



In Touch

It's always nice to start the season off with a try bonus point. It would have been even nicer had we beaten Moseley Oak. It proved a hugely entertaining game with lots to like from both sides. But from Ludlow's point of view plenty to fix too, not least their propensity to give away penalties. I seem to recall that last season commenced in much the same way.

It was also expensive in terms of bodies with three players out of the running for next week's game. Scrum half Tom Perkins (head injury), fly half Bailey Bache (shoulder) are major blows.

The final score, Ludlow 29, Moseley Oak 45, didn't really reflect the game which was close and hard fought throughout. Moseley played most of it with 14 men after losing their prop for a silly hand in the face and red card in the first few minutes.



*Ludlow v
Moseley
Oak*

*Photos
courtesy
of Trevor
Patchett*

There was a lot to like about some of the linkage between backs and forwards and some major metres made through strong running from back rows, Ben Black and Raife Hughes. Jon Granger made his debut at second row. For the record tries came from Matt Ashley, A J Rocke, Owen Jones and Kieran Pinches who earned Ludlow Brewery Man of the Match for his performance. Jack Lines added three conversions and a penalty.

We had a decent crowd swollen by sponsor Andali Fitness' launch lunch for their Wild Shropshire ultra trail running events. It's always good to see new faces at pitchside.

The scheduled Seconds game at Aston Old Edwardians did not go ahead.

Our new Honda robot mower, a very welcome sponsorship from Morris Bufton's, seems to be coping well with its daily chores. It mows many hours a day, stopping only to recharge itself, but the random course it takes is bewildering. If I'm down early in the morning, its tracks are very plain to see in the early dew. The other day it appeared to have mown the shape of a huge flag with quarters and diagonals etc.; other days it appears to go to a touch line and then turn sharply making for the opposite touch line. If it were me, I'd just mow in lines end to end or side to side but what do I know. I'm told this is much better for mulching and promoting grass growth.

Some sad news reached me as we completed our pre-season programme. VP Paul Hughes, who with his wife Janet, has been pretty much a constant at pitchside during games and at our pre match meals since his son Laurence began playing for Ludlow, sadly passed away on August 23. Janet tells me he hung on long enough to see his fifth grandchild safely born. He had been ill for some time but bravely fought on insistent on attending matches whenever he was able. He played in the

8th September 2025



walking rugby games, then graduated to full on touch rugby on a Wednesday night, when insufficient numbers of the walkers could be found. His scuttling gait, whether supposedly walking or running, was distinctive and he threw himself, often literally, into every game. Paul was a truly nice guy who helped us a lot with advice on planning and other matters.

Janet tells me all are welcome to his cremation at Wyre Forest Crematorium, Stourport on Severn (DY13 8DE) at 2.30pm on Friday, September 12 and afterwards at Kidderminster Carolian's rugby club. Our thoughts are with his family.

I had another unexpected phone call last week from a man I haven't clapped eyes on in years. He began by saying, you won't know me but... it came as news to him that not only did I know him, I had played rugby with him on several occasions. No great surprise really. People like David Blundell-Williams and Gerry Acton, Jim Hern etc. were the stars of the team while oiks like me and others from the ranks of the Grammar School First XV, filled in the gaps on the team sheet.

David sounded well and from his home in Brighton was seeking team news from the Linney. He also requested a fixture card so that he could follow progress. Now in his 80's and still working he was full of questions about his former teammates, our present players, anxious that the Seconds would get a full programme of fixtures and interested to know about Clee Hill's new clubhouse and whether Tenbury, his former home town, continued to survive as a rugby club. I was able to supply the answers and rang off having promised to post a copy of the new programme, complete with fixture list, not expecting to hear from again for a while when a few days later he rang again as I was driving. Apparently, I had pocket dialled him by mistake and he was returning the call. The time lapse was insufficient for me to supply more news but he'd had In Touch and read it so he was well informed anyway.

Minis and Juniors Update:

After the hottest summer on record we had a record turn out for the first Minis and Juniors rugby session of the season despite the rain! It was fantastic to see so many new faces and how much pre-season training has paid off. Minis and Juniors are in need of some additional volunteers to help with the ever-expanding groups, particularly for some of our younger groups where we have large numbers of children taking part. If you are able to help please email our Minis and Juniors Leads James Bridge (james-bridge@live.co.uk) and Chris Yapp (kippyapp@msn.com) – they would be really pleased to hear from you.



And so on to our next two games. The firsts travel to Malvern while the Seconds make the short hop to Stourbridge grasshoppers aka their fourth team while our pitches play host to hundreds of cars and caravans for Ludlow Food Festival. Fingers crossed that Coronation Avenue does reopen on time otherwise our parkers may find it difficult to reach us.

We were really grateful for the huge number of volunteers who supported us with parking for the Castle Concerts in July and we're now asking for a few more volunteers to support us this coming weekend when we organise parking for the Ludlow Food Festival. We now have enough volunteers for Friday 12th September but if you are available on Saturday 13th or Sunday 14th September to help with a shift, please take a look at our online volunteer booking system to get booked in for a slot: <https://doodle.com/sign-up-sheet/participate/b5391e50-615f-4354-a680-b1f9699aada0/select>

Just a reminder that we have a new system for pre-match meals of booking in advance via email at events@ludlowrfc.co.uk. The first meal at The Linney is before the Luctonians game on Sept 20 and will cost £25 per head. Doors opening from 12 noon. Please note that Sponsors and VP Members will receive a separate communication about how to book for their Sponsor/VP meal.

See you soon,
Andy Wright
President Ludlow Rugby Club



LUDLOW RUGBY

FIXTURES 2025/26

HOME AWAY

MOSELEY OAK SEP 6	MALVERN SEP 13	LUCTONIANS 2 SEP 20	STOW OCT 4
STRATFORD OCT 11	EDWARDIANS OCT 18	HEREFORD OCT 25	SHIPSTON NOV 8
KENILWORTH NOV 22	OLD HALES NOV 29	SILHILLIANS DEC 6	MALVERN DEC 13
LUCTONIANS 2 DEC 20	STOW JAN 10	STRATFORD JAN 17	EDWARDIANS JAN 31
HEREFORD FEB 14	SHIPSTON FEB 28	KENILWORTH MAR 7	OLD HALES MAR 21
SILHILLIANS MAR 28	MOSELEY OAK APR 11		

BOSI FLOWFIT

LUDLOW RUGBY

SECOND TEAM

FIXTURES 2025/26

HOME AWAY

FIVE WAYS OLD EDWARDIANS SEP 6	STOURBRIDGE GRASSHOPPERS SEP 13	ASTON OLD EDWARDIANS 2 SEP 20	DK WASPS SEP 27
GREYHOUND OCT 4	CAMP HILL 3 OCT 11	BROMYARD 2 OCT 18	BOURNVILLE 3 NOV 1
OLD HALES 3 NOV 15	FIVE WAYS OLD EDWARDIANS JAN 10	STOURBRIDGE GRASSHOPPERS JAN 17	ASTON OLD EDWARDIANS 2 JAN 24
DK WASPS JAN 31	GREYHOUND FEB 7	CAMP HILL 3 FEB 14	BROMYARD 2 FEB 21
BOURNVILLE 3 MAR 7	OLD HALES 3 MAR 21		

BOSI FLOWFIT

Helpful contacts this season:

Membership enquiries: Peter Lines (peterlines53@gmail.com)

Meal Bookings: Alison Hiles (events@ludlowrfc.co.uk)

Minis and Juniors: James Bridge and Chris Yapp (james-bridge@live.co.uk & kippyapp@msn.com)

In Touch Distribution / Player Registration / Other enquiries: Kelly Nicklin (secretary@ludlowrfc.co.uk)

LUDLOW RUGBY

2025/26 LUNCH CALENDAR

- 20th Sep** Prematch Meal & Mascots (Luctonians 2)
- 11th Oct** Chairman's Day (Stratford)
- 25th Oct** Prematch Meal (Hereford)
- 22nd Nov** Prematch Meal (Kenilworth)
- 6th Dec** Prematch Meal (Silhillians)
- 13th Dec** Christmas Lunch (Malvern)
- 10th Jan** Prematch Meal (Stow on the Wold)
- 31st Jan** Prematch Meal (Edwardians)
- 28th Feb** Ladies Day (Shipston on Stour)
- 21st Mar** President's Day (Old Halesonians)

To book your place and discuss options, please contact Ally at events@ludlowrfc.co.uk

BOSI FLOWFIT