



3rd September 2023



In Touch

No matter, your club or sport, you always hope for a dream start to every league season. The weather was balmy, the ground looked spot on from a distance and then it all went tits up as they say.

We'll get to the ground in a minute, let's start with the match. For the first half we looked good. Plenty of possession, a try by the Captain Matt Davies, putting us into a 5-0 lead, although some of our kicks and decision making wasn't always spot on. And then came the second half, a rejuvenated Newent and a total about face with Newent controlling the game for long periods. Their first try was converted putting them into a 5-7 lead and they quietly built on that, exerting plenty of pressure on Ludlow to amass 27 points. Jack Lines, playing at fly half, took matters into his own hands late on to score a consolation try which he converted to make the final score 12-27.



Photos courtesy of
Trevor Patchett

So now we know where we have got to get to and the match tapes from the new Veo camera will no doubt be pored over. My less-tutored eye thought we were less fit and therefore less physical than Newent; that our kicking was aimless rather than purposeful and that our defense held out pretty well and can definitely be built on. The return of some of holidaymakers and those otherwise engaged should bolster the side.



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Sad news though for the seconds who could raise only eight players and have commenced the season with a five-point deduction.

On Saturday the Firsts are away to Stratford while the Seconds play their home match v Cannock at Luctonians ground because we are hosting campers for the Food Festival at The Linney. 3pm KO. Our Linney clubhouse will be open in the evenings showing World Cup games Fri NZ v France and Sat England v Argentina at 8pm.

This week sees the start of walking rugby at The Linney at 7pm. I got several promises of attendance from spectators on Saturday, so I look forward to seeing them there. It's a really good and fun way of keeping fit. If you fancy a faster version of touch, then that will be running alongside and is open to both sexes from 12 years and up.

Those of you at the match on Saturday may have been as surprised as I to see me re-lining the pitch with ten minutes to go to kick off. A slight misunderstanding between our groundsmen meant that the pitch got mown after it had been lined and the ref, who does wear glasses, thought even Specsavers couldn't help him to discern some of the lines. As I was the only person present with a scanty but working knowledge of how to use the line machine, I was elected to do the job and finished as the ref blew the starting whistle. I would have worn some old trainers had I known I was to be called on, but I was bought a much-needed pint for my trouble! For the record, those commenting about the wobbly lines, I didn't have a drink until after I had done them. I never had a chance.



I watched Question of Sport the other night and thought Jonny Hill did very well. I'm just sorry that he's not going to the World Cup but then again who wants to be on a losing team!

See you soon,

Andy Wright

President Ludlow Rugby Club