

14th December 2025



In Touch



The final score was 0-17 to Malvern and, to be brutally honest, it could have been a lot more. The visitors put Ludlow under pressure from the start and kept it up relentlessly. Yes, Ludlow were fielding a slightly weakened side, but the normal pinpoint accuracy wasn't there in their passing and offloads. Ludlow's defence was good but Malvern put took long phases of play which eventually found holes. Not even Raife Hughes doing his best impression of the Duracell bunny could keep Malvern out and the normal Linney stronghold was breached by three tries and a conversion. Raife's relentless tackling deservedly earned him the Ludlow Brewery man of the match award. So it's off to near neighbours Luctonians on Saturday hopefully with a full strength side and the cobwebs shaken off. There's a bus for travelling supporters. You can book it by emailing events@ludlowrfc.co.uk.

Luctonians currently sit in fourth place in the league, three points above us but having played one more match than us. They'll be keen for revenge after we beat them at home early in the season. Saturday's result detracted slightly from what had been a splendid Xmas lunch with plenty of prematch banter from host Steve Small and his brother in law and Malvern Director of Rugby, MarcGaubert whose son Ben was playing for Malvern. It was also international volunteers day and Fiona Harris, North Mids RFU volunteers ambassador was on hand to give awards to six hard working Ludlow volunteers, Stu and Suzie Lewis, Steve Small, Trevor Patchett, Jan Doyle and Ben Jackson.

Our club depends so much on the unseen work and hours put in by these unsung heroes that's it's good that we honour them but always remember that there are plenty of others whose work is vital and doesn't get seen. In fact we are desperately short of volunteers in one area in particular – first aiders. The RFU demands we have one pitchside to deal with spectator emergencies at every game. The club pays to train its first aiders and they get a certificate which qualifies them to deal with accidents and emergencies not only pitchside but at home, in the street and the workplace making them very useful people indeed within the community. The training takes a day. The trainer makes it fun and, in my case, I've had occasion to use it to help on several occasions, once pitchside but also in my own home. In every case there was a happy outcome. If you think you can help by acting as first aider for a couple of hours at a game then please contact Steve Proctor who arranges our rotas. steven.proctor.nursing@gmail.com.



We promised to bring you more about our ever growing mini and junior sides. James Bridge tells us about the under 16s who have been growing quietly over the past couple of seasons. "I had thought I might have to disband the team three seasons ago. We had grown to ten players and didn't seem to be able to grow to a full strength side. How wrong my judgement could be! The team started at under 7s many moons ago with Alfi, Jack, Joe, Ollie, Will and Henry playing under Ludlow colours from that time and Dan and Jack with the team for what seems like forever too. The turning point for the team was once the club managed to target Church Stretton School, and we are now fielding players from a large stretch of the A49 from Shrewsbury to Brimfield. We lost players but we are gaining great players along the way too. We now have 17 players registered to play for Ludlow, while we had strong players in the past, we now have players that are strong in each position on the pitch. The team has grown with help from the senior players at the club, special thanks to Oisin Harte and Jamie Durban for their support in building positioning and skills and specifically Jonathon Granger for his help in developing the team and game play over the last 2 seasons. The under 16s are a formidable side equally competing hard with sides across the midlands and usually only being undone by sides with a greater number of replacements (squad of 27 in the last game) giving almost an unfair advantage and running us out of steam in the last quarter of games. The boys are bitterly disappointed when we lose. That said we are starting to win games and playing some great rugby and always earn the respect of opposing teams for our never say die attitude to the game (also earning my respect each match). I Look forward to the day that this group of gentlemen can play senior rugby at Ludlow rugby club, I am sure they will not disappoint our fans if they do. We have a strong group of volunteers (team management, first aiders and fixture secretary) too, without them we would really struggle to build any further. Many thanks to all volunteers who make up the patch work of the under 16s and also the wider mini/youth rugby family at Ludlow rugby club."

Thanks James, Hopefully we'll see some of the under 16s supporting those senior players by cheering them on at Lucs on Saturday. 2.15pm KO

Andy Wright, President Ludlow Rugby Club





Editor's Note

After Saturday's match, Malvern players led the singing of the 12 Days of Christmas – they sang a new version written by young club supporter, Edwyn Nicklin (age 10). Here are the lyrics in case you want to give them at go at your next Christmas party!

“On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love sent to me...

- ...Twelve home supporters
- ...Eleven – a left wing
- ...Ten low tackles
- ...Nine – a scrum half
- ...Eight players in a scrum
- ...Seven rolling mauls
- ...Six - a blindside flanker
- ...Five points for a try
- ...Four yellow cards
- ...Three points for a drop goal
- ...Two points converted
- ...and the world's best rugby team”

