



11th December 2023



Well, that has to be one of the best Christmas lunches I've ever enjoyed at Ludlow Rugby Club. Heavy overnight rain finally put paid to all Pete Chidley's efforts to put on a first team game. So, with a deep pool and two herons squabbling on the pitch as a backdrop, we commenced lunch. Madeline excelled herself with turkey and all the trimmings, Jamie and staff had done a fine job of decorating the clubhouse and more than 80 sat down for lunch.

Christmas lunch is the one day you can guarantee to bump into members, ex-players and friends you haven't seen in years. This lunch was no exception. It was great to see people like Foxy, John Duerdin, Olly Frances, Alan Wozencroft...the list goes on. If only the acoustics were better the conversations would be easier but perhaps that's just me and hearing loss brought on by age. Great credit must go to Tony Smith whose diligence tracked down several of those long-forgotten names. Hopefully they enjoyed themselves and will return, perhaps even renew their memberships.



The fact that we didn't have to rush lunch to hit a kick off deadline certainly helped the occasion and some creative thinking in adding a game of Irish bingo and a quiz with each table supplying a round of questions they thought no one else could answer. I think Rob Richardson was surprised at how many knew who won the golden boot award for the fourth team at their dinner at the Rose and Crown in 1978 (Gerry Acton) and who appeared for Ludlow fourths and for England (two answers to this, Simon Halliday and Dewi Morris). Throw in some repartee between Jim Peters (question what is the gestation period of a European mole... 30



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days, 40 for a star-nosed mole) and our quizmaster/comperer Andy Hamer and the quiz became a star event. Even better my table won the bottle of Prosecco much to the delight of my long suffering wife, Maggie.



But the climax was to come. Cannock 21 Ludlow Seconds 28 came the score and a huge cheer erupted. Yes, the Seconds had scored their second victory of the season and that called for another round of drinks. Word filtered through that Tom Holloway had scored two tries, with Brad Hughes and Raife Hughes adding one each and Rhys Evans adding the conversions. I was sitting next to Rhys' grandparents, and they would have been very proud that he was awarded Ludlow Brewery Man of the Match.

On Saturday the Firsts travel to Shipston-on-Stour while the Seconds entertain Aldridge at home if the floods go down, kick off 2.15. Please make an effort to watch them. Plenty of support could be the difference that earns them a third victory.

As we're talking all things Christmassy this week, it might be a good time to mention that we have a few supporters, players, members and committee members who do a lot of singing this time of year in the various choirs and vocal ensembles around Ludlow, including the Ludlow Male Voice Choir (check out their Facebook page for details of when they are next performing). Another local choir with connections to the club is Bella Acappella who will be performing their Christmas Concert on Friday 15th December at St. John's Church – details opposite and tickets available on Eventbrite.



See you soon,
Andy Wright

President Ludlow Rugby Club