby the Old Blues players kicked the boot of Simon and instead of the free kick given to Merton and from no protest of the opposition, the ref gave the free kick to Old Blues. After a brief protest Merton set up the wall and focused on defending. The Old Blues player then struck the free kick which was defended well by the wall, but the ball spun to the only attacking player in the box who then shined in to the only place he could have scored in the bottom corner.

At half-time Merton were feeling hard done by, the senior members of the team tried to install confidence again.

The second half did not start to well with Old Blues putting a bit of pressure on and started strongly with Merton helping out by giving silly free kicks away, however Old Blues didn't really threaten the goal and Martin had little to do apart from goal kicks.

Merton did have the ball in the net but Pete may have been slightly offside following in Matt's effort from the penalty spot after some great approach play by Merton.

With Merton pushing for an equaliser, Old Blues struck again with a goal that was out the top drawer. With Martin slightly off his line, the Old Blues player looked up and chipped the ball from all of 30 yards into the back of the net. By the looks of his celebration, he was as stunned as we were!

With the ref stopping the game for every time a player jumped for a header or fell over, the game was very stop start and played into the hands of the Old Blues, even the friendly giant Beans was booked for persistent fouling.

With the minutes ticking by, Merton kept pushing and Colin was making good inroads down the right hand side and teeing up Merton for some late chances.

It was nice to see Merton not giving up and nobodies heads going down, we played to the final whistle with Smithy having the last chance of the from a tight angle.

Final score 2-0 to Old Blues, and after the game a good post beer was had by everyone and Smithy enjoying the foot long!

Some very good performances from most, Chappell and Daz had a good game at centre half with the Old Blues creating very little and most threats were dealt with.

Simon, even though he missed an open goal, put some great balls in the box and made some great tackles, the two new lads Paul and John both contributed well.

This week, though I am going to give it to Colin (not because he was on debut and was my brother) but because he dealt with most that their left winger had to offer. He broke up play well and carried a threat going forward. Let's hope this is not his first and only game for Merton!

Next week, the real test starts with the first league game of the season, let's hope for a title challenge!!

**TEAM: MARTIN QUINLAN, SMITHY (GAFFER), DAZ, CHAPPELL COLIN LOCKE, DAN, JOHN, MATT HASWELL, SIMON, PETE, PAUL SUBS: BEANS, GARY.**





**MERTON FOOTBALL CLUB**

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