



18th December 2023



I had a smart meter fitted on Saturday and, as is usual with these things I couldn't pin the engineer down to a time, so I had to decline my invite to Shipston-on-Stour and I watched the Seconds at home. And what a game it was. A true Christmas cracker, end to end and settled in Aldridge's favour with the last play of the game. So Aldridge Firsts ran out 19-12 winners and Ludlow had to settle for a losing bonus point.



*Ludlow vs Shipston-on-Stour
Photos courtesy of Trevor Patchett*

I've not seen the seconds play for a couple of months and was well impressed with the young man playing his first ever game at full back, Charlie Wood. Charlie got Ludlow Brewery Man of the Match and it got me wondering if he was related to one of the entrepreneur Wood family who have long provided employment in this part of Shropshire, and if so, which branch of that family. I played alongside at least three of them in the past, Anthony, Edward and Jack all of whom still come down and support us. I never got the chance to ask Charlie. He was injured at the end and left for a works do before I could ask the questions but if anyone knows the answer please let me know.

There was a particularly funny incident during the Man of the Match ceremony. Captain, George Vyvyan had conveniently arranged the chairs under the mistletoe. Aldridge's man of the match was their diminutive



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centre who had a cracking game. He lined up alongside our giant Alex Wallace who earned the Dick of the Day title by taking out the referee as he left a maul. As they awaited their pints someone spotted the mistletoe and began singing "Going to the Chapel, Going to Get Married..."

They took it in good part and managed a quick peck on the cheek to huge applause.

The Evans family had clearly decided it was their Christmas get together too and they were out in force to support young Rhys playing out of position at flyhalf. I couldn't work out how many generations there were, but several with Patriarch, Roger loving it all.

It was good too to see that the new drain and pump had done its work. On Thursday the pitches still had too much water to have played but it was in super condition by Saturday and I'm told was ok for training by Thursday night. When I saw the 58-7 score at Shipston-on-Stour I was pleased I had stayed at home. The Firsts I am told were suffering from a severe lack of available players. Ludlow's consolation try was scored by winger Toby Morgan and converted by Jack Lines.

Ludlow's under 14 team travelled to Oswestry on Sunday. With only 9 players, as half the team had gone skiing Oswestry lent us 5. Coach James Bridge takes up the story: "I was really pleased with our team good counter rucking, good ball handling skills, great tackles. We scored the last try of the match, a good team try with interlink passing in the middle then out to a loaned player from Oswestry to nip in at the corner. Sadly they scored eight tries. Really proud of the boys that played. Hard game with so many new partnerships in the game. Compared to the start of the season the standard of rugby has improved a huge amount. Oswestry were excellent hosts, and I look forward to playing them again in the future. (Oswestry prop got injured in a tackle, he landed funny on his ankle, suspected break, I hope he recovers quickly)."



Our Under 8s and Under 10s teams also travelled to Oswestry this week. Pictured this week are some of our brilliant Under 8s players who played superbly!

Particular thanks this week to Nikki Carter who helped us in providing some Christmassy sweet treats for all of our Mini and Junior players – thanks, Nikki!

We're back with more action on January 6 when the Firsts entertain Malvern at the Linney. VPs who missed their free lunch at the start of the season have another chance with a lunch planned for that date. Contact Iain Braggins to book your place.

The Seconds are on the road to Eccleshall and looking for the win they deserve to take them off the foot of the table.

Happy Christmas from all at Ludlow Rugby Club