



Christmas is a time for sharing and we certainly shared the spoils when we entertained Stratford-Upon-Avon at The Linney. Ludlow had looked well on top for the first quarter of an hour or so and had Stratford going slowly backwards towards their try line resulting in another fine try for centre Jack Lines. Scrum half, Tom Perkins slotted the conversion.

That seemed to give Stratford the prod they needed to escape the lethargy induced by the long coach journey. A penalty and a try meant they finished the half in front and they began the second half in fine style building their lead with further well taken tries as Ludlow struggled to recover from being two players down through yellow cards.

Coach, Tom Tench, should be well pleased with the spirit shown by his young side as they took the game by the scruff off the neck in the last 20 minutes and fought back with tries from Jack Davies, Tom Perkins and Will Hodnett to earn a draw and a try bonus point. It was a remarkable turnaround and might even have been a win had the conversions been any easier. As it was the tries were scored wide and the gusting wind meant that Perkins had little or no chance of landing any of them. If we're honest a joint share of the spoils was a fair result.

Even better news arrived soon after full time in the shape of a WhatsApp from Stu Lewis, playing with the seconds at Bromyard, we've won 19-35. Try scorers were Seb Barrett, Oisin McDermott, Kyran Evans (2) and Toby Morgan. Bailey Bache kicked every conversion. Well done boys and well done too to fixtures secretary Steve Small for picking up a decent local fixture when Stratford cancelled at the last minute. The seconds travelled with substitutes too and that just shows that there are players about willing to maintain a second team if we can get fixtures that aren't a Sabbath Day's journey away.

So Christmas lunch was a great success. I think 90 sat down to enjoy the feast prepared by Madeleine Leech and her team. There was plenty of banter too, much of it instigated by host Iain Braggins who had contrived to get the first brick on Chairman Lynne's bar wall, as that of apprentice groundsman Dave Andrew. Dave took the joke well and I shan't be surprised to see some kind of payback for Mr Braggins on that wall soon. Dave also ably stood in for Margaret Jones in organising the raffle and selling tickets. Margaret had only come out of hospital the previous day. We wish her all the best for a speedy recovery.



Pictured left were the winners of our best dressed table.

Pictured right is winner of the award for best dressed individual, Paul Doyle. On behalf of the club we would like to wish Paul a very happy retirement!



You will notice that quite a few bricks already have names on them on the bar now and they look great. There's still time to buy a brick so collect a form from the bar next time you're down.



It was brilliant to see Paul Hughes on the touch line with wife Janet and his family. Paul has also been in hospital for a lengthy period, and it was great that he felt well enough to stand pitchside on a cold and blustery day. A happy Christmas too to Laurie Wallace who is in a nursing home in All Stretton but is still visited regularly by some of his teammates.



At this week's match we also managed to get a photo of our RFU Volunteer Award winners Rob Hughes, Kelly Nicklin and Peter Lines as mentioned in last week's In Touch. Sadly, we missed them at the volunteers' lunch when Malcolm Harris visited us to present their awards so was good to get them together for a photo this week.

I'm not sure how the club cast its vote in the call for change at the RFU. I'm told that we should be receiving a survey soon to fill in but, as it's organised by the RFU, I rather suspect it will focus on remuneration and not on the root and branch changes we need to see rugby survive the next few years. My vote would be to appoint some regionally based development officers who can focus on the local problems and help clubs to find solutions as they used to.

Nearer home, Youth and Minis supremo James Bridge is pushing for a solution to where we can train as our Linney community ground becomes inundated with water during the winter months. He's put forward some interesting ideas and I look forward to joining the debate he has instigated. James tells me that he is awaiting a date to be fixed. His under 15 team is now very much a reality and in future years we should be able to field a colts team that will eventually vie for places in our senior sides. It's a long time since that happened but I still remember the feeling with great pride! Our Minis and Juniors enjoyed their own Christmas party after their last training session of 2024. Huge amounts of food and chocolate were consumed to fuel them up ready for more training and matches in the new year. A game of 'wrap the coaches' went down well too. Thanks to all of the parents and coaches who helped to organise the party.



With that thought I will wish you all a very happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you back at The Linney in 2025. Our first game of the new year should be a double header at Shipston-on-Stour on January 4. Shipston are second in the league and eleven points above us but as we've proved before we are more than capable of surmounting such challenges. Consistency, that's something still to be strived for!

Andy Wright
President Ludlow Rugby Club



QUIZ NIGHT

With quiz master Malcolm Weaver
In aid of MND

**FRIDAY
17TH JAN**

7pm start
£5 Per Person
Max 6 per team

Ludlow Rugby club
Booking required
jamiehume-18@hotmail.co.uk



LUDLOW RUGBY CLUB - CHAIRMANS CHALLENGE
**'ANOTHER BRICK
IN THE BAR'**

"Money raised will go to purchasing...
wait for it & drum roll...
an **ELECTRONIC SCOREBOARD!**

This is something that I set myself to
achieve during my time as Chairman, so
time is running out to achieve this
challenge"

Lynn Davies

ONLY £25 PER BRICK

To buy a brick please sign up behind the
bar, at the club house.

**BUY A BRICK OR 2 - AND BE AT
THE BAR NOW AND FOR ETERNITY**



LUDLOW RUGBY CLUB
LUDLOW
VISITORS
18
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