

# Ross 2<sup>nd</sup> XI v Winchcombe

## Stats

| Date     | For | Against | Venue | Fixture | SHM MOTM      |
|----------|-----|---------|-------|---------|---------------|
| 12/12/09 | 4   | 3       | away  | league  | Tom McCluskey |

## Scorers

| Name  | Tom McCluskey | Alex Black |
|-------|---------------|------------|
| Goals | 3             | 1          |

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## *Veni, Vidi, Vici*

As far as Ross Men's Hockey Club is concerned, Winchcombe are the opposition for which the word nemesis was invented. Inspired on the pitch by the voluble man from the white van, time and time again this small town team have thwarted the mighty men from the Wye valley. On Saturday, they met again – this time Ross A against Winchcombe - in the N4 Financial Solutions Hereford and Gloucester League Division Two.

At first, it seemed as if the hoodoo would be lifted without undue exertion. Two up in the first twenty minutes through goals from Tom McCluskey, Ross seemed to be cruising. But the curse of the Cotswolds was not to be exorcised without a struggle and the home team pulled one back from a short corner just before half-time.

A rousing team talk from the Captain Peck exiled the demons to the deeper recesses of the Ross psyche. Shortly into the second period McCluskey claimed his hat-trick. Perhaps Ross thought the job was all but done, perhaps the direct and determined approach of Winchcombe unsettled the visitors; whatever the cause, unearthly errors started to creep into the Ross defensive game, almost as if a poltergeist was controlling their sticks. First, Peck let in the Winchcombe centre-forward for a simple slot home and then a mix up between Tony Faulkner and stand-in (and overall very impressive) goalkeeper Ben Da Cunha allowed their opponents to equalise at 3-3.

A strange and spectral hush descended over the pitch; a moment for courage in the presence of inexplicable forces. Replacing Chris Bargh with Alex Black for the last five minutes, Peck urged his team into all out attack; with the last touch of the match – the very last touch of the match – Black steered the ball into the Winchcome net. All at once, the sun seared through the clouds and the spirits of the Ross squad soared to the heavens, where McCluskey sat at the right hand of God and was awarded the first Nobel Prize for Sport (or man of the match as we like to call it).

A great escape indeed. All together now: DooDoo ... DoDooo Doo DooDoo ...

## Hereford & Glos. Division 2

|                     | P  | W  | D | L  | GF | GA | GD  | Points |
|---------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|--------|
| 1 Gloucester City C | 13 | 12 | 0 | 1  | 56 | 14 | 42  | 36     |
| 2 Wotton-u-Edge A   | 13 | 10 | 1 | 2  | 49 | 14 | 35  | 31     |
| 3 Cirencester C     | 13 | 10 | 1 | 2  | 40 | 18 | 22  | 31     |
| 4 Cirencester B     | 13 | 8  | 1 | 4  | 38 | 18 | 20  | 25     |
| 5 Ross-on-Wye A     | 13 | 7  | 3 | 3  | 31 | 18 | 13  | 24     |
| 6 Cleevillians A    | 13 | 7  | 1 | 5  | 41 | 29 | 12  | 22     |
| 7 Gloucester City D | 13 | 7  | 0 | 6  | 22 | 22 | 0   | 21     |
| 8 Winchcombe        | 13 | 6  | 0 | 7  | 36 | 35 | 1   | 18     |
| 9 Cheltenham D      | 13 | 5  | 2 | 6  | 31 | 41 | -10 | 17     |
| 10 Lansdown C       | 13 | 3  | 3 | 7  | 23 | 35 | -12 | 12     |
| 11 Sherborne A      | 13 | 3  | 2 | 8  | 23 | 51 | -28 | 11     |
| 12 Hereford B       | 13 | 2  | 3 | 8  | 10 | 30 | -20 | 9      |
| 13 Stroud B         | 13 | 2  | 0 | 11 | 26 | 61 | -35 | 6      |
| 14 Newent B         | 13 | 0  | 1 | 12 | 22 | 62 | -40 | 1      |

### Last Week's Confirmed Results

### Next Week's Matches

#### 12/12/09

|                   |       |                   |
|-------------------|-------|-------------------|
| Cheltenham D      | 4 - 2 | Gloucester City D |
| Cirencester C     | 1 - 2 | Wotton-u-Edge A   |
| Cleevillians A    | 9 - 0 | Sherborne A       |
| Gloucester City C | 6 - 2 | Stroud B          |
| Hereford B        | 0 - 4 | Cirencester B     |
| Lansdown C        | 3 - 0 | Newent B          |
| Winchcombe        | 3 - 4 | Ross-on-Wye A     |

#### 19/12/09

|                   |   |                   |
|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| Cirencester B     | v | Hereford B        |
| Gloucester City D | v | Cheltenham D      |
| Newent B          | v | Lansdown C        |
| Ross-on-Wye A     | v | Winchcombe        |
| Sherborne A       | v | Cleevillians A    |
| Stroud B          | v | Gloucester City C |
| Wotton-u-Edge A   | v | Cirencester C     |

#### 08/12/09

|               |       |            |
|---------------|-------|------------|
| Ross-on-Wye A | 3 - 0 | Lansdown C |
|---------------|-------|------------|

## Squad

|                    |
|--------------------|
| Edward Peck (Capt) |
| Gareth Hughes      |
| Greg Weston        |
| Tom McLuskie       |
| Andy Cross         |
| Richard Stewart    |
| Chris Bargh        |
| Geraint Morris     |
| Ben da Cunha       |
| Alex Black         |
| Tony Faulkner      |
| Richard Harbottle  |
| Charlie Exton      |
| Alex Rodden        |
| Gareth Hughes      |