

Ross 4 – 1 Cheltenham D

18/11/2006

Cool Ross outclass Cheltenham

After the thrills and spills of their previous game in the Gerrard Hereford and Gloucester League Division Two, last Saturday Ross Men's 1st XI put on a technically accomplished and emotionally calm performance to secure a comfortable victory against Cheltenham 'D'. Indeed, it was the visitors who attracted the disciplinary attention of the umpires for a number of tackles more reminiscent of wood cutting than hockey.

Ross swiftly went into the lead following a sleek short-corner routine, with Adrian Williams returning the ball to pusher-in Andy Cross for him to slot home at the near post. Tom Walton soon added a second with a characteristic strike from the edge of the Cheltenham box, power and accuracy combined in one deft movement. Alongside Walton and Cross, Steve Evans, Kristian Franklin and Sam Warner constituted an efficient and effective midfield, bolstered by the considerable presence of Brian Clare in the holding role in front of the excellent back three of Tim Jones, Edward Peck and Greg Weston.

Nonetheless, Cheltenham were not completely bereft of chances and pulled one goal back just before half-time. In the second period, Cheltenham saw one shot scream over the Ross bar and another well saved by Ross captain Andy Ridgway, who is proving himself an increasingly adept goalkeeper. At the other end, meantime, Warner had added a third for Ross and the game was made safe by a fantastic run into the 'D' by Phil Evans; although tackled at the fifth attempt by a Cheltenham defender, Evans had the determination and skill to reclaim the ball and scorch it into the net. Williams created some good chances for himself - without reward - before being replaced by Willem Haagen late in the game.

This win took Ross two places up the league into fifth, much more in keeping with their position last season (and, importantly, above local rivals Newent B). Thanks are again due to umpires John Setchfield and Dave Chatwin.

Hereford & Glos 2	Pl	W	D	L	For	Agn	Diff	Pts
Sherborne	9	8	0	1	55	9	46	24
Cheltenham C	9	8	0	1	51	9	42	24
Lansdown C	9	6	1	2	44	30	14	19
Wotton-u-Edge B	9	5	3	1	40	12	28	18
Ross on Wye	9	4	2	3	24	18	6	14
Winchcombe	9	4	2	3	24	28	-4	14
Newent B	9	4	1	4	16	22	-6	13
Glos City D	9	4	0	5	17	32	-15	12
Hereford C	9	2	1	6	9	51	-42	7
Cheltenham D	9	1	2	6	22	31	-9	5
Cirencester C	9	1	0	8	8	45	-37	3
Cirencester B	9	0	2	7	15	38	-23	2