

## **ROSS 4 – 1 SHERBOURNE**

### **24/9/2006**

#### **Ross caught napping**

Ross Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI entertained Sherbourne on Saturday in the Gerrard Hockey Hereford and Gloucester League Division Two. Having finished fourth last year, hopes were high as Ross lined up against a team playing their first ever match in the league. There were also league debuts for two new Ross players: Ricardo Medici from Tuscany and Richard Jennison from Tunbridge Wells. The only cloud on the horizon seemed to be the non-appearance of regular goalkeeper Mitch Greenman, with Steve Jones sportingly putting on the pads and helmet.

However, Ross were completely unprepared for the whirlwind that hit them in the first twenty minutes as Sherbourne played like a team possessed of considerable pace and skill. Two down within ten minutes, poor clearances by Medici allowed the opposition to take a four goal advantage within twenty. With James Adamson, Edward Peck and Greg Weston chasing shadows in defence, even more nimble midfield players of the calibre of Tom Walton and Sam Warner struggled to keep up with the speed of the onslaught whilst Phil Evans and Andy Cross saw little of the ball down the wings.

In the second half, Ross started to regain their composure as younger players Christian Franklin and Steve Jones (now relieved of the goalkeeper's role by the belated arrival of Greenman) started to compete in midfield. From a short corner, centre-forward Richard Harbottle diverted a short corner into the Sherbourne goal. Unfortunately, the frustration of trying to claw a way back into the match proved too much for Ross captain Andy Ridgway who served five minutes on the sideline after disputing an umpire's decision with rather too much gusto. Still Ross pursued the game and the tireless Adrian Williams missed when it looked easier to score and Willem Haagen made some nice touches during his late cameo appearance.

In the end, the deficit inherited from a slow start proved too much to retrieve and Sherbourne ran out deserved 4-1 winners. Ross will have to be much sharper in their away fixture with Cirencester next week. Thanks are again due to the two Ross umpires Pete Hughes and John Setchfield.