MERTON FOOTBALL CLUB ISSUE 7 – 2910.2015

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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

YOU CONTROL OUR FUTURE

I guess most of you will have seen that our near neighbours and erstwhile rivals, Old Westminster Citizens, have folded and that makes it a very sad day in the SAL and Amateur Football generally. There are a number of threats to football clubs. The main ones are loss of at facilities/members/finances/volunteers. Unfortunately, they lost their ground and were unable to find a viable alternative. Old Salesians have also lost their ground but are soldiering on in reduced circumstances. Lloyds have had to merge and so have BB Eagles and Ibis. These same threats face Merton and we are not immune to these forces.

So what are we doing?

OUR FACILITIES: We always try and maintain good relationships with our landlord but that is sometimes challenging. We need to be a good tenant and we also need a bit of self-help working on the pitches etc etc.

OUR MEMBERS: We have had a major recruitment drive but the main area of success is our members bringing along their friends. The reduced membership for introductions has helped as has the reduced rates for U21s. We still need more members and have approached OWCs to see if any of their members want to join us. Also our youth section (five teams this season, seven next) is building for the future.

FINANCES: We really need to collect all the money that we can from memberships, match fees and raise money with bar functions, quizzes etc etc. We also apply for grants and sponsorship (£2,000 received this season), Len does a great job of keeping us up-to-date with the latest information on the state of the business.

VOLUNTEERS: I felt really sorry for Jock Henderson, Andy Spinks and all the guys at OWCs that have worked so hard to administer the club and to see it go under must be heartbreaking. We need people who will help run this club, you don't have to be on the committee – Help your captain on match days, write match reports, take photos, help in the bar and support our functions.

Provided we all work hard and help we will continue for another 100 yrs but we must not be complacent. If we don't put the effort in we wont survive.

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)

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RAM'S HEADS UP!



- 1. Dear Ladies: If you're tired of us staring at your boobs, just turn around... we like asses too.
- 2. Women spend more time thinking about what men think than men actually spend thinking.
- 3. The reason women will never be the ones to propose is because as soon as she gets on her knees, he will start unzipping.
- 4. Arguing with a woman is like getting arrested. Everything you say can and will be used against you.
- 5. Birth marks: are where you were killed in your other life.

EDITOR'S WORST KITS EVER

Caneroon's Kit: 2002

As worn by: **Rigobert Song** Manufacturer: **Puma**

Sponsor: N/A

Cameroon rocked up to the 2002 African Nations Cup wearing what can only be described as a vest. Suffice to say FIFA didn't like the idea and after the tournament ordered them to scrap the kit. Cameroon fell foul of the authorities a few years later, wearing a kit which can be described best as a onesie, with the shirt and shorts one continuous piece of fabric.



TV OF THE WEEK

PLAYER PROFILE



WILL KEARNS

TEAM: 1st Team

POSITION: Left Back/Left Wing

BIRTH DATE: 24.03.86

BIRTH PLACE: Washington, D.C.

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Norfolk, Virginia USA and OAS

1. TELL US WHO IS WILL OUTSIDE OF THE CLUB. WHAT DO YOU DO, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF?

I am an American, management consultant who works for FTI Consulting. I moved to London in July of this year for work and plan to stay here for several years.

2. HOW DID YOU END UP AT MERTON FC?

I was playing in a pickup game after work in Battersea and met Ivan Gladkow, who asked me to join the club.

3. WHAT WAS YOUR BEST MOMENT IN YOUR MFC CAREER TILL NOW?

My best moment so far was getting the assist to Ivan Gladkow on the equalising goal against Old Esthameians.

4. CAN YOU REMEMBER YOUR FIRST GAME?

Yes, my first game with Merton was the first game this season against EBOG FC.

5. IF YOU COULD PLAY FOR A PROFESSIONAL TEAM, WHICH WOULD BE IT AND WHY?

I'd play for Chelsea because I support them and live closest to them.

6. DO YOU HAVE ANY PRE-MATCH RITUALS OR SUPERSTITIONS?

I like to take as many cracks on goal as I can.

7. LASTLY, SHARE US YOUR THOUGHTS FOR THE REST OF THE SEASON.

I am excited to get to know the club and move the 1s up the league table

QUICK FIRE

PLAYER OF THE SEASON SO FAR (PREMIER LEAGUE OR ANY LEAGUE): Robert Lewandowski

CHILDHOOD TEAM: Pittsburgh Steelers

FAVOURITE TEAM OUTSIDE THE UK: DC United

CHILDHOOD HERO: Claudio Reyna FAVOURITE FOOD: Peanut Butter FAVOURITE DRINK: Bourbon FAVOURITE BAND: Blink 182

PLAYER PROFILE



HARRY HARE

TEAM: 5th Team

POSITION: Right Back BIRTH DATE: 13.03.86 BIRTH PLACE: Enfield

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Potters Bar Utd, Crouch End Vampires

1. TELL US WHO IS WILL OUTSIDE OF THE CLUB. WHAT DO YOU DO,

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF? I work in advertising which is a lot more interesting then it sounds. Outside of work love going out with my mates and spending time with the family (especially my niece). In general I'm a laid back guy who doesn't take himself or life too seriously.

- **2. HOW DID YOU END UP AT MERTON FC?** I moved down from North London and a friend told me about Merton, (he had played against them before) so I turned up to pre season training and the rest is history.
- 3. WHAT WAS YOUR BEST MOMENT IN YOUR MFC CAREER TILL NOW? Haven't been too many to shout about but my second season at Merton was a good one. I was playing for the 6's and we had a great team. Finished near the top of the league and had a good run in the cup.
- **4. CAN YOU REMEMBER YOUR FIRST GAME?** It was a pre season friendly (not sure who against) and I started up front. Didn't take them long to realise that my best position was a lot further back.
- 5. IF YOU COULD PLAY FOR A PROFESSIONAL TEAM, WHICH WOULD BE IT AND WHY?

The mighty Arsenal. Supported them as a boy, it was always my dream to play for them.

- 6. DO YOU HAVE ANY PRE-MATCH RITUALS OR SUPERSTITIONS? Just the 7 or 8 pints the night before
- **7. LASTLY, SHARE US YOUR THOUGHTS FOR THE REST OF THE SEASON.** We've got a fairly new team and results haven't been great so far. Would be good for us to gel as a team, play some attractive football and win as many games as possible between now and the end of the season.

QUICK FIRE

PLAYER OF THE SEASON SO FAR (PREMIER LEAGUE OR ANY LEAGUE): Jamie Vardy

CHILDHOOD TEAM: Arsenal

FAVOURITE TEAM OUTSIDE THE UK: Real Madrid

CHILDHOOD HERO: Ian Wright FAVOURITE FOOD: Steak & Chips FAVOURITE DRINK: Beer

FAVOURITE BAND: Blink 182

RECRUITMENT

WENED YOU AT MERTON FC



Just a reminder to everyone that we are still on the lookout for players at all levels to join our club. So please put the word out to friends, family, work colleagues, people you meet at the park, at the bus stop, in the betting shop or in the fruit & veg aisle of your supermarket!

MATCH REPORTS - 17.10.15

3XIs

MERTON FC 1 v EAST BARNET OLD GRAMMARIANS 1 (HT: 0-1)

SCORERS: Dave

MOTM: Reece + Opposition keeper

DOTM: Tony P (missed pen – couldn't let myself off here lads!)

A game that somehow managed to be at 1-1 at full time following a hatful of chances created by the Merton team, with familiar foes in the shape of post/s crossbar/s came to the oppositions' rescue on several occasions throughout this match.

The game should have been dead and buried at half time, yet as Merton did not take their chances, they entered half time 1-0 down. Classic smash and grab scenario here.

A missed penalty half way through the second half should have been dispatched to level the scoring, but this was saved – therefore the task was left to Dave with a strike from outside the box to settle the scores to earn a draw, which was definitely 2 points thrown away in what could prove to be a very competitive season.

Lessons learnt, and chances to be taken for future games. Improvement in decision making and final third of game could have been costly, yet the team play and pressing created a number of chances for the home team throughout the game.

A disappointed Merton team after the game demonstrated how the team play and chances created is progressing positively throughout the season, game by game.

A well-deserved mention for Dave Donovan (Donno) who scored the first hat-trick of the season at home last weekend, and Merton's first hat-trick of the season overall. MOTM last week, and a challenger for the golden boot this season also.

TEAM: ARTURS (GK), TONY P, VINCENZO, MIKE STONE, MUSTARD, DENYS, DAVE, NEAL, REECE, YOMI, DONNO SUB: TOM

MATCH REPORTS - 24.10.15

2XIs

MERTON 5 v BROOMFIELD 1 (HT: 2-0)

SCORERS: David Quainton (3), Olly Ross (2)

MOTM: Joe Griffin

This was a good performance from 'Team Handsome' with a comfortable win in the end against competent SAL opposition albeit from a lower division. It took a good while for Merton to establish their dominance against gritty opposition.

The first 20 mins were pretty even and when our boys carved out some really good chances we missed them comprehensively. This profligacy in front of goal was worrying and Broomfield wasted a couple of chances of their own before DQ stepped up to score our opening goal after 35 mins.

The second came very soon after when DQ headed home to finish off a really good move and cross. (H-T 2-0). The second half continued in the same vein. DQ completed his hat-trick and then Olly Ross came on as sub in pink/orange boots (I kid you not). What was even more amazing he then scored two goals with his first two touches with the minimum amount of effort. He never was one to hare about the field but he is only a shadow of his former self. Complacency and sloppy defending allowed the visitors to score a goal which their man finished very well.

A good performance with Merton's defence looking good, Pearcey and Marc play well together as centre backs, but despite all the goal-scoring... Joe Griffin was voted Man Most Handsome (MMH) and walked off with Cherbs. Sam worked his socks off but missed a few good chances, the reason for his lack of luck in front of goal was all too obvious in the laundry. The No 6 shirt was inside out and everyone knows unless you put your kit the right way round you never score. Anyway we solved the tape problem.

The game was really well reffed in authoritive style by Peter Chmelinski. It was good to have the 1s down to support our boys and a great buzz in the bar afterwards.













MERTON FC 9 v WINCHMORE HILL 2 (HT: 4-2)

SCORERS: Donno (2), Mustard, Reece, Chris (2), Tony P, Yomi, Denys

MOTM: All Merton 11

DOTM: Arturs (sorry son, the first goal conceded got you in here!)

Against an under strength opposition, Merton dispatched a deserved result efficiently to claim another 3 points at home.

Please excuse a full match report, short of me writing something to resemble a 'Lord Of The Rings' trilogy, I will keep the following simple and concise.

For the first time this season Merton FC boasted a full complement of playing staff for the Saturday fixture. A luxury rarely available, and something which the opposition would have been grateful for.

A battling and commendable display by the Winchmore Hill players was a credit to the league, and certainly Merton FC will look forward to matching the opposition with full strength sides for the following return fixture in North London this season.

Merton, following the previous two weeks' slow starts, started on top for this game from the outset. Early strikes from Donno and Mustard early on set the tone for the rest of the game. A great solo effort by Donno, and a blistering volley from Mustard made it 2-0 to Merton early on.

An overlapping move from RB to RM which involved Tony and Reece, finishing with a through ball to the inside of the box from Tony, for Reece to calmly slot past the keeper to his inside post made it 3-0.

A speculative effort form the opposition from 25 yards out then zipped off the wet surface and under Arturs' body to give the opposition a goal before half time. Shortly afterwards a speculative clearance from the opposition back line was not dealt with by the Merton central defence which then resulted in another goal for the opposition.

To finish off the half, a long drive on target and zipping off the wet surface was not held by the opposition keeper, and poked in to the back of the net by an on-rushing Yomi.

Merton could see the Winchmore Hill players were using the same tactic for their chances, which were limited, but clearly effective.

At the start of the second half, the Merton forwards pushed higher up the pitch to press the ball deeper in to the opposition half. Spreading the ball across the pitch, and developing wing play was the key to seeing this game out.

Merton had great success using the wing back and attacking midfielders and successive goals were to follow from the home side as the second half developed.

An early strike from Donno started the rout, another assist from Darcy who provided 4 assists in total throughout this game.

Neal adopted a holding roll in front of the back four to allow his midfield partner Darcy to develop and spread the ball out wide. A cut back to the edge of the box by Darcy then was struck in to the top right hand corner of the net by Tony to make the score 6-2 with 75 minutes gone.

Two strikes from Chris followed- assisted by Darcy, and a lofted through-ball by Tony from the edge of the box which was slotted underneath the keeper made it 8-2 with a few minutes left

A final flick on from the wing to the edge of the box by Nick was fantastically controlled, and curled in to the top right hand corner of the goal by Denys almost as the final whistle went to round off an emphatic day in front of goal for the Merton team.

Goals and assists from all over the team today – 7 different goal scorers and 5 players assisting – putting an emphasis on the effectiveness of Merton's team play and decision making from game to game so far this season.

Positives to take from this game, and surely the chances missed the previous week were vindicated in this match. Hard work all round.

TEAM: ARTURS (GK), TONY P, JOEL, MIKE STONE, MUSTARD, REECE, DARCY, NEAL, DONNO, YOMI, DENYS SUB: LOFTY, CHRIS

HSBC 2 v MERTON 2

SCORERS: Dulanie Richards, Chris Outred (pen)

MOTM: Jake Hewitt

Only three weeks have passed since we last meet HSBC 5s in the league. On that occasion they went back to Beckenham with the three points following a 2–1 at Joseph Hood. This week it was important that we kick-started our league campaign and try our utmost to gain revenge by taking all the points.

With a few regulars unavailable, we drafted in some reinforcements in the form of Alan Clowes, Tom Benham and Sonny Kennedy.

The game started brightly and we were on the front foot from the off. The wet surface allowed us to zip the ball round with confidence. A few half chances were created however it took 20 minutes for us to break the deadlock. Dulanie Richards picked the ball up from the left and unleashed a right footed drive the found the back of the net via a deflection. 1–0 to the visitors and well deserved. Not long after did Dulanie have to make way for Tom after picking up a hamstring injury that looks like it will put him out for a couple of weeks.

There were some moments were HSBC put us under pressure however we dealt with them comfortably which frustrated the hosts. The pressure kept building with a number of corners the only reward. One of these however resulted in the equaliser. The loose ball failed to be cleared from danger which allowed their number seven to get a shot away inside the box that looped over Sam following an attempted block. 1 – 1 going into the break.

There were so many positives to take from the first period and we knew that the game was there for the taking. We were easily the better team; we just had to make things count in the final third.

The start of the second half was pretty much a carbon copy of the start of the first. We were pinging the ball around with ease and making it difficult for the opposition to get onto the ball. This opened the HSBC defence up and we were rewarded ten minutes in when Sonny was apprehended in the box. Had there not been another defender level then there could have easily been a red card awarded as well as the penalty. With our first choice penalty taker not available, it was left down to Chris Outred to dispatch emphatically having been made to wait longer than he would have liked. 2–1 to Merton and well deserved.

We could have extended our lead when a one-two was played between myself and Chris. With Chris being taken out after playing the ball back, the ref decides to play the advantage. One, two then three opposing players were left in their tracks leaving me, Sonny, Tom and their keeper the only ones in the box. Knowing that I wouldn't be able to get a shot off from the position I was in (tight angle) I decided to square the ball, albeit with too much power which resulted in a half chance for Tom that he could only hit over the bar.

We were holding our own and felt comfortable in all positions, Jake has doing fantastic to hold and break up play in the midfield with Tom and Sonny chasing every ball down up top putting HSBC under pressure constantly. We felt so comfortable that we thought we could hold out for the win. Thought turned out to be the key word! HSBC did manage to one rare passage of play which unfortunately resulted in the final goal of the game and the second equaliser. A low shot from about 20 years beat Sam down low to his right.

A solid performance to take into next week's game away to Ibis Eagles in Chiswick where nothing but a win is good enough. penalty against John for a handball. John did well to convince him that it actually hit him in the crown jewels and the ref took his words for it and called a drop-ball.

A few late changes had to be made, Chris Dodd came back on to replace Aaron and Glen came back on to replace Jake in the middle. Due to his injury, I felt best to stick Glen up top and drop Elliott back into the middle as the former would have found it hard to track back.

With 10 minutes to go we were piling the pressure on and it was only down to their keeper that we didn't score sooner than we did. The opposition finally gave in when a ball in by Elliott from the left was parried by the keeper and Dulanie was there to smash in the rebound. We were now full of confidence and our third goal followed no longer than a minute late when Glen volleyed into the top corner after a great cross from yours truly.

Unfortunately we're didn't have enough time to get back into the game but that renewed confidence will be good to take into next week's reverse league fixture against HSBC 5s.

TEAM: SAMUEL SINGER-RIPLEY (GK), JOHN GRIDLEY, ALAN CLOWES, STEVE BURCHELL, EDWARD PLAISTOW, ARNOLD COLLIER (RYAN BURCHELL), JAKE HEWITT, JOE PLUMRIDGE, CHRIS OUTRED (CAPT), DULANIE RICHARDS (TOM BENHAM), SONNY KENNEDY UNUSED SUB: AARON ACKERMAN

MERTON 1 v OLD SUTTONIANS 9 (H-T: 1-4)

SCORERS: Pete

MOTM: Mark Chappell

Merton FC 6's going into the cup game off a 5-1 victory over Civil Service last weekend, fully confident and ready to take on any team.

The 6's absorbed early pressure from a very solid Old Suttonions side and about 15 minutes into the game, Pete took the ball from midfield made a little run and took a shot which bamboozled their keeper totally and straight in, 1-0, great start.

Old Suttonions didn't waste any time as they scored the equaliser within 5 minutes after we took the lead and after that was like as they say "the floodgates had opened"

Their blonde winger and their number 16 took real charge of the game by playing through balls to their striker and making some great runs and took the game out of our sight in the first half with them going into the break with a 4-1 lead.

The second half began with a couple of changes – Dan dropping in the back four with George making way for Malcolm.

Their scoring continued in the second half with Dharmesh hearing a non-existent whistle for offside and let their blonde winger through for Old Suttonions to go ahead 5-1 and the dismantling did not stop there.

The game ended with a 9-1 demolishing. Credit to Old Suttonions for playing really well and they looked like a side that never looked in doubt after Mertons first goal.

Even though we took a battering against a good side, we did give our best. On that note, Man of the Match performance goes to Mark for giving his all as usual at the back trying to keep the defence formation solid.

TEAM: DHARMESH (GK), GEORGE HALL, MARK CHAPPELL, DARREN AVEY, CLIVE CORRIGAN, JOHN KATANDIKA, RAM MAHBUBANI, SIMON BROWN, SCOTT, RICHARD GIBBS, PETE OBENG-ADU, SUBS: DAN, MALCOLM













UPCOMING FIXTURES - 31.10.15

1XIs

Old Wokinghams v Merton (SKC)

2XIs

Merton v Polytechnic (League)

4XIs

IBIS Eagles v Merton (League)

5XIs

Merton v South Bank Cuaco (AFA Cup)

UPCOMING EVENTS



Merton Football Club will be holding 'That's The Merton Quiz'

– it's first major event of the season on

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2015

The quiz will start promptly at 7pm and be finished by 9.45pm (including a break for dinner/curry at 8pm)

As always it is £10 per person (curry included) and teams of 5! to be reserved directly with myself or Max (dad).

ALL TEAMS should be represented and I think perhaps a committee team too, who would ever like to captain that??

Please spread the word and help get some teams booked in for an excellent night.....

Book at the bar or email: max.herbert@btinternet.com

Man City v Liverpool in bar from spm!

TOP GOALSCORERS 2015/16

Key:

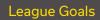
League Goals

Player David Donovan Denys Zhurbiy **David Quainton** Nick Papanastatiou **Darcy Yates Dulanie Richards** Oli Ross Lewis Ackermann Yomi Aladade Richard Gibbs Dan Gridley Malcolm Kandulu Matt Paxton Dom Plumridge Pete Obeng-Adu **Arnold Collier** Alex Gladkow Ivan Gladkow Matt Haswell

Chris Outred

Key: **Player**







Tony Postlethwaite



Mike Reed



Tom Rowe



David Scott



Kyle Smith



Reece Smith



Marc Wilson



Kelvin Aboidyn



Mark Chappell



Chris Dodd



Alex Perrin



Glen Porter



Liam Stevens



Ryan Stevens



James Tilley

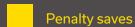


TOP GOALKEEPERS 2015/16

Player	Total Points	1st Team	2nd Team	3rd Team	4th Team	5th Team	6th Team
Arturs Ivanovs Alex Herbert Dharmesh Vaghela Sam Ripley	5 2 1 1	0-1-1	0-0-3	0-1-1	1		1
Total	8	0-3-1	0-0-3	0-0-1	0-0-1	0-0-0	0-0-1

Key:





1 Goal conceded

MERTON FC CLUB SHOP

MERTON FC CLOTHING NOW AVAILABLE AT THE NEW CLUB SHOP

New Merton FC clothing range, now available at the link below. From training gear to leisure wear for men, women and juniors take a look and get kitted out the the new season. For better value take advantage of the bundle packs.

Order now from the Merton FC Club Shop



CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Get your partners to the Merton FC Club Shop, pick-up some club attire instead of a Christmas jumper!

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MATCH DAY POLO SHIRT FROM JOMA

Complimentary design polo shirt ideal for

Pre and Post Match

- 2 button placket
- Contrast coloured trim and placket
- Embroided Merton FC badge
- Option to personalise with your initials
- Available in 2 Colour options: Black/ White and Yellow/White

Click on the image above to take you to the club shop and look the part at training and your next match on a Saturday!

Price: £17.99

