

ROSS 1 – 3 CHELTENHAM C 14/10/2006

Medici leads renaissance

Ross Men's 1st XI Hockey Team have acquired an unfortunate habit in recent weeks; only starting to play after at least fifteen minutes of the game have elapsed. On Saturday, this affliction was on display in their away match with Cheltenham C, a team which they beat twice last season, and resulted in Ross being three goals down with only a quarter of the game gone. Further damage was apparently only prevented by the introduction of Welsh Veteran international striker Richard Harbottle and defender Edward Peck, also recently returned from sporting engagements abroad.

Even with these reinforcements, the skill, speed and strength of the Cheltenham team teased Ross. Captain Andy Ridgway – looking an increasingly accomplished goalkeeper – was frequently called into action as the back line of James Adamson, Brian Clare, Tim Jones and Greg Weston was overrun. In midfield, Phil Evans, Steve Evans, Christian Franklin, Dave Pearson, Sam Warner, Tom Walton and Adrian Williams struggled to compete, although they did fashion occasional chances for strikers Andy Cross and, later in the first half, Harbottle.

It was the arrival of Ricardo Medici at the start of second half that signalled Ross' revival. His fiery Latin temperament re-energised his team mates who turned from artisans into artists. Eight short corners were won in quick succession by the visiting team before Williams scored from the ninth and numerous other chances whistled past the Cheltenham goal. However, the home team had the resolve to resist this onslaught which petered out as the second period ran down. Ultimately, the three goal deficit proved too much to overturn and Cheltenham finished 3-1 winners.

This result leaves Ross mid-division, with two wins and six points from four games, in the Hereford and Gloucester League Division Two. They will need to be much faster out of the traps next week against Winchcombe who always arrive for their games seeming refreshed and ready for combat.

Hereford & Glos 2			
Cheltenham C	3	Ross on Wye	1
Cirencester B	1	Wotton-u-Edge B	1
Hereford C	3	Cirencester C	0
Lansdown C	3	Cheltenham D	3
Newent B	0	Sherborne	6
Winchcombe	5	Glos City D	1

. Hereford & Glos 2	Pl	W	D	L	For	Agn	Diff	Pts
Sherborne	4	4	0	0	27	1	26	12
Winchcombe	4	3	1	0	14	8	6	10
Cheltenham C	4	3	0	1	18	5	13	9
Wotton-u-Edge B	4	2	2	0	13	9	4	8
Lansdown C	4	2	1	1	23	13	10	7
Ross on Wye	4	2	0	2	11	8	3	6
Newent B	4	2	0	2	7	13	-6	6
Hereford C	4	2	0	2	8	15	-7	6
Glos City D	4	1	0	3	9	17	-8	3
Cheltenham D	4	0	1	3	7	14	-7	1
Cirencester B	4	0	1	3	7	19	-12	1
Cirencester C	4	0	0	4	2	24	-22	0