

ROSS 3 – 3 WINCHCOMBE

21/10/2006

Ross' rollercoaster ride

Ross Men's 1st X1 continued their inconsistent approach to their Hereford and Gloucester League Division Two campaign with a fitful performance against Saturday's visitors Winchcombe, a determined and muscular – if scarcely elegant – side. Matches between these two teams are usually intense affairs and this contest proved no exception.

Ross achieved their first ambition by not conceding in the first fifteen minutes. With Mitch Greenman making a welcome return as Ross goalkeeper, the familiar backline of Brian Clare, Edward Peck and Greg Weston looked secure against the Winchcombe forward line, albeit that forays by their opponent's midfielders often signalled danger. Indeed, it was just such a break from midfield that led to the opening Winchcombe goal, with a battling Brian Clare finding himself outnumbered in the 'D'. Although Phil Evans, Steve Evans, Christian Franklin, Tom Walton, Sam Warner and Adrian Williams worked hard for Ross in the centre of the park, the disciplined Winchcombe team had the upper hand and they were unlucky not to lead by more than one goal at half time.

The pattern of the second half was much the same for the first twenty minutes, with the Ross strikers – captain Andy Ridgway and Richard Harbottle – only having the occasional opportunity to test the very talented Winchcombe goalkeeper. Then having spurned a much easier chance moments earlier, Williams squeezed home an equaliser only for the opposition to go straight back up the other end to retake the lead. Minutes later, Ridgway showed great commitment and skill to once again pull Ross level. Now, the Winchcombe team started to lose its composure, giving away possession by spraying aimless balls around the pitch. Once again, though, Winchcombe took the lead but this advantage was quickly cancelled out by Williams' second strike. As the game moved to a close, it was Ross that looked more likely to find the winning goal. Time, however, was not on their side and the game ended 3-3.

Overall, Winchcombe will look back on this game as two points dropped. Ross still need to find a way of sustaining their better passages of play, but will be relieved not to have lost. Sam Warner was voted Brabo Man of the Match and thanks are due to umpires Andy Cross and James Adamson who showed considerable restraint, especially in the final minutes.

Hereford & Glos 2			
Cheltenham D	-	Cirencester B	-
Cirencester C	0	Newent B	3
Glos City D	0	Lansdown C	5
Ross on Wye	3	Winchcombe	3
Sherborne	2	Cheltenham C	3
Wotton-u-Edge B	13	Hereford C	0

Hereford & Glos 2	Pl	W	D	L	For	Agn	Diff	Pts
Sherborne	5	4	0	1	29	4	25	12
Cheltenham C	5	4	0	1	21	7	14	12
Wotton-u-Edge B	5	3	2	0	26	9	17	11
Winchcombe	5	3	2	0	17	11	6	11
Lansdown C	5	3	1	1	28	13	15	10
Newent B	5	3	0	2	10	13	-3	9
Ross on Wye	5	2	1	2	14	11	3	7
Hereford C	5	2	0	3	8	28	-20	6
Glos City D	5	1	0	4	9	22	-13	3
Cheltenham D	4	0	1	3	7	14	-7	1
Cirencester B	4	0	1	3	7	19	-12	1
Cirencester C	5	0	0	5	2	27	-25	0