

# ROSS 1 – 2 CIRENCESTER B

## 17/2/2007

### Ross overcome by adversity

Members of Ross' Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI found themselves looking for excuses following their 2-1 away defeat to lowly Cirencester B in the Gerrard Hereford and Gloucester League Division Two last Saturday. During the course of a lengthy post-mortem in the Alma Tavern, they discovered quite a few: the absence of key attacking midfielders such as Andy Cross, Phil Evans and Adrian Williams with the consequence that a number of regular players were pushed into less familiar positions; the jaded condition of one or two who were present compounded by the early morning start time; and the idiosyncrasies of the umpiring. In truth, however, the conclusion was that Ross did not play very well in a game that was there for the taking.

Indeed, Ross initially took the lead. Following a searing run into the Cirencester D, Sam Warner slammed home an emphatic strike only for the umpire to blow for a Cirencester infringement as the ball was goal-bound. Ross' frustration was soothed by Tom Walton scoring from the ensuing short corner, expertly pushed in by Richard Harbottle. At the other end, however, a lively Cirencester attack were giving the Ross back four of Greg Weston, Tony Faulkner, Brian Clare and Edward Peck a bit of a run-around; most of the time it appeared as if Cirencester always had one player free in the D. Andy Ridgway was as excellent as usual in Ross' goal, but eventually sheer weight of numbers told and the opposition equalised.

Nonetheless, the balance of the game was still in Ross' favour. James Adamson was performing some impressive twists and turns on the left and Richard Jennison was looking an increasing threat. A precision pass from Jennison to Peck, sprinting into the Cirencester D unmarked, enabled him to place his shot neatly beyond the keeper only to see a defender kick it off the line. Unfortunately, the resulting penalty flick by Walton was saved.

Although some Ross players started to fade a little in the second half, Steve Evans became increasingly effective down the right wing, exchanging some clinical passes with Wilem Haagen. A number of short corners were won, without Ross being able to convert any of them into goals. In contrast, Cirencester scored from a short corner of their own mid-way through the half after which Ross never really looked like getting back on level terms. Edward Peck was voted Brabo Man of the Match.

Cheltenham C	8	Newent B	0
Cirencester B	2	Ross on Wye	1
Hereford C	-	Cheltenham D	-
Lansdown C	1	Sherborne	17
Winchcombe	3	Cirencester C	1
Wotton-u-Edge B	5	Glos City D	3

team_name	Played	Goal Diff	Points
Sherborne	17	97	48
Cheltenham C	17	63	41
Lansdown C	17	17	37
Wotton-u-Edge B	17	40	34
Winchcombe	17	1	26
Ross on Wye	17	12	23
Newent B	17	-23	20
Glos City D	18	-32	20
Cheltenham D	16	-17	14
Cirencester B	18	-39	11
Hereford C	16	-63	11
Cirencester C	17	-56	9