

# Lydney A 6 – 3 Ross

## 18/03/2006

### Ross reflect on what might have been...

On Saturday, Ross Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI visited Lydney 'A' in search of a victory that would assure them third place in the Gerrard Hereford and Gloucester League Division Two. With the home team already safe in second, this final game of the season was always going to be a competitive affair.

Despite being Mitch Greenman back in their goalkeeper's kit, the Ross defence of James Adamson, Brian Clare, Edward Peck and Greg Weston faced up to the young, agile and skilful Lydney attack with some trepidation. This anxiety proved to be well-placed, with the hosts going two-up within the first fifteen minutes, although the first clear-cut chance of the game had fallen to Ross striker Andy Ridgway. His partner in offence, Richard Harbottle, pulled one back with a short run and shot brimming with guile, only for Lydney to score a third just before halftime.

After the interval, Ross thought they had cause to rue some of the decisions of the umpires. An apparently lethal strike by Adrian Williamson was judged not to have touched his stick. Another potential goal by Tom Walton was disallowed as the umpire blew to penalise Lydney for an infringement just before his shot crashed into the opponent's backboard. Following an allegedly idiosyncratic award of a short-corner, Lydney scored a fourth. However, not all of Ross' problems could be attributed – unfairly, of course - to the officials; midfielder Andy Cross popped-up in the Lydney goalmouth to steer a net-bound shot round the post and Steve Evans put in some muscular challenges which attracted the umpires' attention.

Perhaps distracted by their energetic mutterings on these matters, Ross then conceded two more, before rallying in the final ten minutes. Aably supported by Christian Franklin and Sam Warner, Cross scored two almost identical goals to make the final score 6-3.

Overall, then, a rather frustrating end to what has been a relatively successful season for the club. Losing to Lydney – and victory for Cheltenham 'C' elsewhere – meant that Ross dropped out of the top three for the first time. However, fourth is respectable enough, the team racking up 44 points from 22 games, in the process scoring 30 more goals than they conceded. A number of promising youngsters have started to establish themselves in the side and the more mature contingent has mostly managed to stay fit and able.

18-Mar-06	Hereford C	2	Cheltenham D	2
18-Mar-06	Lansdown C	1	Glos City D	0
18-Mar-06	Lydney A	6	Ross on Wye	3
18-Mar-06	Newent A	-	Cirencester C	-
18-Mar-06	Winchcombe	4	Newent B	1
18-Mar-06	Wotton-u-Edge B	2	Cheltenham C	4

Hereford & Glos 2	Pl	W	D	L	For	Agn	Diff	Pts
Newent A	21	19	0	2	106	20	86	57
Lydney A	21	17	2	2	107	25	82	53
Cheltenham C	22	14	4	4	76	39	37	46
Ross on Wye	22	14	2	6	71	41	30	44
Lansdown C	22	14	1	7	63	46	17	43
Winchcombe	22	12	3	7	66	55	11	39
Cheltenham D	21	7	4	10	40	56	-16	25
Wotton-u-Edge B	21	6	2	13	32	55	-23	20
Hereford C	22	5	1	16	26	73	-47	16
Newent B	22	3	4	15	35	88	-53	13
Cirencester C	20	2	3	15	26	86	-60	9
Glos City D	22	1	4	17	15	79	-64	7