



In Touch

Emotions were highly charged, not surprisingly, as Ludlow lost this match literally with the last move of the game. And then lost their captain, red carded for swearing as the match finished.

In fairness, Moseley Oak played well but momentum had well and truly swung towards Ludlow in the dying seconds with a series of penalties leading to a well taken push over try which the referee saw and gave, unlike one earlier in the half which he didn't see. He and all the spectators saw the entire Ludlow pack leave the ground, arms raised and cheering but he ruled ball held up. Curious then that the ref did feel able to award Moseley's last second score, despite being unsighted on the wrong side of the maul and to add insult to injury red carded back row Charlie Doyle for swearing.

In reality, Ludlow failed to maintain control. In the first half they were well on top and led at half time 16-7 with tries from a lovely kick pass from Bailey Bache for Matt Ashley to score and a wonderful break from full back A J Rocke which led to a second for Matt Ashley. Will Hodnett added two penalties and a conversion. Both were a reminder of just how well this Ludlow team can play. Ludlow Brewery Man of the Match was Raife Hughes.



Ludlow v
Moseley Oak

*Photos
courtesy of
Trevor
Patchett*

And then we lost the control and pressure we had exerted throughout the first half. Moseley elected to use their big forwards to run and scored under the posts within the first few minutes of the second half to bring the score to 16-14 and then took advantage of a series of penalty infringements by Ludlow and some backchat to take a one-point lead. The infringements continued leading to a Moseley try.

Ludlow finally found some proper traction and with a lineout in the corner from a penalty infringement found their way over with a rolling maul. Hodnett kicked the conversion to give Ludlow a narrow one-point lead and in the normal run of things Ludlow would have had about two minutes to defend to the whistle.

9th March 2025



Ten minutes later the shenanigans outlined above unfolded and the game finished with a losing bonus point for Ludlow when the full haul had been well within their grasp.

Meanwhile at Clee Hill it was Presidents and Chairman's Day and Ludlow Seconds put on a good display eventually losing 30-22 to Clee Hill seconds. Ludlow's try haul came from Mike Jones, Ross Hamer and Charlie Wood. Former coach Mikey Jones was on kicking duty and landed a conversion and the nickname Jones the Boot. We travelled without a full team but still managed a competitive match. If anyone knows ex-players wishing to dust off their boots please push them towards our seconds.

We have a welcome week's break now before travelling to runaway league leaders, Newent for another crack at their unbeaten record. We came oh so close to doing it at The Linney.

If anyone missed our email advisory, Laurie Wallace's funeral is at Hereford Crematorium on March 28 at 11.15am and afterwards at Ludlow Rugby Club.



See you soon,
Andy Wright
President Ludlow Rugby Club