

Match Report for Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2008  
Northants Combination League  
Division 3 Cup Round away fixture

Daventry Drayton Grange 3 Ristee Towers FC 1

Referee Mr Worrell

Ristee Towers FC players.

Steve Clark, Andrew Pocock, Micky Braines, Mark Seaman, Alex Fisher, Gary Rose, Simon Emery, Sean Wesley, Leigh Butler, Adam Taylor, Karl Guy.

Substitutions .

Phil Williams for Alex Fisher and Iain Smith for Leigh Butler at 75 minutes  
Simon Kent, Jimmy Randall, Mark Linnitt unused.

Ristee Towers FC scorer Gary Rose at 75 minutes

Man of the Match Andrew Pocock

Mark Linnitt ran the line thank you.

Manager Dave Parsons

Ristee Towers FC ended their second Cup dream for the second game in a row with this away defeat to Daventry Drayton Grange. So, for a team with such an impressive League and Cup record this season, what is going on ?

In the previous game, away to Burton Park Wanderers Reserves, Towers found themselves on a nice, big pitch and arrived prepared to put into practice all their trade mark football tactics. Unfortunately the pitch had been reduced to sticky goop by the recent incessant rain with the ball as easy to move about as industrial Velcro. For the largest part of this game it was the home side that twigged how to play to the conditions by pushing up and lumping the ball over the top. Not pretty or clever, but it worked for them.

In this game, away to Daventry Drayton Grange, Towers had been forewarned that the nice, big, sand based pitch was under repair and that we would be playing on an alternative ground. Having got changed and upon trudging around the corner Towers found themselves at a pocket handkerchief sized pitch tightly hemmed in by houses and complete with a boarded up changing room / toilet facility.

This week the pitch was perfectly playable but with a strong wind across the ground from right to left. Again it was the home side that better twigged how to play to the conditions by sitting tight and playing the ball around, both attacking and defending in packs. By contrast Towers played a spread out game using hopeful long wonder passes to speedy players. It did not work because any long pass had to be spot on which, with such a tiny working area and packed defence, meant that any delivery error put the ball straight back to the home side. The result was that the Towers target men routinely found themselves right on the end of nothing. And that was precisely what the Club ended up with.

Next fixture Wellingborough Raffertys away  
Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2008 at 1400