

Ross 3 – 2 Cheltenham C

08/10/2005

Ross ride their luck

Last Saturday, Ross Mens 1st XI entertained Cheltenham C, another team from the Gerrard Hereford and Gloucester League Division 2 yet to drop a point. In the 2004/05 season, Ross won both close encounters between the two sides by the odd goal. A tight match was anticipated, and so it proved, with both sides competing with tenacity in a crowded midfield for much of the first half.

As well being without two regular players, Ross' cause was not helped by their captain, Andy Ridgway, departing the game after twenty minutes with a cut to his face after a particularly desperate clearance from a Cheltenham defender. He was replaced by Matt Jones who joined the rotating Richard Harbottle and Willem Haagen upfront. From the ensuing short corner, however, a neatly worked move between Adrian Williams and Tom Walton set up an easy chance for Andy Cross. A number of fine saves from Ross goalkeeper Dave Chatwin meant that the home side reached half-time one goal to the good.

At start of the second half, the dynamic midfield duo of Tom Walton, Sam Warner, supported by Greg Weston, started to get a grip of the game and Andy Cross showed remarkable composure to flick home Ross' second goal from a tight angle. Shortly afterwards, Adrian Williams slotted home the third and Ross seemed home and dry.

However, Cheltenham refused to admit defeat and when an uncharacteristic misjudgement by Ross centre back Edward Peck led to Ross conceding their first goal of the season, something akin to panic gripped the Herefordshire side. Defending far too deep, letting in a second goal was almost inevitable and it duly came within two minutes. Despite the best efforts of Brian Clare and the alternating Tim Jones and Lawrence Rogers, a subsequent Cheltenham shot whistled past the post whilst another rolled along the goal line before being cleared. But Ross held on to win 3-2, consolidating their position near the top of the table.

Dave Chatwin and Sam Warner shared the honour of being Brabo Man of the Match.