

ROSS 2 – 2 WINCHCOMBE

11/3/2006

Ross don't do enough

On paper, the equation looked straightforward enough. All that had to happen last Saturday was for second-placed Lydney A to visit mid-table Cheltenham 'D' and win and Ross Men's 1st XI to entertain Winchcombe without losing. Then Ross could celebrate finishing a very creditable third in the Gerrard Hereford and Gloucester League Division Two.

At the end of their 2-2 draw, therefore, Ross had reason to feel pleased. Twice behind, as a consequence of some uncharacteristically lax marking, Ross raised their game sufficiently to score the two goals that they thought they probably needed. The first was squeezed home by Ross captain Andy Ridgway following a surging run down the wing and into the box by Andy Cross. The second Ross equaliser was a confused affair. Cross pushed a short corner to Ridgway who neatly struck the ball back to the incoming right half who crisply clipped it home. One umpire gave a goal. Just after, the other umpire blew for an infringement on the edge of the 'D'. After a short conference, the umpires seemed to agree that the strike should not stand. Infuriated, captain Ridgway shared some robust observations with the second umpire, who had little option but to send him off.

Into the fray stepped James "I know the rules" Adamson, the Ross left back. Following further debate, the umpires indicated that the goal would stand. Ross relaxed and, although reduced to ten men, played some of their most effective hockey of the match, with Adrian Williamson athletic in midfield and Brian Clare rock solid at centre-back. Subsequently, Tom Walton was made Brabo Man of the Match. Thanks are also due to Ross umpire Dave Chatwin.

Elsewhere, however, the fates conspired against Ross. Lydney lost to Cheltenham; this now means that Ross have to go into the forest next week for the final game of the season and in all likelihood have to beat this powerful team to avoid dropping to fourth. They will hope that Lydney are off-song two weeks on the bounce; it will not be likely.

Ross: Goalkeeper: Greenman; Defenders: Adamson, Clare, Jones; Midfield: Cross, Evans (Steve), Franklin, Pearson, Raasch, Walton, Warner; Attack: Harbottle, Ridgway, Williamson; Sub not used: Haagen.

Hereford & Glos 2

Lydney A	13	Winchcombe	1
Cheltenham C	2	Newent A	1
Cheltenham D	2	Lydney A	1
Cirencester C	-	Hereford C	-
Glos City D	0	Wotton-u-Edge B	3
Newent B	3	Lansdown C	7
Ross on Wye	2	Winchcombe	2

Hereford & Glos 2

	Pl	W	D	L	For	Agn	Diff	Pts
Newent A	21	19	0	2	106	20	86	57
Lydney A	20	16	2	2	101	22	79	50
Ross on Wye	21	14	2	5	68	35	33	44
Cheltenham C	21	13	4	4	72	37	35	43
Lansdown C	21	13	1	7	62	46	16	40
Winchcombe	21	11	3	7	62	54	8	36
Cheltenham D	20	7	3	10	38	54	-16	24
Wotton-u-Edge B	20	6	2	12	30	51	-21	20
Newent B	21	3	4	14	34	84	-50	13
Hereford C	19	4	0	15	21	66	-45	12
Glos City D	21	1	4	16	15	78	-63	7
Cirencester C	18	1	3	14	21	83	-62	6