

Vrs Lydney 2nds

Stats

Date	For	Against	Venue	Fixture	SHM MOTM
15/12/07	3	3	away	friendly	Andy Ridgway

Scorer

Name	James Brown	Phil Evans	Sam Warner
Goals	1	1	1

**SOUTH HEREFORD
MOTORCARAVANS LTD.**
www.motorcaravans.co.uk

Ross shock Lydney again

The first sign that this might be an exceptional season for Ross Men's 1st XI came when they beat Lydney 2nd XI at home in the initial friendly of the 2007/08 campaign. On Saturday Ross went to Lydney for the return fixture with some trepidation. Riding high in the league one above their own, Ross suspected that Lydney would be out to extract revenge.

Lydney did indeed pile on the early pressure, but a typically measured display from the Ross back line of Tony Faulkner, Richard Jennison, Tim Jones and Greg Weston kept them at bay. Following a speculative clearance up the pitch from Faulkner, James 'whippet' Brown picked up the ball and simply outran the amazed Lydney defence before passing the ball under the oncoming goalkeeper.

This reversal only served to make Lydney re-double their efforts. In so doing, however, they left space at the back which was exploited by an inch perfect pass from Adrian Williams to Sam Warner who scored with one of his trademark reverse stick sweeps. 2-0 top Ross at half-time.

Fearing an embarrassing defeat, Lydney again surged forward in the second half, hitting the post twice, putting several shots wide and watching open-mouthed as keeper Andy Ridgway made a series of spectacular saves in the Ross goal; on one occasion punching a Lydney flick over the bar from point-blank range to the astonishment of all the other players on the pitch. Despite being mostly pinned back in their own half, from time to time Ross could still use the pace of Brown, Phil Evans and Kristian Franklin to fashion chances. Following good work by Brian Clare, Adrian Williams made another excellent pass in the 'D' - more proof that lightning can strike twice - to enable Evans to slot neatly home. 3-0 to Ross, twenty minutes to play.

Notwithstanding the sterling defensive play of Ross, including a tireless performance from Edward Peck in the holding midfield role, the sheer number of chances they were creating meant that Lydney were bound to score eventually and, having scored once, they then scored twice more to secure a draw. However, this was a fine Ross display under the cool yet determined leadership of Tom Walton, and suggests that Ross are ready to compete in the next league up should they win promotion this season. Andy Ridgway was voted South Herefordshire Motorcaravan Centre Man of the Match.