

# Ross 2<sup>nd</sup> XI v Gloucester City 'D'

## Stats

Date	For	Against	Venue	Fixture	SHM MOTM
22/11/08	1	3	home	league	Andy Wright

## Scorers

Name	Willem Haagen
Goals	1

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## *Ross Slump Continues*

Ross, Ross, it's a wonderful town, the first team's up and the second team's down. Very down, not to say despondent, after their 3-1 defeat last Saturday to Gloucester City D in the N4 Financial Solutions Hereford and Gloucester League Division Two. Of course, there are many excuses available: the first team calling up two of the second team's best players; the opposition being cunningly disguised in a red and black strip which to the visually challenged older players in the Ross team looked very similar to black and red; and ..., well just those two actually. In truth, Ross were simply not sharp enough on the day.

The game took on a depressingly familiar façade, with much good work and attractive play undone by two early and well taken goals, by an opposition made up of terrifying youth and geriatric experience. Too often a Ross player would find themselves in a good position, only to give the ball away, or under hit the final, telling pass – this then allowed the opposition to grow in confidence and move the ball around with a swifter level of skill than the Home team could muster. Not even the ever willing Matt Saunders driving from midfield or the improving Richard Stewart could stem the inevitable. Andy Wright tried to stand tall but too often was crowded off the ball. Adam Couch made frequent runs into the opposition half, but didn't find an end product. Richard Harbottle didn't get a break either and club coach Pete Jenkins tried in vein to marshal things from the back. Although defensively strong, with Edward Peck, Tony Faulkner and James Adamson in the back line, Gloucester simply never let up. Although Seb Sullivan was back in goal (no one was more pleased to see him than Gareth Bowen) and defiantly took almost everything the opposition could throw at him, there was little he could do against the three shots that got through.

The all too familiar score line and deficit was briefly reduced with a well struck goal from the youthful Willem Haagen, and this ensured that the first half ended very much with Ross in the ascendancy. This, however, was not carried through into the second half, when once again the midfield and defence was undone by a moment of skill and grace from the Gloucester young winger.

There were a number of chances later in the game for the men in Red and Black, but a lacking in both skill and confidence ensured that the keeper was rarely called upon to make any telling saves, and Ross were left once again to cry into their beer and contemplate another, sole destroying, moral draining and confidence sapping defeat.

Andy Wright was voted South Herefordshire Motor Caravans man of the match. As also special thanks must go to the umpires, Pete Hughes and John Setchfield.

### Hereford & Glos. Division 2

		PI	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Points
1	Cheltenham C	9	7	1	1	44	11	33	22
2	Lansdown B	9	7	1	1	37	11	26	22
3	Winchcombe	9	7	0	2	30	12	18	21
4	Gloucester City D	9	7	0	2	24	14	10	21
5	Lansdown C	9	5	2	2	23	18	5	17
6	Newent B	9	3	1	5	30	35	-5	10
7	Cirencester C	9	3	1	5	20	26	-6	10
8	Stroud B	9	3	0	6	13	35	-22	9
9	Sherborne A	9	2	2	5	20	27	-7	8
10	Ross-on-Wye A	9	2	1	6	10	21	-11	7
11	Hereford B	9	2	0	7	8	32	-24	6
12	Cheltenham D	9	1	1	7	10	27	-17	4

#### This Week's Confirmed Results 22/11/08

Hereford B	0 - 2	Cheltenham C
Lansdown C	8 - 4	Newent B
Ross-on-Wye A	1 - 3	Gloucester City D
Sherborne A	6 - 6	Cirencester C
Stroud B	0 - 3	Lansdown B
Winchcombe	4 - 0	Cheltenham D

#### Next Week's Matches 29/11/08

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