

THE MERTON WAY

MERTON FOOTBALL CLUB ISSUE 8 – 05.11.2015



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

R.I.P.

KEN HOAD

Saturday had a sombre start to our football as we had one minutes silence to show our respect to Ken Hoad, a Merton stalwart who had just died. He is well remembered as first team captain in the 50s/60s and Dodge says that he was a first class captain and a first class bloke. He had left the area when I got involved with the club but he kept in touch and sent messages of encouragement and commiseration and came up to see us a few times and for the centenary, I enjoyed receiving those messages. We have sent our condolences and Dodge and Dixie went to the wake to pay their and our respects to a Merton legend.



Sunday was a bit different down the Hood with not only our youth teams playing but we hosted Old Westminster Citizens Vets in the Old Boys Vets Cup match against Old Woodhouseians. This was a cracking event with Citizens losing 2-0. Despite a rousing team talk and a tot of port before the game.

We have never been able to get our Vets restarted and I hope that Old Westminster Citizens Vets will make the Hood their new home and play some Sunday friendlies here. This way they can keep the name alive and we can channel our vets into their team.

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. Life is short. Smile while you still have teeth.
2. Laughing so hard, no noise coming out, so you sit there clapping like a retarded seal.
3. I'm not an alcoholic, I only drink two times a year. On my birthday, and when it's not my birthday.
4. Your secrets are safe with me, because there is a good chance I wasn't listening.
5. I'm actually not funny, I'm just mean and people think I'm joking!

EDITOR'S WORST KITS EVER

Scotland's Kit: 2014

As worn by: **Scott Brown + others**

Manufacturer: **Adidas**

Sponsor: **N/A**

The new Scotland strip seems to take fuchsia and then combine it with yellow hoops in a fashion statement that demands a reaction. The kit has already been compared to old-school British confectionery such as Refreshers, Fruit Salad sweets and Drumsticks. Basically any day-glo, sickly-sweet penny-chew. To others the new kit brings to mind the nightmarish vision of Mr Blobby bearing down on goal or Ronald McDonald capering down the wing.



TV OF THE WEEK

Cuffs - BBC1 ****

RECRUITMENT

WE NEED 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 – 31.10.15

2XIs

MERTON 1 v POLYTECHNIC 2 (HT: 1-1)

SCORERS: Oli Ross

MOTM: Paul Pearce

It was always going to be a difficult game as we knew Polytechnic were a strong side currently topping our division. Although the scoreline looks close the win was decisive with Polytechnic having the better of the game. From the start they settled better and had pace and movement upfront and through the middle with a solid defence. They were, as you would expect a well organised outfit. However with Paul Pearce and Joe Griiffin as centre backs and Eggy and Connor at full backs they found it difficult to break us down.

They opened the scoring after 30 mins when a slightly dubiously awarded free kick was swung into the area and Sherbs, our keeper, lost it. 1-0, I blame the parents. This actually galvanised us and we pressed but we did not seem to create much but a free kick of ours resulted in a push on Jase and Oli Ross stepped up and equalised from the spot. The events are caught conclusively and quite brilliantly by our improving resident camera man (H-T 1-1).

The second half continued much as the first, although we had a good spell at the beginning of the second half but did not capitalise on it. Both sides found it difficult to penetrate and our defence was doing well under pressure but after about 70 mins a really good passing movement cross and finish resulted in Polytechnic's winning goal.

It was a good game to watch and although the ref (Patrick Griffin) arrived late and compensated by leaving early and came in for a fair amount of on-field criticism, I thought he did pretty well. Paul Pearce's display at the back earned him the 'Man most handsome' award from Team Handsome and the dubious delight of taking Cherbs home for the week.

Merton now need to get a consistent side out and dig in for some points. Polytechnic looked a very good team with their 1s top of Senior Div 1 are thriving which is good to see.



4XIs

IBIS EAGLES 3 v MERTON 3 (HT: 0-2)

SCORERS: Dulanie Richards (2), Elliot Phipps

MOTM: Dulanie Richards & Mike Elgar

Inspired, Committed, Sensational!

If only a football match was 70 minutes long. It about summed things up for a Merton side who did so many things right on Saturday, but ultimately couldn't get a much needed first league win of the campaign over the line.

A glorious autumnal day greeted the men from the Hood when they arrived at Riverside Sports Ground, and, other than an excess of leaves, the pitch was in good nick. The task at hand was to topple the 5th-placed Ibis Eagles, themselves having endured mixed form.

The manager Ed turned skipper for the day, and after consultation with Chris Dodd, concocted a midfield diamond formation that would largely work a treat. Mikey Elgar was at the base, with Dulanie and Jake on either side. The front three pitted Dom, Dan Plaistow and Elliott together, while the back four lined up with Scholesy and Ryan on each fullback, in addition to Joe and Saffer Mike in the middle.

The whistle blew, and as things got underway, it was clear that Ibis had a bit about them. They had quality on the ball and some pace upfront. But almost immediately too, it became clear that Merton were going to have the measure of them. Any attacks through the middle were snuffed out, and their subsequent attempts to play with width were easy pickings for the yellow defence.

Although the visitors had offered little in the way of attacking thrust, Ibis were quickly becoming frustrated by the brilliance of Mikey in midfield, and the tenacity of a relentless Dom, who was to have them rattled for much of the contest.

It thus came as little surprise when Dulanie drew first blood around 20 minutes in. The ball broke handily for him, but, left with a one-on-one with the advancing keeper, he still had plenty to do. However, the team's leading scorer exuded pure class, clinically tucking it away in the bottom left corner. 1-0, and Merton had their foothold.

Heads were straight back on though. And a good thing too, as the hosts gave the lads a fright, as a Rory Delap-esque throw-in caught the defence off guard in the box. The Ibis striker's attempted volley was woefully skied, but it was a warning shot to the defenders nonetheless, who'd actually had precious little to do until that point.

But the focus and intensity were still very much there. Jake was flying in and winning balls he had no right to, Dom was as pugnacious as ever, and Mikey was simply immense in midfield. And 5 minutes before the break, one became two. The build-up was good, with some fine interplay leading to a corner.

But the goal itself was sublime. Mikey put in a searching ball from a corner, which cleared almost everybody in the box. However, lurking ominously in behind was Dulanie, whose first-time volley was the picture of perfection. With barely a back lift, the ball flew off the sweet spot of his boot, leaving the hapless Ibis keeper with little to do except watch it fly into his net for a second time.

2-0 and Merton were buzzing. A visibly dispirited home side offered nothing in response for the remainder of the half, and the visitors went into the break buoyant, and more than good value for their lead. The talk was understandably positive, but not complacent either. The first 10 minutes of the second stanza were going to be crucial, and everyone felt it.

And so the lads came out with aplomb, gritty as ever, and refusing to give Ibis an inch. Everyone was in sync with each other, reading from the same hymn book, although once again it was the outstanding midfield leading the way. The defence, in fact, were largely bystanders in what was turning into an exhibition of counter-attacking football.

And 10 minutes into the second period, a third goal was to come. A superb through ball sent Elgar on his way, who like Dulanie earlier, found himself one on one with the keeper. And like Dulanie earlier, he too put his chance away as coolly as you could ask for. 3-0 it was now and a rampant Merton could have been forgiven for setting their sights on a rout.

The first order of business though, was to secure three points. Some enforced changes were necessary too with Dulanie going off, while Ryan, who had put in a fine shift while feeling under the weather, had to call it a day midway through the second half. But the subs were doing their bit too, particularly Dan Kelly and Chris; the latter selflessly starting himself on the bench despite being in good form. The work rate didn't drop at all, Dom continued to get under the opponents' skin, and the beleaguered Ibis outfit appeared to have no way back.

But just as thoughts may have been turning to celebratory jugs of beer, a lifeline arrived for the men in red with 20 minutes to go. Unsurprisingly, it came courtesy of the long throw; a teaser that unquestionably zeroed in on goal. And in the melee of heads and bodies, keeper Sam had been unfortunate enough to get a touch on

it, meaning the bizarre goal ultimately stood, despite there being no contact from an opposing player.

3-1, it was, but heads didn't drop. Put in perspective, the goal had come out of the blue, and Merton were straight back in to boss the midfield again. But a defining moment was to come 5 minutes later, with the magnificent Mikey forced to head off the park with an untimely calf cramp.

Such was the apparent dependence on his great work that the momentum of the game changed almost immediately. Merton were suddenly out of shape, and inviting waves of attack. And the second goal for Ibis followed not long after, albeit in fortuitous fashion. A speculative shot from 30 yards caught Sam slightly off his line, and agonisingly snuck its way into the top-left corner, 3-2.

And now an air of panic set in, as a team not well versed in closing games out were at risk of throwing points away. And with seven minutes to go, the unthinkable, but somewhat inevitable, equaliser came to pass. Again it was a long throw which did the job. Sam had done brilliantly to get a punch on it, but it would fall kindly to the Ibis striker, who then smashed a volley home from outside the box.

3-3, Istanbul. Crystanbul. Spin it however you like, but it was cruel on a brave Merton side, who'd left it all out there. They had come for three points, and this just wasn't meant to be in the script. The heads had now well and truly dropped, although pulses were briefly set racing two minutes later, when Dan Kelly did some wonderful work to get himself clean through to a lobbed ball in behind the defence. Sadly, the bouncing ball spun awkwardly, and cleared his rapidly advancing self.

It was to be the last attack of any substance from Merton, and the final five minutes were all Ibis. The yellows really had to dig deep to hang on, and at the death, one of the Ibis strikers found himself in space 8 yards out. Thankfully, his shot flew into the side netting, and the ensuing goal kick would prove to be the last act of the game.

A gutted and deflated Merton team trudged off, wondering what could have been. But as ever, the togetherness remained. There were no recriminations, no fingers pointed, and no negativity. This had been a superb performance for three quarters of the match, and there were so many positives to be drawn from this encounter. Just a few tweaks, some more composure, and perhaps some self-belief, and this brave side will know that that elusive first league win – and many more – lie just around the corner.

STARTING LINE-UP: SAMUEL SINGER-RIPLEY (GK), RYAN BURCHELL (CHRIS DODD), MIKE TODT, JOE PLUMRIDGE, EDWARD PLAISTOW, MICHAEL ELGAR, JAKE HEWITT, DAN PLAISTOW (DAN KELLY), DULANIE RICHARDS (ARNOLD COLLIER), DOM PLUMRIDGE

5XIs

MERTON 4 v SOUTH BANK CUACO 6

PICTURE GALLERY



UPCOMING FIXTURES – 07.11.15

1XIs

Merton v Old Finchleians
(League)

2XIs

East Barnet Old Grammarians v Merton
(League)

3XIs

St James' Old Boys v Merton
(League)

4XIs

Economicals v Merton
(AFA Cup)

5XIs

Merton v Alexandra Park
(ISEH Cup)

6XIs

Merton v Bank of England
(League)

UPCOMING EVENTS

QUIZ NIGHT

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 5pm!

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.

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Some great bargains and new stock for all your football needs.

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!



ANTHEM JACKET

- Polyestertricot construction
- Full zip
- Elasticated waist and cuffs
- 2 side pockets
- Embroidered Merton FC badge
- Printed Merton FC to the shoulders in contrast colour
- Available in 2 colour options

Price: £17.99



MERTON FOOTBALL CLUB

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