



22nd January 2024



In Touch

There's a white five masted schooner in the bay, one of these modern things where rigid sails make up for underpowered engines and make vegans feel good about clocking up the nautical miles, and I'm beginning to feel like I'm really settling into my Pirates of the Caribbean role. And then I receive a WhatsApp from our special correspondent in Ludlow, Stuart Lewis. He tells me that both games were off at the weekend, something to do with the cold and frozen pitches. I'm finding that hard to compute as I sip another iced rum and continue my watching brief on the golden bay in front of me.

Anyway over to Stu: After both games were called off, the social team planned a last-minute darts knockout. With two boards quickly added to the clubhouse walls, 27 players, 1 player's dad, 1 coach, and 1 chairwoman entered the 1-leg knockout. In the first round, the quality wasn't the best, with some games having to go to a 'closest to the bull' decider due to the 5-minute time allocation. The round of 16 saw the quality increase and some big scalps taken. James Yeoman's knocking his dad out, and Coach Mikey knocking Chairwoman Lynn out.

There was some dismay at the draw as player/organiser Stu Lewis found himself with a bye into the round of 16. However, this was justified by a win over Jack Lines in the quarterfinals. In the other quarterfinals, Mikey Jones beat Ben Chamberlain, James Yeomans beat Matt Ashley, and in the battle of the Tom's, Amphlett beat Holloway. With the atmosphere in the club house resembling that of the 'Ally Pally', it was only right that we had walk-on music for the semi-final's and final. Yeomans and Lewis were the players knocked out in the semi's, one wondering what he could have done to make the draw more favourable and the other worrying if his father would forgive him! Mikey and Tom played out the final of the 'Frozen Pitch Cup' with the quality of the darts matching the prize pot of £57.20 + €2. Coach Mikey Jones made sure the boys knew who was in charge by taking the win!

Now I think you will agree that's a quality pitchside report. In all my years of reporting I covered many sports with varying levels of understanding on my part, but I never covered a knockout darts competition but I would have been proud of that report!

This week we would also like to introduce you our Under 14s team (pictured below) coached by James Bridge. James gave us the following report about their progress:

"It is great to have 16 boys attending training and games this season for the Under 14s team, with 6 new signings at the start of the season. It has taken a little time to get us playing as a team. The boys are really starting to understand the game and roles on the pitch, this new year competing well playing matches with other clubs that have teams who have played together for years. I am really proud to be part of their journey.



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We could always do with more players and would welcome them along on a Wednesday evening 7pm or Sunday morning at 10:30am”.



So, to this weekend and arrangements are pretty much as reported before for the visit of Hereford to The Linney. Our Minis and Juniors will be escorting our players onto the pitch just like they do in the Premiership. It's a big deal for the youngsters and if it goes down well, it's something we'd like to repeat so that youngsters are encouraged to come and support and make the progression to senior sides. The plan is that they will play a mini game over half-time and it would be good if they could experience some of the support their elders enjoy. Let's also have a mind please to the kind of language the youngsters are exposed to.

We are billing it as a family day and it's definitely a chance to expand our membership by demonstrating what the club has to offer in terms of facilities but more importantly a warm welcome and friendship. There will be a food vendor on site doing sweet and savouries from kick off until 6pm and live music from The Innocent Criminals from 7pm.

See you soon,
Andy Wright
President Ludlow Rugby Club