

ROSS 3 – 4 LANSDOWN C

28/10/2006

Games of two halves

One member of the Ross Men's 1st XI that lost 4-3 to Lansdown C last Saturday – who clearly has too much time on his hands - has calculated that the team has so far failed to lose a second-half this season. This record was maintained in their latest Gerrard Hereford and Gloucester League Division Two match during which Ross dominated the period after half-time, scoring goals through Andy Cross and Adrian Williams without reply. This was by far the most convincing thirty five minutes of hockey that Ross have played all season, with Richard Jennison, Ricardo Medici, Sam Warner and Tom Walton all outstanding in midfield. However, this superiority – which saw Ross win eleven short corners without converting one into a goal – was insufficient to overcome the 4-1 deficit that Ross incurred in the first period.

Ross started brightly. In just two minutes they were ahead, with Warner slotting home from close range following a flowing passing move involving Kristian Franklin and Adrian Williams. Lansdown quickly equalised; Medici was penalised for having headed the ball off the line from a Lansdown short-corner strike without it being judged illegally high by the umpires. Despite the brave dive of captain Andy Ridgway in the Ross goal, the ball flew in close to the post. Minutes later a flighted pass from a Lansdown midfield player - which only missed Warner's golden curls by virtue of him ducking – was also seen as fair play and a Lansdown forward scuttled in to score.

Umpiring is a thankless task and as both teams started to question their calls – even the gentlemanly demeanour of Ross forward Richard Harbottle was seemingly ruffled – the umpires wisely told both captains to calm their teams down. The Ross midfield took this instruction rather too literally, allowing their Lansdown opposite numbers to break into the Ross half unchecked. The resolute back line of James Adamson, Tim Jones and Edward Peck was left exposed and unable to stop two more shots close range flying past Ridgway.

So, another game of two very different halves saw Ross lose and, as a consequence, they continue to languish seventh in the table. Looking on the bright side, some of the lesser lights of the league are coming up in the next few weeks; hopefully, in one of these games, Ross will succeed in winning both halves.

Sherborne	6	5	0	1	34	5	29	15
Cheltenham C	6	5	0	1	28	7	21	15
Wotton-u-Edge B	6	4	2	0	33	9	24	14
Lansdown C	6	4	1	1	32	16	16	13
Winchcombe	6	3	2	1	18	16	2	11
Newent B	6	3	1	2	10	13	-3	10
Ross on Wye	6	2	1	3	17	15	2	7
Hereford C	6	2	1	3	8	28	-20	7
Glos City D	6	2	0	4	13	25	-12	6
Cirencester B	6	0	2	4	12	25	-13	2
Cheltenham D	6	0	2	4	9	23	-14	2
Cirencester C	6	0	0	6	2	34	-32	0

Hereford & Glos 2			
Cheltenham C	7	Cirencester C	0
Cirencester B	3	Glos City D	4
Hereford C	0	Newent B	0
Lansdown C	4	Ross on Wye	3
Winchcombe	1	Sherborne	5
Wotton-u-Edge B	7	Cheltenham D	0