

ROSS 1 – 2 CHELTENHAM D

3/3/2007

Ross don't get what they deserve

Geoffrey Chaucer once wrote that 'April is the sweetest month'. As Ross Men's 1st XI lined up for their Gerrard Hereford and Gloucester League Division Two match against Cheltenham D in mild yet crisp early spring air last Saturday, they might have been forgiven for reflecting that March can be quite nice too.

Not that they let themselves be distracted by such thoughts. Following a string of narrow defeats, Ross opened this game with energy, commitment and some skill. With Sam Warner and Tom Walton once again toiling away in the midfield engine room, chances soon started to appear for Steve Evans and Adrian Williams. With the Ross backline of Brian Clare and the alternating fullback pairings of Tim Jones/Greg Weston and James Adamson/Edward Peck looking as reliable as ever, the prospects looked promising for a Ross victory.

However, Ross' major problem this year has been scoring goals. Even with the addition of Welsh International striker Richard Harbottle – often accompanied by the veteran guile of Wilem Haagen and the youthful vitality of Kristian Franklin – Ross could not convert their chances – including five short corners – into goals. Eventually, a cleverly disguised lob-shot from Warner foxed the opposition goalkeeper sufficiently for Ross to go into the half-time interval ahead.

Captain Andy Ridgway made a clever tactical substitution for the second half, putting Andy Evans in for Richard Jennison at right half to counter one of the few sources of Cheltenham threat. Nonetheless it was a cross from the left which was only half-cleared by Peck that allowed a Cheltenham forward – inexplicably wearing a purple tea-towel on his head – in on goal to squeeze a shot past Ridgway from an unlikely angle. Shortly after Warner made a twenty yard run into the opponent's D, rounded the goalkeeper and was then amazed to see the ball ricochet off the post and out to safety.

T S Eliot once wrote that 'April is the cruellest month'. As the game drew to a close, March showed that it can also be pretty mean as Cheltenham struck home from a short corner to snatch an undeserved 2-1 win.

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

Hereford & Glos 2	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals	Goals	A_Win	A_Dra	A_Los	A_For	A_Agai	subtra	Goal D	Points
Sherborne	19	8	0	1	57	11	10	0	0	66	8	0	104	54
Cheltenham C	19	8	1	1	50	12	7	1	1	46	11	0	73	47
Lansdown C	19	7	1	2	47	37	7	0	2	33	21	0	22	43
Wotton-u-Edge B	19	8	1	1	49	15	3	3	3	25	21	0	38	37
Winchcombe	18	4	1	5	26	30	4	1	3	25	24	0	-3	26
Ross on Wye	19	5	2	2	31	18	1	3	6	17	21	0	9	23
Glos City D	19	4	1	5	19	33	3	1	5	23	38	0	-29	23
Cheltenham D	19	2	1	6	24	29	4	1	5	24	34	0	-15	20
Newent B	18	2	1	5	12	28	4	1	5	19	29	0	-26	20
Cirencester B	20	3	1	6	20	32	1	1	8	13	41	0	-40	14
Hereford C	18	2	2	5	10	34	1	0	8	6	55	0	-73	11
Cirencester C	19	3	0	6	11	25	0	0	10	7	53	0	-60	9