

10th December 2025



## In Touch

I was on grandad duties watching a game of football on a bleak wet field somewhere west of Reading when Ludlow's game against Silhillians got postponed so I didn't take part in the debate this time. But I have on several previous occasions so feel well qualified to voice an opinion.

We need a rule change that allows an impartial person to arbitrate when a pitch is or isn't playable. And the obvious person is the referee.

We all know that the Linney has a high water table and is prone to flooding when the Corve or the Teme overflows but it also drains fast and can be playable within 24 hours.

On Saturday our very experienced groundsman Pete Chidley pronounced the pitch playable at 8am although there were puddles in some areas. The referee turned up early and said he was happy that the pitch was ok to play and our team was prepared to play. Silhillians had a different opinion, as they have every right to under the current rules, and so the match was postponed to a date in January to be agreed. Silhillians had made a long trip and were disgruntled that we hadn't made the call earlier to travel to them instead or swap venues.

We've been here before. I've been involved on more than one occasion where the pitch has been well under water and we've told the opposition not to make the long journey and been rapped over the knuckles by the league because we haven't followed the protocol correctly of submitting pitch photographs, getting a ref to inspect etc etc. Both sides are in effect supposed to agree that the pitch is unplayable, but, for obvious reasons that is unlikely to happen.

In most sports it's clear cut. The ref does the inspection and the ref takes the decision. Game on or game off.

I'm not having a go at Silhillians or any other team that has called off games having travelled. The rules allowed them to make the postponement call. I'm saying the rules need a review and perhaps our organising committee needs to make that point again to the league. There are serious amounts of travel and time and therefore costs involved in staging a game so a sensible early call on a postponement or reversal is in everyone's interests and a qualified neutral ref is best placed to do that.

Back to Grandad duties and in Football it was quite clear. Our team would have had an early call of postponement because of a waterlogged pitch to save us all travelling. As we were on clay ground beside the River Thames I half expected the call but a late change in the weather meant the pitch was playable and I spent a very enjoyable afternoon watching eldest grandson play.

Hopefully the weather will improve and we'll have a full house and decent surface for our home game against Malvern on Saturday. It's our Xmas lunch and I understand that it's been fully booked for several weeks. Kick off will be 2.15pm. The seconds are without a fixture.

Off the pitch Jan and Lucy Doyle had a splendid attendance of 32 ladies at their wreath-making workshop on Friday and, game or no game, we had decent turnout at the clubhouse for lunch on Saturday.



Andy Wright  
President

**LUDLOW RUGBY**

**FIXTURES 2025/26**

HOME		AWAY	
HOSLEY OAK SEP 6	HALVERN SEP 13	LUCTONIANS 2 SEP 20	STOW OCT 4
STRAFORD OCT 11	EDWARDIANS OCT 18	HEREFORD OCT 25	SHIPSTON NOV 8
KENILWORTH NOV 22	OLD HALES NOV 29	SILHILLIANS DEC 6	HALVERN DEC 13
LUCTONIANS 2 DEC 20	STOW JAN 10	STRAFORD JAN 17	EDWARDIANS JAN 31
HEREFORD FEB 14	SHIPSTON FEB 28	KENILWORTH MAR 7	OLD HALES MAR 21
SILHILLIANS MAR 28	HOSLEY OAK APR 11		

BQSI FLOWFIT

**LUDLOW RUGBY**

**SECOND TEAM**

**FIXTURES 2025/26**

HOME		AWAY	
FIVE WAYS OLD EDWARDIANS SEP 6	STOURBRIDGE GRASSHOPPERS SEP 13	ASTON OLD EDWARDIANS 2 SEP 20	DE WASTS SEP 27
GREYHOUND OCT 4	CAMP HILL 3 OCT 11	BROXTARD 2 OCT 18	BOURNVILLE 3 NOV 1
OLD HALES 2 NOV 15	FIVE WAYS OLD EDWARDIANS JAN 10	STOURBRIDGE GRASSHOPPERS JAN 17	ASTON OLD EDWARDIANS 2 JAN 24
DE WASTS JAN 31	GREYHOUND FEB 7	CAMP HILL 3 FEB 14	BROXTARD 2 FEB 21
BOURNVILLE 3 MAR 7	OLD HALES 2 MAR 21		

BQSI FLOWFIT

**LUDLOW RUGBY**

**2025/26 LUNCH CALENDAR**

- 20th Sep Prematch Meal & Mascots (Luctonians 2)
- 11th Oct Chairman's Day (Stratford)
- 25th Oct Prematch Meal (Hereford)
- 22nd Nov Prematch Meal (Kenilworth)
- 6th Dec Prematch Meal (Silhillians)
- 13th Dec Christmas Lunch (Malvern)
- 10th Jan Prematch Meal (Stow on the Wold)
- 31st Jan Prematch Meal (Edwardians)
- 28th Feb Ladies Day (Shipston on Stour)
- 21st Mar President's Day (Old Halesonians)

To book your place and discuss options, please contact Ally at [events@ludlowrfc.co.uk](mailto:events@ludlowrfc.co.uk)

BQSI FLOWFIT

Helpful contacts this season:

**Membership enquiries:** Peter Lines ([peterlines53@gmail.com](mailto:peterlines53@gmail.com))

**Meal Bookings:** Alison Hiles ([events@ludlowrfc.co.uk](mailto:events@ludlowrfc.co.uk))

**Minis and Juniors:** James Bridge and Chris Yapp ([james-bridge@live.co.uk](mailto:james-bridge@live.co.uk) & [kippyapp@msn.com](mailto:kippyapp@msn.com))

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