

Vrs Cirencester 'B'

Stats

Date	For	Against	Venue	Fixture	SHM MOTM
08/03/08	1	1	Away	league	Sam Warner

Scorer

Name	Adrian Williams
Goals	1

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Ross reap the reward

Ross Men's 1st XI last Saturday took their unbeaten record to Cirencester B, the only other unbeaten team in the N4 Financial Solutions Hereford and Gloucester League Division Two. They knew that avoiding defeat would make them league champions whilst losing would enable their opponents to just pip them to the title.

Bouyed up by a rousing team-talk by coach Pete Jenkins - think Henry V at the siege of Harfleur – the Ross squad was not in the frame of mind to throw away their hard won supremacy. They ripped into the game at a frenetic pace, with Kritian Franklin and Phil Evans providing the initial pace and precision down the flanks. Pressed back into their own half, the Cirencester team initially looked shell-shocked and were only saved from conceding several times by the excellence of their goalkeeper; a single-handed Spartan holding back eleven marauding Persians. Almost inevitably Adrian Williams scored.

At that point, Cirencester came to life. Pushing back the Ross midfield, and at one point pushing over the mild mannered Ross centre back Edward Peck, they began to play with the energy and skill that had made them genuine contenders. From the last of a series of short corners they equalised; the first half ended like the Battle of Edgehill, fiercely fought but indecisive.

With Tony Faulkner now in the heart of the Ross defence, flanked by Greg Weston, Tim Jones and Brian Clare, Ross prepared for an onslaught in the second period. The home side however could not wrest control of midfield from the excellent Ross trio of Richard Jennison (on for James Adamson), Sam Warner and Tom Walton. A first world war style stalemate arose, with Walton and Warner shelling long balls forward which James Brown was mostly unable to take around the wily Cirencester centre half. The introduction of the guile of Richard Harbottle and Andy Cross eased the pressure and Cirencester did little to seriously threaten Ross until a final rally in the last two minutes. Awarded a short corner, the Cirencester forward for once eluded Williams' challenge to fire the ball past goalkeeper Andy Ridgway ... and onto Clare's stick at the far post. He flicked the ball to safety, the umpire blew the whistle and Ross celebrated.

All in all, a fantastic end to a fantastic season. Thanks are due to coach Pete Jenkins, umpires John Setchfield, Pete Hughes and Dave Chatwin and also to chief cheerleader Lucy.

Cont.

The full Ross 1st XI squad for 2007/08 league season was:

Goalkeeper: Andy Ridgway, Mitch Greenman and John 'Beanie' Dean

Defenders: James Adamson, Brian Clare, Edward Peck, Tim Jones, Greg Weston, Richard Jennison and Tony Faulkner

Midfielders: Andy Cross, Kristian Franklin, Phil Evans, Tom Walton, Sam 'Chisel' Warner, and Neil Bowen

Attackers: Wilem Haagen, Richard Harbottle, Adrian Williams and James 'Poodle' Brown

Hereford & Glos 2				
08-Mar-08	Cheltenham D	1	Cirencester C	1
08-Mar-08	Cirencester B	1	Ross-on-Wye	1
08-Mar-08	Gloucester City D	3	Newent B	1
08-Mar-08	Lansdown C	2	Winchcombe	2

Hereford & Glos 2	Pl	W	D	L	For	Agn	Diff	Pts
Ross-on-Wye	16	14	2	0	79	14	65	44
Cirencester B	16	13	3	0	77	13	64	42
Gloucester City D	16	10	0	6	42	39	3	30
Lansdown C	16	7	1	8	48	57	-9	22
Winchcombe	16	6	3	7	40	47	-7	21
Newent B	16	6	1	9	42	64	-22	19
Hereford B	16	5	1	10	34	44	-10	16
Cirencester C	16	2	2	12	23	58	-35	8
Cheltenham D	16	1	3	12	12	61	-49	6