

# Ross 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Vrs Stroud 'B'

## Stats

Date	For	Against	Venue	Fixture	SHM MOTM
27/09/08	2	1	away	league	Tony Faulkner

## Scorers

Name	Gareth Bowen	Richard Harbottle
Goals	1	1



## Ross' Great Escape

Ross Men's Hockey Club 2<sup>nd</sup> XI arrived at Stroud Leisure Centre in pensive mood. Beaten in both of their pre-season friendly matches, with a squad of players that in many cases had not met before and facing a team that was only relegated to the N4 Financial Solutions Hereford and Gloucester League Division Two at the end of last season, Ross knew that they faced a tough assignment.

Taking to the pitch, however, spirits lifted. The sun shone brightly and the brass band in the local park played the Dambusters' March. Andy Wright and Christopher Chalk quickly took control of the midfield and fed the ball to Matthew Saunders on the right wing who teased and tricked the opposition defenders. This resulted in numerous goalmouth incidents in the Stroud B 'D' but no goals. Eventually, the pressure told and a smart shot by Wilem Haagen was kicked off the line. Gareth Bowen stepped up to take the resultant penalty flick ... only to see the goalkeeper make a fine save.

In the second half, Stroud B eventually rallied and won a series of short corners which were ably dealt with by the athletic duo of David Skyrme and Edward Peck. In the eye of the onslaught, Sweeper Tony Faulkner was immense, intercepting and distributing the ball with aplomb. Tim Jones executed some of his typically robust tackles and Ross debutant Jack Wilkinson found himself dropping deeper and deeper to support his backline. Still Sebastian Sullivan in the Ross goal had scarcely a save to make.

Then Stroud B got the rub of the green and a goalmouth melee saw the ball trickle into the Ross net with five minutes to go. Sensing a major injustice was on the cards, Ross surged forward and once again a Stroud defender found his foot in the path of a goal-bound shot. Demonstrating the motivational mastery that makes him such a superb captain, James Adamson invited Bowen to take this second penalty flick. Perhaps he heard the strains of the theme from The Great Escape drifting across the pitch from the bandstand, but Bowen fired the ball into the bottom corner.

With two minutes to play, it was time for the cool head of a wily old fox; Richard Harbottle slotted neatly under the Stroud goalkeeper's body and at the final whistle the Ross players celebrated like the old friends having secured a glorious 2-1 win that will live forever in the voluminous archive of the heroic achievements of this plucky club. Tony Faulkner was voted South Hereford Motorcaravans Ltd Man of the Match.

### Hereford & Gloucester League 2

	PI	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Points
1 Gloucester City D	1	1	0	0	6	1	5	3
2 Winchcombe	1	1	0	0	6	3	3	3
3 Cirencester C	1	1	0	0	3	0	3	3
4 Ross-on-Wye A	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
= 5 Cheltenham D	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1
= 5 Lansdown B	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1
= 5 Lansdown C	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1
= 5 Sherborne A	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1
9 Stroud B	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
10 Newent B	1	0	0	1	3	6	-3	0
11 Hereford B	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0
12 Cheltenham C	1	0	0	1	1	6	-5	0

#### This Week's Confirmed Results 27/09/08

Cheltenham D	2	-	2	Lansdown B
Cirencester C	3	-	0	Hereford B
Gloucester City D	6	-	1	Cheltenham C
Lansdown C	2	-	2	Sherborne A
Newent B	3	-	6	Winchcombe
Stroud B	1	-	2	Ross-on-Wye A

#### Next Week's Matches 04/10/08

Cheltenham C	v	Cirencester C
Cheltenham D	v	Gloucester City D
Hereford B	v	Newent B
Lansdown B	v	Sherborne A
Ross-on-Wye A	v	Lansdown C
Winchcombe	v	Stroud B