

# Vrs LYDNEY 2<sup>nd</sup> XI

**SOUTH HEREFORD  
MOTORCARAVENS LTD.**  
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## Stats

Date	For	Against	Venue	Fixture	Dunroamin MOM
08/09/2007	2	1	home	friendly	Phil Evans

## Scorers

Name	Tom Walton	Phil Evans
Goals	1	1

## Ross just too hot to handle.

On a blazing Saturday afternoon in Monmouth, Ross Men's Hockey Team overpowered their local rivals who are a division above them in the newly named N4 Hockey League. Ross have now just three weeks to go before the start of the new season, and a series of challenging friendlies have been organised to fine tune the hard work put in during the off season.

Here at last the effort and commitment shown by the squad during their tour of Sussex and building upon the success of their triumphs in the Newent and Leominster pre-season tournaments finally paid off. This was no longer about team building or theory, but team work, positioning and superior fitness levels.

The match started slowly as both teams nervously searched out each others weaknesses. Tim Jones seemed to enjoy these opening probes and took the game to the heart of the Lydney defence from his own right back position. It was whilst Tim was AWOL on one of these runs that a space opened up for the Lydney wing to make a break. He whipped in a cross that ricocheted into the back of the Ross goal. This rather fortuitous goal, against the run of play, did not put the Ross back line off their game and gradually the defence comprising James Adamson, Brian Clare, and Greg Weston started to gel. This gave the opportunity for the midfield to take control and dictate pace. Both Kristian Franklin and Phil Evans used their speed and this had the desired affect. From their wide positions they created openings for the forward players, Adrian Williams, Andy Cross and Willem Haagen. Far too many chances came and went, but the pressure was building up. Only the half time whistle brought Lydney any respite.

The second half continued in much the same way as the first had finished. Tom Walton (1<sup>st</sup> Team captain) and Sam Warner dominated midfield using their guile and skill to fashion opportunities for the Ross wide men to break down what was left of Lydney's resolve. Ten minutes after the restart the Lydney defence crumbled and resorted to foul play to bring down a goal bound Sam Warner. The resulting penalty short corner was slammed into the bottom right hand corner by Tom Walton. After this the Lydney team melted away in the afternoon heat and Phil Evans bounded down the left wing, rounded three opponents and smashed the ball past the helpless Lydney keeper, into the top right netting. 2 – 1 up and the game was now as good as over. However perhaps now roused by the knowledge that they had not lost to Ross in nearly three years, Lydney finally pushed over the Ross half. For the last five minutes, despite the manful elbowing of midfield anchor man Edward Peck, Andy Ridgway in goal was called upon to make some masterful saves. However time was running out for Lydney and with their entire team panting and completely shattered the final whistle blew.

Appreciation must be shown to the two umpires Pete Hughes and Richard Jennison who showed great calm when others were loosing theirs. Phil Evans was voted the Dunroaming Caravans man of the match.