

# Ross 5 – 7 Wotton-u-Edge B

24/02/2007

## Ross score five – and still lose!

The first match this season between Ross Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI and Wootton-Under-Edge B ended in a dour – not to say slightly fractious – nil-nil draw. Last Saturday the re-match that took place in the Gerrard Hereford and Gloucester League Division Two could not have been more different; an end to end twelve goal affair which Wootton eventually shaded 7-5.

Ross started much the better team, playing some of the most incisive and intelligent hockey that they have put together all season. With Phil Evans adding flair and invention to the energy and combativeness of Tom Walton and Sam Warner, Ross soon took the lead when Adrian Williams converted a short-corner. Evans quickly added a second with a penetrating run and electrifying conversion.

However, after twenty minutes, the fast pace of the game started to tell on some of the more mature Ross players, with Edward Peck being replaced by Tony Faulkner and Greg Weston by Tim Jones. These substitutions were not enough to prevent Wootton unleashing an onslaught that gained them three goals in almost as many minutes, with keeper Andy Ridgway unable to cope with the speed and accuracy of the Wotton finishing. Not even the introduction of experienced players like Wilem Haagen and Richard Harbottle could prevent Wootton adding a fourth just before half-time.

After some gentle cajoling of his team-mates – especially left back James Adamson - during the interval, captain Ridgway returned to the starting line-up for the second half. Initially, this did not have the desired effect, with Wootton adding two more goals to their lead. Nonetheless, with Steve Evans finding more space on the right wing and Andy Evans ranging forward on the left, both stimulated by Brian Clare making spurting runs down their flanks, Ross slowly started to match Wootton in midfield. Walton executed two excellent strikes from the edge of the 'D' in quick succession to bring the margin back to two goals at 6-4. Wootton now started to look edgy and, with Faulkner now pushed forward, Ross' visitors looked vulnerable to sustained pressure.

However, the outcome of the game was effectively sealed by a Wootton break-away five minutes from time. Although Sam Warner added another goal to the Ross tally it turned out to be merely consolation. Tom Walton was voted Brabo Man of the Match and thanks are due to umpires Andy Cross and John Setchfield.

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

Sherborne	17	48
Cheltenham C	18	44
Lansdown C	18	40
Wotton-u-Edge B	18	37
Winchcombe	17	26
Ross on Wye	18	23
Cheltenham D	18	20
Newent B	17	20
Glos City D	19	20
Cirencester B	18	11
Hereford C	18	11
Cirencester C	18	9