

THE MERTON WAY

MERTON FOOTBALL CLUB ISSUE 13 – 05.02.2016



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

PLEASE CAN WE PLAY HERE

MORDEN PARK – UPDATE

The Community Trust project to build a new pavilion and two 4G all weather pitches has run into a little difficulty. The council is now building its leisure centre and swimming pool on the area of land that we had earmarked for our pavilion and we have had to modify and redesign our scheme and submit a new planning application.

There are very little savings from being close to the Leisure Centre and so capital costs remain high. If we are to update our consultants reports and submit a new application the Trust will need to raise the funds to do this. Whilst there are schemes that we will tap into to fund the building of a project like this there are very few funds that will advance the costs of getting the project to consent.

So currently the Trustees are trying to raise a further £25K to get through the planning consent stage. They have already spent £50k. But with Ray Skinner still at the helm they are a very resilient bunch, I will keep you informed.

Max Herbet

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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JOB VACANCY

DESIGNER/EDITOR

RAM'S HANGING UP HIS BOOTS

An opening has arisen at The Merton Way to take over the creative and editorial layout of the newsletter as Ram Mahbubani has been promoted within his current full-time job and with the paid freelance work he does, has found it difficult recently to juggle his time to continue to put the time and effort to keep producing what has been (I'm sure you all agree), a very worthwhile, interesting and successful read.

So if there are any budding designers/editors in this club that would like to take on the newsletter and continue the good foundations laid down already then please feel free to contact Max or Clappers.

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 – 23.01.16

6XIs

BANK OF ENGLAND 2 v MERTON 4 (HT: 2-0)

SCORERS: Pete (2), Matt, Mo,

MOTM: Mo

The 6s turned up in Roehampton at one of the best clubs in the league, Bank of England. We got given changing room 2, which was massive. We played on the converted marked out rugby pitch, this was very wide but short. If we didn't hit the back of the net, some of the players would definitely score a conversion.

Skipper decided to try a different formation this week of 5-3-2. This didn't go well and found ourselves 2-0 down. Their first goal was a free kick just outside the box and second against run of play.

Time for a change, George came off for Paul and back to 4-4-2. This was better and we started to play football and we went in at half-time 2 nil down.

The second half was a different ball game, we dominated and took the chances as well. The first goal came from a Pete free kick, beautifully placed, although it did go through the keepers flapping hands. We continued to press, when Beans cleared from defence, it fell to Matt in the box, controlled well and slotted the ball in the bottom left corner, although some did say it rolled off and down the shin. Bank of England did cause us a few problems but Mo at the back and Man of the Match was solid, dominating and lead the back four to keep Bank of England from scoring. His goalscoring time came when he picked up the ball inside Bank of England's half, and like a charging bull took the ball past their players and thumped the ball into the back of the net. Merton had brought it back to 3-2 and was buzzing. Subs were made, Dan P came off and Simon came on.

The fourth goal came from the penalty spot, Martin done his usual forward run from right back, had a chance for shot on goal, when it struck the Bank of England's players arm, the ref pointed to the spot, The skipper wanted to take it, but was over-ruled by the other Merton players and insisted Pete took it. I think the skipper wanted to add to his goal tally to help improve his crazy bet at the beginning of the season, the rest of the players wanted a goal. Pete stepped up and made it four. Martin Made way for George for the last 10 minutes and Dan P came on for the injured Beans.

Merton held on and the final whistle was blown. This result against the others in league put the 6s third. Back to the massive changing room and to the bar for a well earned pint. Old Wilsonians 9s next week, a must win as they have surprisingly beaten us twice this season.

STARTING LINE-UP: SWANNY (GK), MARTIN QUINLAN, GEORGE HALL, MO, ADAM PRIOR, KEVIN LOCKE, MATT HASWELL, TY, JOHN, DAN, PETE

SUBS: SIMON BROWN, PAUL

MATCH REPORTS – 30.01.16

2XIs

POLYTECHNIC 4 v MERTON 1 (HT: 0-1)

SCORERS: Rayner

MOTM:

Poly is one of the jewels of the SAL and It is always good to go there. Particularly on this day with the sun shining and playing on their top pitch which looked pretty good. And Poly usually play good passing football with a good attitude.

Poly, top of the table, unsurprisingly dominated Merton (bottom of the table) but the only surprising thing was that kicking into the wind ad up the hill we went into half time a goal to the good. We defended resolutely but Poly squandered some good chances and their final ball let them down. We scored against the run of play when we were awarded a penalty for a block from a well struck Jason Thomas shot. Chris Rayner took it and scored comfortably.

So with the wind and down hill for the second half meant that we might get something from the game but that was not to be and our luck was out. Poor defending cost us dearly. They equalised from the spot which we disputed but it had come from poor defending and a wrestling match. Who fouled who and inside or outside but I was not surprised at the award. This had a devastating impact on us. We conceded a sloppy second goal when we switched off.

At 2-1 down we had a little rally and Jase got a good shot away but it was straight at the keeper. The third goal was a header from a cross which held up in the wind and the fourth looked well off side. With DQ having been injured early on and our sub used we ran out of steam and heart and it was not unfair that Poly got all the points. Merton's man of the match was Ryan Gresty and there was a good performance from Seb and Joe.

Thanks to the lads from the 3s who stepped up helped us out. Mustard had a particularly good performance and now looks like a full back. Eggy had to do a predator as a punishment for being late but he downed it with ease. So a disappointing score in the end but not a bad day.

STARTING LINE-UP: SHERBS (GK), EGGY, PAERCEY, JOE GRIFF, MUSTARD, RYAN G, CHRIS RAYNER, WILGO, DQ, JASE, DENYS

SUB: SEB

3XIs

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

SCORERS: Darcy

MOTM: Darcy

DOTM: Dave

******WARNING, THE BELOW REPORT IS OFFENSIVE TO THE EYES******

As little can be said about this result, the better, but I will give you a brief rundown of events:

Match Stats brought to you by Ricki's Dog:

Merton/Old Blues

Goals Scored:	1/2
Shots on target:	1/2
Shots off target:	68/0
Corners:	27/1
Penalties missed:	2/0
Open goals missed:	1/0

With FA Cup fever in the air, Merton heading to their home away from home, Wimbledon Common Extensions. Opposition were Old Blues 3's who were looking for their 1st win this year, and all season come to think about it...

Mood in the camp was good, even after the 30min pitch inspection.

No sounds system bangers in the changing room was, in hindsight a fatally flaw in proceedings, so with DJ Pap's on the "1's n 2's", Merton got ready to commence battle.

The game started, much as the Chelsea vs MK Dons game did, with Merton having all of the possession and knocking the ball around nicely. Like Chelsea, Merton could have been 9.0 by half time, but that's where the similarities stop.

Instead Merton were only 1.0 up, thanks to Darcy, with the only shot on target that half. (In fairness, Merton hit the post and the cross bar twice, but as the saying goes, almost doesn't count).

Half-time brought some reassuring words from 'el Capitano'. Complacency needed to be thrown out of the window and we needed to start punishing them. Tactically we singled out there right back (who couldn't actually kick the ball) as the weakest link...just.

New goalkeeper signing Besty aka 'Beasty' wondered what he had let himself in for. 45min on a muddy pitch, in the wind and rain and he hadn't touched the ball yet.

So the 2nd half started, much like the 1st with Merton dominating and missing the target. A rare attack saw Old Blues get there first corner of the game.

I'm not sure what happened, maybe Merton forgot what an opposing corner looked like, but needless to say, the deadly right back who struggled with his feet, lost his marker and headed home a good goal.

Beasty 1st touch for his new found club was getting the ball out of his own net... Old Blues had the wind in their sails now and the pressure was on.

Now Merton had 2 choices, BOAR up and be counted or fall to pieces. After a sticky start since conceding the goal, Merton started to find their way again.

Some lovely football set Donno through clear on goal. After beating the keeper, and with only an open goal in front of him, dear Dave wanted to make life interesting for his team mates.

Maybe he was thinking of his celebration already, or maybe the curse of being 'Dick of the Day' last week caught up with him, anyway, he knocked it wide.

Nevertheless, Merton continued to push and miss the target. Then, out of nowhere, Old Blues goal keeper came steaming out and took out a Merton player inside the box. Clear pen.

Was Merton luck about to change???

This time, it was the turn for another Dave to step up and be counted (despite not being penalty taker and refusing to give it up to the inform, deadly striker Darcy ;-)

The Old Blues keeper, who had asked to borrow a pair of goalkeeper gloves before the game, took his spot on the line. Dave stepped up, gave the keeper the eye and hit it straight at him.

Old Blues players started celebrating by doing the GangMan style dance around the Ref. Si (the Ref) was having none of it and ordered a retake.

In screens, which have never before been seen, the keeper proceeded to save the 2nd pen. One of the fans went on record saying "Unbelievable Jeff".

With Merton not put off by these remarkable series of events, they continued to look for the 2nd goal. Merton won their 27th corner of the game. (Apologies again for not knowing entirely what happened here, but it looked like something that I have not seen since year 6 at primary school, playing football in the playground). So Merton take the corner, Old Blues get the ball and score to make it 1-2 to the visitors.

New boy Beasty gets his 2nd touch of the game, again picking the ball out the net. (Beasty did make a save 1st, but the story sounds better my way!).

Merton tried in vain to find an equaliser, with more way ward shooting. Old Blues didn't make it easy for Merton, by making substitutes every time the ball went out of play for the last 10min of the game.

In the end, it was a very sobering defeat for Merton. Old Blues players have never been so happy, and in the scenes that followed, I genuine thought they had won the FA cup, Champagne was being sprayed, wives and kids were on the pitch, it was pandemonium.

BOARS need to take a long hard look at themselves in the water hole and learn how to shot (on target).

"Merton are still looking for their 1st win of 2016... Pressure is growing on the board to take action and bring in Jose Mourinho..." (The Sunday Sport Supplement in the Merton times dated 31.1.16).

MOTM: Darcy, closely followed by the rule setter Nei

DOTM: Dave, closely followed by... you guessed it, Dave D.

4XIs

WEIRSIDE RANGERS 0 v MERTON 3 (HT: 0-0)

SCORERS: Dan Gridley (2), Dom Plumridge

MOTM: Dom Plumridge

Battered, bruised, and perhaps a little embarrassed. That's probably how you might have expected the Merton 4s to have felt when they arrived at Weirside on Saturday given the 8-0 hammering that was dished out by Alleyn the week before. Yet there was a surprisingly quiet calm about them on the day. A strong squad was assembled, the mood was pretty positive, and after a strong team talk led by John Gridley, the lads took to what was a relatively poor pitch primed for battle.

The action got underway with Merton into the sun for the first half. There was a slight breeze off the right, but the biggest element to contend with in terms of flowing football was the heavy and slow field, which made crisp passing difficult and was sure to take a bit out of the players' legs as the match wore on.

Nevertheless, the Yellows started solidly, if not spectacularly, against a feisty Weirside Rangers outfit. There wasn't much attacking thrust, but with the manager having packed 5 into the midfield, there was a definite stability and shape about Merton from the get go.

Dan Gridley shored things up notably in the middle of it all, Mikey and Jake were working hard, but the main attacking threat came on the wings, with Dulanie and Arnold chasing balls tirelessly and thanklessly. Perhaps the only frustration came from the fact that the handy crosses the two of them were putting in were to a largely empty box. Yet this was no reflection on Dom, who, on his own upfront, was magnificent in his hold-up play, and carving out little bursts when he was seemingly swamped by defenders.

But in the opening period, Merton were largely restricted to half chances; a few shots from the edge of the area, while Mikey was unable to hit the target with a free kick in a good position. At the other end, Rangers had been well contained, but did squander two gild-edged opportunities to take the lead. The first saw a shot from 10 yards out sail over the crossbar, while, on the stroke of half time, a free header from point blank was skewed wide.

It meant the relieved 4s had parity at the break at 0-0, and there was a buzz about them as they strode back out onto the pitch. They knew that, with the sun now at their backs, this was their chance to crack on. They began the half steadily once again, snuffing out any threats from Weirside, working even harder to close them down, and, for the first time in the match, were beginning to get on top of the opposition.

In a tight game like this though, with neither side giving an inch, it was going to take something special to break the deadlock, and it was Dan who duly delivered the goods. He held up a longish ball on the edge of the box with ease. He paused. He darted forward. He turned. He shrugged off the defence. He dispatched. And, gloriously, it flew into the back of the net. 1-0 Merton and delirium ensued.

Once the joyous scenes died down, it was all about getting the heads back on and doing even more for the remaining half hour. "Back to 0-0, boys" was the call, and too right it was. The hard work continued, and every man to a tee was in sync. The defence had the measure of what was being thrown at them, the midfield - now with Seb and Joe on the park as replacements - were getting stuck in, but it was Dom who was providing the outlet going forward; simply immense despite the workload he was shouldering.

However, as is inevitable, there were some heart-in-mouth moments with such a slender lead. Sam nearly made a mess of his effort to shepherd a ball for a goal kick, which the Rangers attacker intercepted and then smashed into the woodwork. Mike's diving clearance avoided the ignominy of an own goal by a matter of inches. And, with the Yellow defence caught unusually short at the back, Sam did ever so well to come off his line in a one-on-one which resulted in their striker tugging his shot wide.

But a heavy-legged Merton outfit were hanging on, scrapping and giving it their all, and the decisive blow came with just five minutes to go. They won a free kick about 25 yards out, and with the wind coming off the left shoulder, the call came for a left footer to do the business. The man for the job was Dom, who'd scored with his last free kick at Old Wilsonians. On that occasion though, it was a mediocre strike which had benefited from a favourable bounce. What could he produce here?

In short, a rampaging, thunderous, out-of-this-world belter that was still climbing as it flew past the helpless Rangers keeper and smashed into the onion bag. Take a bow son. That was as good as you'll ever see. 2-0 and the boys were in ecstasy.

A slightly hairy moment or two followed though - Weirside charged up the other end from the restart and threatened. There was a scramble or two at the back, but Merton survived again with some committed defending. And with the hosts now caught short at the back, Seb led the counter. He fed Dom, who in turn fed Dan Gridley. There was only ever going to be one outcome. He dummied, he pulled it inside, and slotted the ball home from a tight angle to make it 3-0, with what was almost the last kick of the game. What a finish!

The final whistle blew soon after, and a tired but proud Merton side departed for the change rooms. What

an unbelievable performance it had been. After the humiliation of last week, three goals, three points and a clean sheet. You simply can't fashion a more emphatic response than that. What belief this will give the 4s for the remainder of the season too. It re-affirmed the notion that, when this team is at full strength and reading from the same hymn sheet, there aren't many teams who can stand in their way. Bring on Actonians next week.

MOTM: Dom Plumridge. So tough on Dan G, who was superb and scored 2 goals. But it has to go to Dom, sensational performance.

STARTING LINE-UP: SAMUEL SINGER-RIPLEY (GK), JOHN GRIDLEY, MIKE TODT, CHRIS OUTRED, EDWARD PLAISTOW, ARNOLD COLLIER, JAKE HEWITT, MIKE ELGAR, DAN GRIDLEY, DULANIE RICHARDS, DOM PLUMRIDGE.

SUBS: SEVAN MUTAFYAN, JOE PLUMRIDGE

6XIs

OLD WILSONIANS 1 v MERTON 3 (HT: 1-1)

SCORERS: OG, Ty, Pete

MOTM:

Old Wilsonians were a side last season that was bottom of the league and a side you knew you could come away with a win, not this season!!

This was the 3rd time both teams have met this season and last two games Old Wilsonians 9s have taken the 6s by surprise and won. Every player knew that this was the 6s time to win. Strong squad on paper, 3 subs and the choice of 9 pitches to choose from, the one that we were allocated was not a good choice. A switch of pitch a usual quick usual 6s warm up and the game was under way.

We started strong and could of been a few goals up if Matt Haswell had brought his shooting boots, this was highlighted by Chappell in a Whatsapp message earlier that morning. Chances came and went hitting the bar, posts and tall trees behind the goal, but not between.

Then it happened, they got us on the break and scored. Soon after the kick off, we got a free kick, Ty stepped up to knock one into the box, in it came and off the centre backs head and into the goal. Half time came; a quick team talk and we had belief that if we continued to play like we have, we could take the lead and points.

Again Matt had the chances but not the luck or clinical finishing skills. Old Wilsonians did cause a few problems, but the defence stayed strong and Swanny was picking out the loose balls. Merton's break and 2nd goal came from Ty, who picked the ball up just outside the area and lobbed the keeper.

John was getting bruised and battered in the middle of the pitch, including his sore toe, will it ever heal? He was looking for sympathy, but not getting any from his team mates.

A few subs were made, Martin off, George on, Steve B off, Beans on. Then Beans off (had a heavy night), Steve B back on. Dan on for Ty, whose legs could take no more. Skipper also felt the need to try changing from 4-4-2 to 4-3-3, which baffled some of the players as to why??

Time ticked on when Pete and Matt found themselves through on goal, from an assist from Dan, looking up Pete saw it was Matt thought of passing but knew another goal would seal it so went alone and made it 3-1.

The ref who had a good game blew for full time, 2 wins in a row and next fixture away to bottom of table Old Blues, the 6s need to continue to stay within a chance of promotion or even the title.

STARTING LINE-UP: SWANNY (GK), MARTIN QUINLAN, MO, MARK CHAPPELL, KEVIN LOCKE, STEVE BURCHELL, RYAN BURCHELL, JOHN 'SORE TOE', TY, PETE, MATT HASWELL

SUB: DAN, GEORGE HALL, ADAM PRIOR

YOUTH SECTION – 30.01.16

U10s (League Cup)

MERTON 6 v WALLINGTON 3

We had beaten them twice this season and lost once.

We got off to poor start going 2 goals down in 5 minutes and I reminded boys to remember what we had discussed before kick off pass and move.

We soon came back to 2-2 and then 2nd half we went 6-2 up.

Great goals with cracking bullet thunder bolt header from Zion....William played brilliantly in midfield and Jamal scored 2 set up 3 which Zion scored hatrick and 1 own goal coming from a Stevie cross which Wallington defender sliced like a pizza into his own net..

Another example of teamwork and staying focused on passing and movement off ball.

Very proud moment for all parents and management. .. this is a special team.

MOM this week: William in midfield first great work and commitment shown.

Onwards we go to next round.

David Laughton
Acting Manager on the day

UPCOMING FIXTURES – 06.02.16

1XIs

Merton v Old Salesians
(League)

2XIs

Alexandra Park v Merton
(League)

3XIs

South Bank Cuaco v Merton
(League)

4XIs

Actonians Association v Merton
(League)

5XIs

Merton v HSBC
(League)

6XIs

Old Blues v Merton
(League)

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