



# In Touch

Ludlow 20 Newent 29

For large portions of this match Ludlow were well on top and thoroughly deserved the lead they held twice. But Newent aren't runaway league leaders without good reason. When they get in the red zone they invariably find a way to finish. Their ball skills are superb and they have a cracking partnership at 9 and 10. But Ludlow really did deserve to come away with a bonus point at least. With a minute to go they still had a losing bonus point in their grasp only to have it cruelly snatched through a penalty from an in form kicker.

Big Gwyn Pierce, playing second row, got the ball rolling for Ludlow with a well taken try from a set piece lineout with twenty-five minutes on the clock. Almost immediately Newent hit back with an inside pass to that found a hole in the Ludlow defence. The conversion took them into the lead and, with a Ludlow player carded for a high tackle Newent reinforced their lead with a beautifully taken move including two no look passes to score under the posts.

Starting the second half still with a man down Ludlow could easily have caved but Bailey Bache, playing at full back had other ideas. Collecting a Newent clearance he ran at the defence, dinked a little kick over the top for his backs to run onto. It took a cruel bounce which came straight back to him. At full tilt no-one was going to stop him. Will Hodnett kicked the extras. Newent replied almost immediately with a converted try in the corner. With 15 men again Ludlow threw everything at the Newent line and were rewarded first with a Hodnett penalty and then with a Jack Small try from a rolling maul. The conversion was missed but Ludlow had a one point lead and dreamt of victory. Newent had other ideas and added a try and then a penalty with the last kick of the match to wreck the dream. But what a match. Man of the match went to Will Hodnett.

Meanwhile on the other side of the fence the Seconds were having a cracking game of rugby against Bromsgrove thirds. Matt Ashton scored two tries and Kyran Evans one, all converted by Rhys Evans (this week's Ludlow Brewery Man of the Match) for a brilliant 21-7 home victory.

Over in our Minis and Juniors section this week our Under 7s, 8s, 9s, 10s, 11s and 12/13s all played away matches against the Telford Hornets. Great turnout, despite the wet and cold and some great results so well done all! Our new Ludlow Rugby Academy got off to a flying start on Friday with more than 20 secondary-age youngsters coming along to hone their skills with a team of nine coaches supporting. We're hoping to grow the numbers attending the Academy over the next few weeks so do pass the message on to any secondary-age players who would like some focused support on a Friday evening 6:15pm – 7:30pm.



Ludlow Rugby Academy – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January

26<sup>h</sup> January 2025



The quiz held at the clubhouse on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January was another huge success with 16 quiz teams in attendance and raising £765 for MND.

The next quiz will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> March, this time with funds being raised for Midlands Air Ambulance – advert can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Despite the wind and rain this weekend, both pitches held up and we hope they continue to do so for another double header this Saturday. The firsts will be looking to avenge their 3pt defeat by Ledbury while the seconds will be looking to reinforce their winning ways when they meet Chaddesley Corbett. Both should be thoroughly entertaining and will kick off at 2.15pm. As an added bonus Ireland will be playing England in their Six Nations clash in the bar. I hope to see you there.

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

#### \*\*\*\*\*Chairmans Update\*\*\*\*\*

At the game yesterday a few questions were asked about the information regarding Pre-Match meals in last weeks In Touch so I thought it would be useful to give some clarification:

- Following Committee discussions towards the end of 2024 it was agreed that the Pre-Match meals cost needed to increase in line with escalating prices. We get an amazing, good quality two-course meal and there hasn't been a price increase for a good few years.
- As with many areas of the club we are always looking to improve and manage things differently. Pre-Match meal bookings is an area we can see needs to be improved so moving forward we plan to go to an online book & pay in advance system on the club website. This will be more efficient and make good use of our updated website. We plan to do a few trials as there will bound to be a few teething problems!
- This will also be the system used for Camping in May & September for the Food & Drink Festivals.

If you have any questions please do get in touch with one of the committee - we are always happy listen and work through any issues or concerns – apart from the weather!

Cheers for now  
*Lynn Davies*  
Chairman – Ludlow Rugby Club

26<sup>h</sup> January 2025



# QUIZ NIGHT

**With quiz master Malcolm Weaver  
In aid of Midlands Air Ambulance**

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**FRIDAY  
28TH  
MARCH**

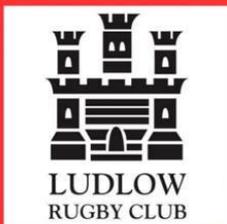
7pm start

£5 Per Person

Max 6 per team

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Ludlow Rugby club  
Booking required  
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