

19th February 2024



In Touch

After a close game at Cheltenham, we had high hopes of getting a positive result in the reverse home fixture. In the event, Cheltenham ran out 10-24 winners with a clinical handling display by their very fast backs. Ludlow hammered away at the Cheltenham line for long periods in both halves without gaining the reward they deserved. Often last-minute handling errors or jackling by the Cheltenham forwards negated progress. Our points came from a Jack Lines penalty in the first half and a Luke Murrell try converted by Jack Lines.

The game was close throughout and spilled into a brawl as Ludlow were once again threatening the opposition try line in the closing minutes. Jack Davies was red carded, Charlie Doyle yellow carded and a yellow card was shown also to the Cheltenham fly half.

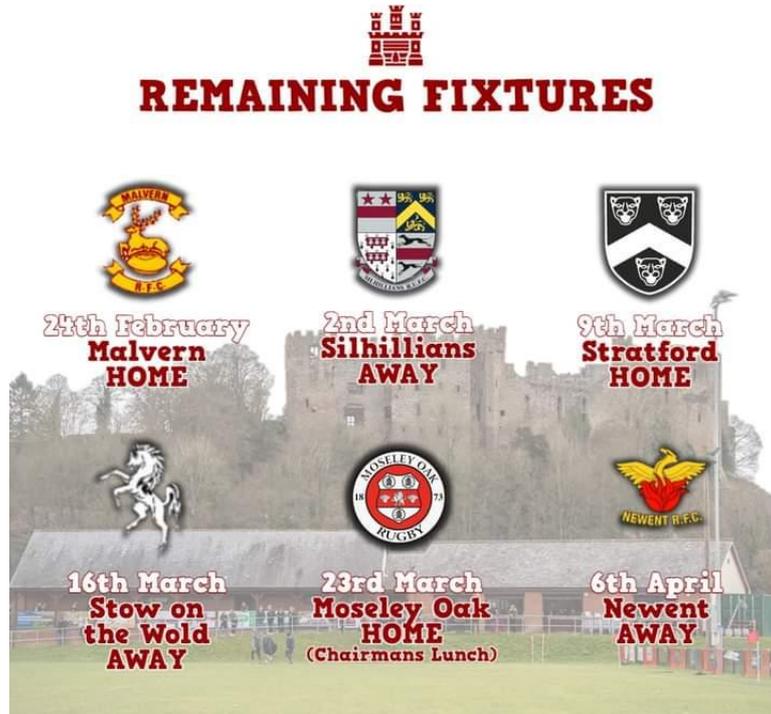


*Ludlow v. Cheltenham
Photos courtesy of Trevor Patchett*

For the third week on the trot Ludlow are at home next Saturday, against Malvern KO 2.15. There is no lunch, but we could do with a big crowd please. Six Nations games will be showing in the bar. The seconds, who failed to get a team together last Saturday and conceded their game at Trentham, are hoping to play Malvern Seconds again at The Linney.



Several people have asked when the games postponed through flooding will be played and what other lunches there are. Below is the list:



England Rugby is currently very concerned at the number of referees it is losing from the game. They put a lot of it down to the abuse received from both players and spectators. In an attempt to clamp down on it they have ruled that any punishment handed out by the club locally for such an offence will have three weeks added to it by the RFU. Hopefully that should slow the drain.

Ludlow has long encouraged its players to add to the pool of unsung heroes who oversee the game. These days our games are drawn from a pool of refs and can come from a long way away. I noted that the young man in the middle on Saturday appeared to have come from Bristol. Ludlow currently has one ref in that pool, Johann Delpert, the kilted South African who has played the last few seasons for our second team. However, we have other local heroes who have been persuaded to be whistlers for friendly games including Andy Hamer and Pete Chidley. Others of my vintage include Ian Smith, Glyn Condliffe, all the Hern brothers, Phillip Jones, Jim Peters, David Pafford, Mike Thomas, and Graham Potts. One of the club founders Alfred David was a frequent officiated and the Rev S Edwards, a Vicar from Stokesay, is also recorded as having officiated.

Next time you are tempted to vilify the ref, think twice, it might be someone you know!

See you on Saturday.

Andy Wright

President Ludlow Rugby Club