



## In Touch

There's plenty to celebrate this week, another home win for the Firsts who now top the league stats for least points conceded at home, and a very well attended and well-organised Ladies Day, plus an enormous milestone for Ludlow Rugby Club.

I am told that 109 ladies enjoyed the day and, had the clubhouse been bigger, there would have been plenty more. Well done Suzi Lewis, Jan and Lucy Doyle. Huge amounts of fizz were imbibed!

*Ladies Day 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2024 – photos courtesy of Trevor Patchett*



The Firsts five-point gain over Worcester was efficient but you have to admire a young Worcester side who are rebuilding and languish near the foot of the table for their resilience. They just never gave up and gave the Ludlow backs plenty to think about how to break down their defense. Ben Black, playing at eight, gave Ludlow most impact and scored three outstanding tries on his way to Ludlow Brewery Man of the Match award. Ben Chamberlain (two tries), Tom Holloway, and winger Luke Murrell supplied the rest with Jack Lines kicking the conversion. Captain Matt Davies supplied some good ball from the lineout winning several of Worcester's lineouts in the first half.



*Ludlow v Worcester*

*Photos courtesy of Trevor Patchett*

The Seconds enjoyed a more torrid time losing 51-0 to a clinical Leek team who lie third in the table. I keep saying this but there were plenty of positives. Ludlow spent a good deal of time in the Leek half albeit without scoring points. Reg Jordan and Captain Brad Hughes played very well and there was a good debut from Zak Southland. To put things in perspective the same Leek team put 129 points past Shrewsbury who lay above us in the table. Unfortunately, the Seconds take on second in the league, Aston Old Edwardians, at home on

5<sup>th</sup> February 2024



Saturday so they will need all the encouragement you can give them. The Firsts will also be at home entertaining Stratford Upon Avon with plenty to play for as Stratford lie three points and one position above us in the league. Both games kick off at 2.15pm.



Now a date that should prompt you to reach for your contacts book and look up some old mates from years gone by, the occasion of the club's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary and a huge ball planned for Saturday, July 20 at Ludlow Racecourse. There will be fizz on arrival, a three-course dinner and plenty of entertainment as befits such an evening of celebration. Tickets will be £60 each and we are looking for people to get together tables of ten. You can reserve tickets/tables by emailing [ludlowrfevents@gmail.com](mailto:ludlowrfevents@gmail.com)

I'm grateful to life member and former club secretary Dave Roberts who spotted the anniversary date and suggested some befitting celebrations. The actual anniversary falls on October 31st 2024 and, as most people know the club out of the old boys who left Ludlow Grammar School, receiving strong support from senior school players and masters along the way. Much of the pioneering secretarial work was carried out by Ludlow jeweller Geoffrey Robinson, Dave's contemporary. Interestingly some of the first reports were in French, not surprising really since French teach George Merchant was responsible. One of the first players to don a Ludlow shirt was a Frenchman, Monsieur Conrad Jurd, an exchange teacher at the grammar school. Quel honneur! I will bring you more historical titbits over the next few weeks but in the meantime the important thing is to look up those old mates you played rugby with and book a table for the ball. It will be an occasion not to be missed.

I mentioned in the last In Touch the important part played by volunteers and there were two more on duty on Saturday. Former player Graham Oliver was back on the touch line on first aid duty while over on the second team pitch player Johann Delpert was reffing the seconds. It must have broken his heart every time he had to log a try against us!

We have begun to use our new car park, alongside the entrance to the Tennis Club car park and among the newly pollarded trees but there are some rules. We must maintain a right of way for way diagonally across the car park to the far gate so that the owner of the house on Linney can gain access to his parking area. It's a useful addition but please stick to the rule.

Talking of rules, a plea from our groundsman to dog owners not to bring their pets to matches. Pete Chid tells me he challenged two spectators at Saturday's game who had taken their pets onto the pitch. Each had walked past at least one sign announcing our ban on dogs pitchside and chosen to ignore it.

See you soon,  
*Andy Wright*  
President Ludlow Rugby Club