

## Review

### Three Nil Down at Half Time

by Jonathan Edgington

**Produced by RoCo Team (Emma Slater, Pete Grocock, Linda Nicholson and Sandy Watkins)**

**Production: Summer 2008**

Having no children of my own, and little to no opportunity to spend time with other people's children, I had no idea of what to expect from Junior RoCo and was also unaware of the capabilities of people their age. So to say that I was surprised, amazed, impressed and ultimately speechless with awe would be a gushing understatement!

The show started with each member of Junior RoCo stepping forward in turn and reciting a poem or reading. Not so difficult you may think, however, as a "senior" RoCo member who is sure it must be possible to die of nerves prior to each performance in front of an audience(!), the fact that these young people were able to step forward and recite to the audience absolutely amazed me! It is something that probably most of us would run a mile from doing, and yet Junior RoCo took it all in their stride and obviously enjoyed it!

After everyone had had their turn speaking, the play itself commenced. This was a fun play based upon a girls' football team who was, unsurprisingly, 3-nil down at half time. This was due to the team members being chosen through their connections as opposed to their merit. They included the manager's daughter, the manager's best friend's daughter, the manager's boss's daughter etc! Then there was the ghastly manager himself, played wonderfully by Jordan Brumwell, who stated: "Well, this is what happens when you let girls play football!" Cue Alice Rayner as a local schoolteacher who makes a bet with the manager that if he allows her to take over managing the team for the second half, and they subsequently win, then he has to resign. A bet which he arrogantly accepts. She then sets about substituting the whole team – taking off the manager's daughter, manager's best friend's daughter etc and playing the other team members from the bench – all of whom can actually play football! And of course the final result of a 4-3 win by 'our' team is inevitable.

A simple plot line. However, what truly made this play so wonderfully watchable were the walk-on parts, which included a runner, played by an energetic Faye Henderson, who was attempting to jog around the football pitch enough times to enter the record books – whilst reciting limericks and being followed by the very serious record adjudicator. The runner made it 2,711 times around the pitch before falling over – just yards from breaking the record...! There were also the snobby, competitive mothers of two girls in the team in full competition with each other – played wonderfully by Nadia Azimikorf and Nirvana Wray – who both



'fainted' in disbelief when their daughters were substituted, but then made a remarkable recovery when the talent scout showed up...!

I thoroughly enjoyed the show – and the rest of the audience appeared to agree! I would like to apologise for not mentioning every actor/actress by name, but they all know who they are, and every single one of them should be very proud of themselves and their achievements! Their obvious enjoyment and enthusiasm was infectious, and due credit must also go to their leaders – Emma Slater, Pete Grocock, Linda Nicholson and Sandy Watkins – for giving Junior RoCo such a strong start as the newest member of the St Andrew's family. I think we'll be seeing a lot more of them in the future, and I for one cannot wait!

**Stella Wallace**