



13<sup>th</sup> November 2023



# In Touch

I had hoped that we might sneak a win against Silhillians but hardly expected the emphatic 32-15 bonus point scoreline, nor the manner of it. After being partly under water for several days, the Linney wasn't looking at its best but despite that the ball handling and ball retention by Ludlow, particularly in the second half was off the scale.

With Keiron Pinches, back to his pomp after recovering from an ACL, pulling the strings and choosing between rampaging forwards and quick stepping backs, the Solihull side's defense was given a thorough working over in the second half.

The first half was close with Silhillians putting Ludlow under some intense early pressure to score but Ludlow battled back and were really unlucky not to score themselves when first a high tackle under the posts was rewarded with a penalty and a try scoring pass was ruled forward. However, young winger Toby Morgan took his chance and with some amazing footwork rounded his opposite number ran in from a good way out. The half finished 10-10.



Ludlow vs Silhillians  
Photos courtesy of Trevor Patchett



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The second half began so fast I'd barely got through the door before a massive cheer went up as second row Arthur Nias finished off a cracking backs move with a try in the corner. And Ludlow never looked back. They held the ball for long periods in their opponents' half and threw it about with amazing accuracy. There was muscle too as back row Ben Black showed, powering through a pair of opponents to score under the posts. Centre, Jack Lines had a fine game, distributing and breaking the line and was rewarded with a lovely try of his own after some neat footwork.

The score might have been a lot higher had it not been for some staunch defending from the Solihull side who were rewarded with a late score of their own through a well worked try from their backs. As ever the Silhillians supporters were gracious in defeat and stayed for as long as they dared before making the long trudge out to Coronation Avenue and their coach.

The Seconds went to Shrewsbury and were rewarded with a bonus point victory of their own with a 33-22 win. They showed some grit coming back from two ties down. Sadly, it still leaves them in a minus points position in the league having conceded some early matches, but it does demonstrate to teams like Cleobury that we can put out two strong sides on the same day! For the record scorers were James Yeomans, Kyran Evans, Tom Millard and two from Brad Hughes. Rhys Evans slotted the kicks, missing only one during the course of the afternoon.

It's Volunteers Day this Saturday when we take on Stow-on-the-Wold at The Linney 2pm KO. Let's get an even bigger crowd to cheer the lads on. I think the flag-waving Carl Davies and his mate will be hoarse all week, but they assure me that they will be there again leading the cheering against opponents who are just one point above us in the league. It's also a double header as the Seconds take on Stone.

You meet some nice people at rugby. I chatted to a young family standing among our supporters. I assumed they were from Solihull and duly welcomed them only to be told that they were from California, on holiday in Ludlow and keen to take in a match. They stopped on for a drink and thanked me an hour after the game finished, saying how much they had enjoyed themselves. They are planning to buy some replica kit from [www.Akumashops.com/Ludlowrfc](http://www.Akumashops.com/Ludlowrfc) online shop to remind themselves of their day at The Linney. I hope they wear it with as much pride as our two teams did this weekend.

It's a long time since we've seen legendary back row John Duerdin down at the Linney and full credit to Tony Smith and Glyn Nash for getting him there. He features in John Clegg's recollections of playing for Ludlow, in particular for his greeting to the barmaid on a Ludlow tour to Devon. He definitely wouldn't get away with it now but then it was a different world then. You can check it out yourself by going on to the club's website. I had hoped for a word but by the time I got to his side of the room but John had gone home. Hope to see you again soon John.

See you soon,  
*Andy Wright*

President Ludlow Rugby Club