

## ROSS 1 – 4 NEWENT A 18/2/2006

### Depleted defence fail to cope

With regular defenders James Adamson and Tim Jones absent and Greg Weston and Edward Peck present but struggling with tendon and toe injuries, Ross Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI entered their Gerrard Hereford and Gloucester League Division Two fixture last Saturday with limited defensive resources. In the event, neither Weston nor Peck completed the match. To make matters worse, half-way through the second half stand-in left back Andy Cross was struck in the chest by a wild hit by an opposition attacker and played no further part in the game.

In some circumstances, such problems might not matter too much. On this occasion, however, the opposition was Newent A, both the league leaders and its highest goal scorers. Eventually, Newent ran out 4-1 winners, but the result gives a misleading picture of the game.

Indeed, in an evenly matched first twenty minutes, Ross had the clearest chance to take the lead but Captain Andy Ridgway saw his penalty flick saved by the Newent goalkeeper. At the other end, Mitch Greenman was putting on the sort of exhibition of excellence in goal stopping that has made him the envy of other teams. Eventually, despite the efforts of Greenman and midfield dynamo Adrian Williams, Newent took the lead from one of their many short corners.

In the second half, Newent started to find more ways of picking a route through the Ross midfield of Brian Clare, Phil Evans, Steve Evans, Christian Franklin, Lawrence Raasch and Sam Warner. As a consequence, the Ross attack of Ridgway, Richard Harbottle and Wilem Haagen saw less and less of the ball and Greenman more and more. After Newent converted another short corner for their second, a third quickly followed. Phil Evans pulled one back for Ross with a characteristically quicksilver run and lightning shot, but also immediately Newent went up the other end to bag their fourth. Ross stay in third, but results elsewhere mean the pack beneath close on them.

Mitch Greenham was voted Brabo Man of the Match by his grateful colleagues.

Hereford & Glos 2			
Cheltenham D	1	Glos City D	0
Cirencester C	1	Cheltenham C	3
Hereford C	0	Newent B	1
Lydney A	10	Lansdown C	0
Newent A	4	Ross on Wye	1
Wotton-u-Edge B	1	Winchcombe	2

Hereford & Glos 2.	Pl	W	D	L	For	Agn	Diff	Pts
Newent A	18	17	0	1	87	17	70	51
Lydney A	17	15	1	1	84	16	68	46
Ross on Wye	18	13	1	4	62	29	33	40
Cheltenham C	18	11	3	4	68	35	33	36
Winchcombe	18	11	2	5	59	37	22	35
Lansdown C	18	10	1	7	50	42	8	31
Cheltenham D	18	6	2	10	35	52	-17	20
Wotton-u-Edge B	17	5	1	11	25	47	-22	16
Newent B	18	3	3	12	29	69	-40	12
Hereford C	17	3	0	14	17	64	-47	9
Glos City D	18	1	4	13	14	60	-46	7
Cirencester C	17	1	2	14	18	80	-62	5