



In Touch

The agony on the faces of both Newent players and spectators was palpable. With a single kick their unbeaten season was about to be lost. Then Will Hodnett's kick sailed wide, the whistle went and the colour came back into their cheeks.

Both players and spectators were glowing in their praise for a Ludlow team that had pushed them harder than any other during the season. With a game to go, Newent are runaway winners of the league. Their celebration party is booked but maintaining an unbeaten record was important to them and they so nearly lost to it to Ludlow who had to be content with a losing bonus point and will almost certainly finish fifth in the league.

Those who made the trip south, and a good many Ludlow supporters did, will know what a tricky pitch Newent has. It slopes steeply from side to side making it tricky for kickers to judge the touch lines and for throwers to judge the height of throw. That showed in the first half as Ludlow were unpicked by some decisive kicking and some brilliant running lines from a quality team. They scored three tries with Ludlow only able to pull back six points through Hodnett's boot.

But the second half, that was all Ludlow. Newent were kept in their 22 for long periods as Ludlow hammered at their try line. Tries from Jack Small, breaking away from a pressured home lineout, and from Josh Jukes with a pushover try brought us oh so close and then Ludlow were awarded a kickable penalty in the dying seconds. But then it's been a season of ifs hasn't it!

*Newent v
Ludlow*



*Photos
courtesy
of Trevor
Patchett*



Ludlow Brewery Man of the Match was Raife Hughes who seemed to be everywhere but mentions should also go to Jamie Durban and Josh Jukes who made some very hard yards and to Jack Lines who was ankle tapped three times with a clear run to the line.

23rd March 2025



So we move to our last match of the season against Malvern and President's Day on April 5, kick off 3pm. This will be a double header at The Linney with our Seconds taking on Bournville.

Wynne Jones is well ahead with preparations for the club's annual golf day at Ludlow Golf Club on Friday, May 2 with the awards dinner from 6.30pm at the rugby club. To enter a team of three please ring Wynne on 079771528805.

Stuart Lewis is busy masterminding the Sinclair Sevens, our first sevens competition for many years. This will be an all-day event on June 14 at The Linney. It's looking like eight teams will take to the field and Stuart has planned a full day of entertainment with bouncy castle, Rugby passing competitions etc. for the youngsters and beer barrel rolling competitions etc. for the older and fitter types! A band and DJ will finish the evening. If Stuart plans it as well as our 90th celebrations it will be a day not to be missed. It's also a day when we will need volunteers to help with arranging the various events.

As we draw towards the end of the season here are some dates for your diary. The club AGM will be held on Thursday, May 22 at 7pm.

Our work weekend, when all the important jobs around the clubhouse and grounds get tackled by our volunteers, will be held on the weekend of June 28th. We will be drawing up a list of jobs to match a range of skills so there should be something for everyone to tackle. This is usually a really good social event and a chance to make new friends.

We pledged some time ago to improve the acoustics in the clubhouse. To that end we have taken advice, purchased some acoustic panels, and these will be installed in the coming weeks, hopefully making lunchtime conversation more audible in the future.

Congratulations to Club Captain, Kieran Pinches and his wife Lydia who have had a baby girl, Amelia and to former player Jim Anderson and his wife Heather who have a baby boy, Gus.

And finally a plea for help from the friends of one of our life members. Bob Flemons, who lives in Leintwardine is no longer able to drive, but would love to get to some of our matches and other events so that he can share a drink and some memories. If you live in the vicinity of Leintwardine and are planning to attend a match or other event please offer Bob a lift. Rob Richardson on robinrc1@btinternet.com can help with contact details etc.

See you soon,

Andy Wright

President Ludlow Rugby Club