

Ross 4 – 0 Newent B

24/09/2005

Ross' Flying Start

Ross Mens Hockey 1st XI approached last Saturday's first league game of the season with some trepidation. Having finished a comfortable third in their league last year, re-structuring by the powers that be saw them lining up at home in the newly formed Gerrard's Herefordshire and Gloucestershire 2nd Division against local rivals Newent B. Prior to the start of the game, both teams observed a minutes silence for Ross stalwart Trevor Rogers who tragically passed away over the summer.

Perhaps inspired by the memory of the irrepressible Trevor, Ross got off to a flying start with Phil Evans neatly flicking home after just three minutes. With Sam Warner and Tom Walton completely dominant in midfield, and even James Adamson putting in a cameo appearance, Ross seemed set for a goal feast. Unfortunately, the Ross front line of Andy Ridgway and Richard Harbottle, supplemented from time to time by Tom Minton and Wilem Haagen, were in a profligate mood and numerous chances were spurned. At the other end, the rock solid Ross defence of Edward Peck, Brian Clare and the alternating Greg Weston and Lawrence Rogers denied Newent even a sniff of goalkeeper Mitch Greenman. However, at half time Ross only led 1-0.

Seeing that they were still in with a shout, Newent started the second half with far more energy and determination. Still, however, the Ross back line restricted them to a couple of half-chances and short corners whilst the Ross forwards at last found their range. Andy Ridgway powered home a short corner before striking again from an opportunity created by the industry and skill of Tom Walton. Andy Cross went close before Adrian Williamson added a fourth. There will be harder opposition to be faced by Ross in this league during the season, but this 4-0 victory was a heartening start.

Sam Warner was voted Brabo Man of the Match.