



15<sup>th</sup> January 2024



## In Touch

Although we're a few weeks in already – happy new year! Isn't it good to have rugby back? Even better to celebrate it with a win. The Firsts travelled to Berkswell and Balsall and came away with a 14-36 victory. Tom Holloway was Ludlow Brewery man of the match and one of the scorers. Other tries came from Charlie Doyle, James Yeomans (2) Luke Murrell and Raife Hughes. Centre, Jack Lines added the extras with his boot.



Ludlow vs Berkswell and Balsall  
Photos courtesy of Trevor Patchett

The Seconds entertained Cleobury at home and put in a cracking first half performance turning round 7-14 down at half time after Rhys Evans took a well-timed tap and go penalty. Colin Fish capped a cracking team move in the second half but in the end the boys were beaten comfortably albeit with a very positive attitude. This despite a crop of injuries including second row George Vyvyan suffering a broken leg. The final score was 14-40.

So we move to a double header at home on Saturday. The firsts take on Stratford-upon-Avon who are sixth, three places above us in the league. Having lost games to weather we have two games in hand over most teams. The Seconds entertain Aston Old Edwardians. Both games kick off at 2.15pm and the boys will be looking for a big crowd to lift them.

Our Minis and Juniors had a busy weekend too as the U14s and U11/12s headed up to Market Drayton. The U11/12s performed really well and won both of their games against Market Drayton and Crewe.



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Our U7s, U8s and U9s made the short journey over to The Luctonians and had great fun playing several games on a chilly January morning! Pictured below are our Under 7s who are developing really well as a team. Under 7s coach, Adam Williams, was really proud of their efforts on Sunday. Shout out also to the top try scorers, Monty and Sam for the Under 9s team this week, coached by Chris Yapp – Monty and Sam scored lots of tries between them!



Monty – U9s try scorer



Sam – U9s try scorer

And one for the diary - on Jan 27<sup>th</sup> the Firsts play Hereford at The Linney and our Minis and Juniors will be escorting our players onto the pitch just like they do in the Premiership. It's a big deal for the youngsters and if it goes down well, it's something we'd like to repeat so that youngsters are encouraged to come and support and make the progression to senior sides. The plan is that they will play a mini game over half time, and it would be good if they could experience some of the support their elders enjoy. Let's also have a mind please to the kind of language the youngsters are exposed to. We are billing it as a family day and it's definitely a chance to expand our membership by demonstrating what the club has to offer in terms of facilities but more importantly a warm welcome and friendship. There will be a food vendor on site doing sweet and savouries from kick off until 6pm and live music from The Innocent Criminals from 7pm.

By the time you read this I'll have adjusted my eyepatch, refilled my beer glass and be back at my favourite spot under a coconut palm but I'll be thinking of you as I adjust to my temporary role as Johnny Depp's stand in.

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