

12th April 2025



In Touch

Celebration Special



Last season's awards were a tearjerker with former coach Mikey Jones' son telling us that Daddy's boots would be big ones to fill. They were, but it was clear last night that we have managed it with Tom Tench. The boys hung on his every word as he summed up the high and lows of the season and the players' performances at the annual dinner and awards ceremony. After every game Tom sends the players video clips of what they did well and what they could improve and I'm told that it's played over and over by the team during the course of the week.

The clubhouse is a noisy place at the best of times but you could have heard a pin drop as the players sought to catch Tom's every word. You could tell Tom was pleased with the season but it was clear that he thinks the team is capable of much more. You can also tell that he has given the team self-belief.

That was picked up by our guest speaker, ex Lions and Wales back row, Andy Powell who congratulated the players on a fantastic season and described Ludlow as a great club. Andy coached the Whitchurch side this season and occasionally played. There was a huge cheer as he sought out Raife Hughes, his opposite number in the Ludlow team, and described how Raife had brought him down with a tremendous tackle and then helped him to his feet before setting off to use his boundless energy to good effect elsewhere on the field.

He shared several brilliant stories from his time playing with 14 different top clubs and, of course, recounted the infamous golf cart trip down the motorway to buy fags for Warren Gatland. A big man and a huge character he was generous with the time he spent with both players and VPs.

For the record awards went to: Charlie Doyle (player of the year), Raife Hughes (player's player), Tom Millward (second team player of the year), A J Rocke (emerging player), Jack Small (top try scorer), Sam Brooks, (young Player of the year).

Last season Jonny Grainger was pulled out for mention for beginning the season having serious difficulty catching a ball while standing still. By the end of the season Mikey Jones said he was the first name on the team sheet, a brilliant effort. This year he got the Captain's award.

The President's cup went to treasurer Ben Jackson, Chairman's Cup to Jan Doyle. Both these have given tireless effort in ensuring that the club runs smoothly behind the scenes. Supporter of the season was Darren Jukes, who hasn't missed a match and his running commentary has been available to anyone who cared to listen!

And so we come to the close of another successful season and move smoothly towards summer maintenance and fund raising for which help would be much appreciated. Jan Doyle will soon be collecting names for help parking cars etc during the Spring Festival and later for the summer concerts at the castle.

If you know anyone who could sponsor the club or a player then please let either myself or Stuart Lewis know. Andrew.wright123@btinternet.com or stuart_lewis@live.co.uk

First, it's the annual golf competition at Ludlow golf course on Friday, May 2 followed by the awards ceremony and dinner in the clubhouse.

Just a reminder that our AGM will take place on Thursday 22nd May at 7pm in the clubhouse – all members welcome to attend.

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It's our Sinclair Sevens and family fun day on Saturday, June 14. We also have a work day planned for the weekend of June 28 when maintenance on both the clubhouse and grounds will be undertaken.

Some projects are already under way. Acoustic baffles have already been installed on the ceiling in an attempt to make it easier to hear people during lunches. The wall at the end of the bar will also be removed and a new bar counter installed together with new flooring.

Outside a ramp will be created at the west end of the clubhouse to ease the steepness of the route to the seconds pitch and the railings extended.

Hope you'll come and view it for yourselves soon.



See you soon,
Andy Wright
President Ludlow Rugby Club