

## **ROSS 1 – 1 GLOUCESTER CITY D**

### **25/11/2006**

### **Captain Ridgway does it his way**

Ross Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI captain Andy Ridgway showed his determination to do things his way when he disregarded two of the unwritten rules of sporting leadership during his teams 1-1 away draw to Gloucester City D in the Gerrard Hereford and Gloucester League Division Two last Saturday. This bold approach had two consequences: one led to Ross going a goal down in the first period; and the other resulted in a fighting comeback during the second.

Firstly, never changing a winning formula is not an adage to which Ridgway pays much respect. To accommodate the return of Ricardo Medici, the captain decided to start the game by breaking up the defensive line of Brian Clare, Tim Jones, Greg Weston and Edward Peck which has looked so solid in recent weeks. Having already missed a penalty flick after a shot from Tom Walton was kicked off the Gloucester line, Medici then went walkabout as the opposition centre forward strolled through to score. Re-establishing Fortress Ross – with James Adamson also making an appearance at the back – meant that there were no more serious threats on the Ross goal throughout the game.

Secondly, always starting a half-time team talk with the positives is an idea that Ridgway scorns. Berating his colleagues with a choice selection of adjectives – of which 'dismal' was both the mildest and the most accurate – Ridgway left them in no doubt that he wanted to see a more spirited performance in the second half. Regardless of the rules, Ridgway clearly knows his players as they played with much more verve and bite in the second half; Andy Cross in particular looked like a man transformed.

Sam Warner, Kristian Franklin, Steve Evans started to run the midfield, with the excellent Richard Jennison making the opponents' contributions look paltry. Adrian Williams continues to be a puzzle this season though, with his shooting becoming more and more of a lottery. Eventually, however, he did strike it lucky when one of his efforts went through the Gloucester goalkeeper's legs. On the balance of the two halves, Ross probably deserved more than the draw which means that they drop one place in the league from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>.