



In Touch

At some point on Saturday afternoon Shipston on Stour supporters must have been wishing that they still had a young Finn Smith in their team.

Vying for a second or third spot in the league and playing at home they should have been able to outgun Ludlow, and yet, for the second time this season, Ludlow found a way to beat them. This time it was the forwards who had the measure of them up front. A Charlie Doyle try from the back of a driving maul and a penalty from the boot of Will Hodnett was the difference. It was only the second time that Shipston have lost at home this season and how they must have rued the day Finn Smith joined Worcester Academy from their ranks and began to forge a professional rugby career.

Next up are Cheltenham away on Saturday. Regulars will remember they beat us by three points at The Linney and Tom Tench's side will be looking to avenge that. Sitting one place and five points behind us in the league Cheltenham May be a tough team to crack on the artificial surface where they are very at home.

I had the privilege of watching our seconds play Tenbury at The Linney on Saturday with Tenbury kindly loaning a few players to make up numbers. It was a close game from the off and you could just tell that despite it being a cold grey old afternoon, although the players were just relishing being able to play. Tenbury finally won it 14-15.



Ludlow II v Tenbury

Strangely, Tenbury did all the attacking in the first half, but Ludlow did the scoring and those roles were reversed in the second half with Ludlow spending long periods in the Tenbury 22 without scoring. Ludlow's tries both came from Mark Williams who showed that, despite his advancing years, he can still sell a dummy and run the length of the pitch! He clearly isn't bingeing on the chocolates he sells. Rhys Evans converted both the Ludlow tries

Sadly, the match was whistled to a premature end when Tenbury's second row Adam Walker suffered what looked like a bad leg break. We wish him well for a speedy recovery.

The seconds are due to play another home match on Saturday against Bournville Thirds in the league. 2.15pm kick off.

Hopefully most of you will have seen on social media that Ludlow are planning a sevens competition at The Linney in conjunction with our sponsors Sinclair Land Rover on Saturday, June 14. We are planning entertainment, music and

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food alongside a programme of fast-paced rugby. I'm told that four teams signed up within hours of the announcement. Make sure your diary is blocked out from 10am to 10pm that day.

Following a Face Book advert looking for additional bar staff you may notice some fresh faces behind the bar when you next visit the club. Please be gentle with them as they are doing shadow shifts initially. As Jamie our Bar Manager explains, it's necessary to have a pool of great staff to cover all of our matches and club functions throughout the year and availability can sometimes present a challenge completing the bar rota with their other work life and family commitments. So a warm welcome to old and new faces: Jamie Richards, Deb Francis, Becky Davis and Simon Watkins with more to train in the coming weeks.

See you soon,

Andy Wright

President Ludlow Rugby Club