



20th November 2023



In Touch

Stow-on-the-Wold travelled to a muddy Ludlow and showed they were the better team at adapting their game to the conditions. Ludlow looked well on top in the first half but a fumbled catch from a kick ahead allowed Stow a breakaway try and the first half ended with them just a point ahead. The second half was a different story: a tale of missed kicks from hand and from the tee for Ludlow and an intelligent and accurate kicking game for Stow aided by some silly infringements by the home side which allowed Stow to keep the scoreboard turning over in their favour. A pulled groin muscle, which sidelined Ludlow fullback Dan Austin with his first kick of the game, didn't help. Stow ran out deserved 6-19 winners and continue their progress up the league leader board.



Ludlow vs Stow-on-the-Wold
Photos courtesy of Trevor Patchett

That the Linney game was on at all is tribute to groundsman Pete Chidley who spent most of his spare time this week digging ditches in search of a blocked drain and battling with the soggy ground conditions. If you see Pete in the next few days buy him a pint as a thank you. Newcastle Brown is his favourite tipple! Pete, together with Dave Andrew keep the Linney in tip top condition, usually in their spare time and are just part of the volunteer workforce that keep Ludlow running. Saturday was about honouring that commitment and we gave volunteers a free lunch as a very small thank you. The club had also nominated a few key volunteers for Honda Volunteer awards to recognise their outstanding effort. Our winners were Stu Lewis who, as well as playing for both Firsts and Seconds this season, managed to find time to deal with all the sponsorship and



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advertising deals, ordering the kit, producing the programme, etc. Stu's wife, Suzie, was part of a team of three including Jan Doyle and her daughter-in-law, Lucy, who got awards for all their work in running last year's very successful Lady's Day. Stu and Suzie's seven-week old baby daughter Hettie, was on hand to see mum and dad get their awards. Also honoured, but unable to be present, was Darren Jukes who set up Ludlow's walking rugby club and is an ever present on Wednesday nights for Touch Rugby. Well done all and a big thank you from the club.



Winners of the Honda
Volunteers Awards –
Suzie, Lucy, Jan and Stu -
presented by North
Midlands RFU Chairman,
Malcolm Harris

The Seconds made the long journey to Stone with just 15 players and no front row so it was uncontested scrums from the start. A good many of their regulars were propping up the Firsts whose ranks had been sorely depleted by a wedding and injury. Weddings really shouldn't be allowed during the rugby season! Anyway, the seconds stuck at it and flyhalf Mark Williams even scored a try as they suffered an inevitable 55-7 loss. Next Saturday the Seconds, unusually, are the nearest team to watch making the short hop over the hill to Cleobury Mortimer and we'll be hoping our team selection passes scrutiny! The Firsts meanwhile travel to Moseley Oak.

The minis and juniors continue to thrive. We now have almost 100 on the books and it seemed like most of them were in the mood to be mud larks as they practiced on the muddy Linney ground on Sunday. It was good to see a full table of parents from this section at our volunteers' lunch.



Meanwhile it looks as though the time until our next home game on December 9 will be spent in laying a new drainage pipe from in front of the clubhouse to the ground behind. Anyone got a mini digger, 60 or 70 metres of pipe and a bit of time to spare?

See you soon,
Andy Wright

President Ludlow Rugby Club