



6<sup>th</sup> November 2023



# In Touch

We could have won and we almost did but it really wasn't Ludlow's Day and in the end we had to settle for a losing bonus point as Cheltenham Tigers clawed their way to a 21-17 home win. I think we took the Tigers by surprise with a try in the opening moments. A strong maul from distance took prop Jamie Durban for his first ever try for the club. Jack Lines couldn't land the conversion but he did land a penalty soon after to give us a decent lead. Tigers found a way through a stout Ludlow defense for a score of their own but turned round three points down. Tigers must have had a hairdryer moment from their coach at half time and they took our defense by surprise with a try in their opening attack of the second half. Ludlow found their own riposte but Tigers held on to win. Jamie Durban deservedly won the Ludlow Brewery Man of the Match award.



Ludlow vs Cheltenham  
Photos courtesy of Trevor Patchett

I'm not sure if the artificial pitch is responsible but both teams seemed to suffer more injuries than normal. Great credit to captain Matt Davies and back row Jim Alderson. Both went off injured but were forced to return to the pitch when Ludlow ran out of subs. Massive accolades too to some of the youngsters who have fitted so well into the team and who were able to step up to the mark when the old soldiers were off the field. There were plenty of first team players from the past on the sidelines thinking much the same thing. Memo to Cleobury Mortimer and the league secretary, they regularly play for our second team now!

It's a nice set up at Cheltenham Tigers. RFU artificial pitch, big clubhouse, loads of parking, good access from the motorway, decent team and Jill Douglas as president. What's not to like? Interesting then that Ludlow seemed to provide the majority of the supporters if you remove the two ladies teams who were waiting to play their game. Perhaps Ludlow supporters are a bit more hardened to the horrible conditions, rain and gusting wind. They did witness a brilliant full rainbow for a large part of the match. I was hoping to have met Jill. As a former journalist and rugby supporter we might have found a few things in common to natter about as we cheered on the opposing sides but it wasn't to be. Perhaps she'll come to Ludlow in February for the return game and I can introduce her to our own MBE Roger Evans. Jill got her gong for sport and Roger for farming journalism but as we know Roger can talk a good game too.



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So this weekend it's my President's Day and I'm hoping for a good crowd to cheer on Ludlow as they take on Silhillians - kick off 2pm. The Seconds had to call their match v Trentham off because of flooding at the Linney and then had to concede because they couldn't find a full team to travel as the league demanded. On Saturday they make the short journey to Shrewsbury.



Our grateful thanks to neighbours Clee Hill who entertained the mini and juniors on Sunday because our pitches were still too waterlogged. I'm told youngsters from both sides played really well. Pictured to the left and below is our Under 11s team led by new coaches this year - Gareth and Ben. The U11s team had a tough match against Clee Hill but are continuing to make excellent progress with their training.



Next time Hosyers isn't under water and you can park there have a quick look up into the trees on the south side and admire our bird and bat nesting boxes. We've had to put them up thanks to the conditions imposed on our planning application for parking on Hosyers. But a massive thank you to Anthony Wood who made them in his workshop to RSPB and Bat Protection Society specs. We await the Spring to see who moves in.

Several of you have asked where you can purchase replica shirts and other kit. You need to go online at: <https://akumashops.com/ludlowrfc/> and use the password LRFC. If you want it for Christmas then you will need to place your order by November 12.

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