

Ross 0 - 0 Cheltenham C 27/1/2007

Ridgway raises Ross' resilience

Ross' visitors last Saturday in the Gerrard Hereford and Gloucester League Division Two were promotion seeking Cheltenham C. Sitting second in the table – eighteen points ahead of their opponents – this youthful, agile and confident side were always going to prove a stiff challenge to Ross' more mature yet guileful players. However, inspired by a magnificent performance between the posts by captain Andy Ridgway, Ross put on a text book display of effective defending to ensure that the game ended 0-0.

But his inspirational contribution was not limited to a succession of athletic saves as Ridgway also cunningly deployed his team's resources; in particular, putting Tom Walton at centre back meant that the whole defence was based on very firm foundations. Full backs James Adamson and Greg Weston contained the Cheltenham wingers. Edward Peck, Sam Warner and Richard Jennison patrolled central midfield tirelessly whilst Andy Cross, Steve Evans and Kristian Franklin looked for opportunities to win the ball and turn defence into attack down the flanks. Even Adrian Williams was made an honorary defender for the day, being especially effective in his sprints out to disrupt Cheltenham short-corner routines. For much of the match, only Richard Harbottle – fleetingly augmented by Willem Haagen – was in a forward position.

Despite Ross' determination and discipline, Cheltenham inevitably fashioned chances that not even Brabo Man of the Match Ridgway could stop; both Warner and Walton made crucial yet cool clearances off the line. In the end, however, the experience and commitment of the Ross defence were sufficient to ensure the one point that keeps Ross in a respectable fifth place in the division.

Hereford & Glos 2				
27-Jan-07	Cheltenham D	1	Lansdown C	7
27-Jan-07	Cirencester C	2	Hereford C	0
27-Jan-07	Glos City D	3	Winchcombe	2
27-Jan-07	Ross on Wye	0	Cheltenham C	0
27-Jan-07	Sherborne	7	Newent B	1
27-Jan-07	Wotton-u-Edge B	4	Cirencester B	0

Hereford & Glos 2	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals	Goals	A_Win	A_Dra	A_Lose	A_For	A_Agai	subtrac	Goal Di	Points
Sherborne	15	7	0	1	52	9	7	0	0	39	4	0	78	42
Cheltenham C	15	6	1	0	33	6	6	1	1	39	8	0	58	38
Lansdown C	15	5	1	1	36	16	6	0	2	31	21	0	30	34
Wotton-u-Edge B	15	7	1	0	44	8	2	2	3	18	16	0	38	30
Ross on Wye	15	5	2	1	26	11	1	3	3	15	15	0	15	23
Winchcombe	15	2	1	4	18	22	4	1	3	25	24	0	-3	20
Glos City D	15	3	1	4	13	28	3	1	3	16	26	0	-25	20
Newent B	15	1	1	5	10	28	4	1	3	19	18	0	-17	17
Cheltenham D	15	1	1	6	22	28	2	1	4	13	27	0	-20	11
Hereford C	15	2	1	4	9	29	1	0	7	6	49	0	-63	10
Cirencester C	15	3	0	5	11	23	0	0	7	4	44	0	-52	9
Cirencester B	15	1	1	5	13	25	0	1	7	8	35	0	-39	5