

20th October 2025



In Touch

Winning away is always sweet but with a patched-up team, against a side above you in the league and by just a single point it's very special.

As a spectacle Saturday's Edwardians v Ludlow game was a treat to watch. Two strong defensive sides battling it out, each side looking for the defensive error that would give them space to score. A single point separated the two sides for much of the game but in the end it finished 19-20 in Ludlow's favour with tries from Matt Ashley and captain Charlie Doyle.

The difference was mainly through some excellent kicking from scrum half Rhys Perks whose up and unders tempted the Edwardians backs into running making them vulnerable to Ludlow's industrious back row and to full back A J Roche who stepped into Jack Lines' boots to nail two vital conversions and two penalties.



*Old
Edwardians
v Ludlow*



*Photos
courtesy of
Trevor
Patchett*

Huge accolades too to Ben Black, first playing at 8 and later at centre, Raife Hughes and Charlie Doyle for their tackling, turnover and identification of space out wide which led to both winger Matt Ashley's tries. Charlie also managed to score a try of his own. The Ludlow Brewery man of the match award went to Raife Hughes who made some big breaks and key turnovers throughout the game.

The Seconds travelled to Bromyard and lost 47-0, the knock on effect of unavailability in the Firsts leading to a make do and mend team sheet. Tom Millward was Ludlow Brewery 'Man of the Match' and the team earned huge praise from their unbeaten counterparts. The match was being played in memory of former Bromyard player Jake Campbell who they said would have loved to have been a part of a spirited game in which Ludlow showed huge physicality and determination belying the final score. Praise indeed. Keep it up boys!

I always enjoy a trip to Edwardians. They are wonderful hosts, knowledgeable about the game, great company, even at pitchside when they are losing, and the ground is a superb amphitheatre affording super views from the embankments surrounding it.



Judging by our pre match lunch and the size of their pack they feed them well in Shirley too. From the start of the game our pack looked to be in trouble being shunted backwards at a rate of knots. But returning to our hosts and lunch. My fellow diners included Gerald Acton and Wynne Jones and they inevitably won on the raffle, a raffle which clearly emulated many that Gerry and Wynne have themselves run in the past. I am expecting to see many of their prizes turn up at a future Ludlow golf day. In particular, watch out for a plastic giraffe.

My travelling companion, Mike Winmill and I also won prizes, but the woolly hat and faux jewellery will be passed on to lovely granddaughters at an appropriate moment. Mike is our new disciplinary officer so my driving and manners needed to be impeccable, and we spent much of the journey getting to know something about each other. Mike has been following Ludlow for about three years since moving to the town and is well suited to his new voluntary role having been HR boss for a big pharmaceuticals firm. His new neighbour is Colin Spanner so legal advice should be available over the fence when required.

Among the hosts, Roger Parsonage, as North Mids treasurer, whose expertise Ludlow had cause to be very grateful for a few years ago when technically we went bust because of a bent treasurer. Roger was one of the delegation who met Pete England and I to sort out the mess and install measures to stop any repeat. Roger was full of praise for Peter's input and attention to detail as were we! He asked to pass on his best wishes to Peter and Kath, now down in Devon. I know Peter reads In Touch so, job done and add my best wishes too.

There were some lovely moments on the pitch too. At one point one of the opposition's big boys injured his leg and needed to be assisted from the pitch. His team were in a huddle some distance away and their female physio too small for the job. She was politely ushered aside and Ludlow's two props helped him back to the dugout. As the second half began Edwardians put a big kick well into touch in Ludlow's 22. The ref looked to the linesman to mark the exit point. No linesman. The team scoured the sidelines in vain and then sent out one of their subs to perform the task. A few minutes later, John, their first half linesman appeared sheepishly from the direction of the clubhouse, apologised to the ref and took over. We can only presume that John had been delayed in the John.

A significant number of the locals watching were either employed by Jaguar Land Rover or had been affected by the hack. There was understandable anger and speculation over who had been responsible for actions which had cost many of them a large amount of earnings and a wish that the firm gets some better computer security in place.



Talking of supporters, I hope regular readers have spotted that we have an immaculately dressed four-legged fan around town. Black lab Bobby belongs to new supporters at the Linney - Clare Whittard and her retired police inspector husband who used to play rugby with his police team. When out walking, Bobby sports a coat which proudly proclaims him to be a supporter of Ludlow Rugby Club. Hopefully we'll see the Whittards at our derby game against Hereford on Saturday kick off 3pm. Hereford had a big win at the weekend against Old Halesonians and lie just one point behind us in the league so expect a tough game.

The Seconds play Old Halesonians also at The Linney.

And there'll be fireworks on the pitch the previous evening, Friday, October 24 when our Mini and Juniors put on a fireworks display. Gates open at 6pm and

The Minis and Juniors sent half their number to Telford Hornets on Sunday while the other half entertained Hornets at The Linney on a wet miserable morning.

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Finally some sad news to end on. Former Ludlow player Tony Hern passed away on Friday.

Tony (84) was the middle of three sporting brothers who went on to represent Ludlow and Shropshire at both rugby and cricket for many years. Having attended Ludlow Grammar School Tony worked first for the Ludlow Advertiser, late for Radco farmers group before marrying the daughter of a Herefordshire Farmer.

He and Tricia took over the family farm in Lyonshall, diversifying to become a big chicken producer and growers of apples for Magners Cider. Many of the old farm buildings were converted into luxury holiday lets. Son, Kinsey runs the business while his other son Jonathan is a merchant banker.

Tony was Ludlow Club Captain and played scrum half both for the club and the county from the age of 18 until the age of 30. He suffered from a recurring shoulder injury and in one cup match at Shrewsbury the game was stopped while Tony slipped his shoulder back into its socket and then continued!

He was also captain of Ludlow Cricket Club and might have been a professional cricketer if Worcestershire had been able to offer him better terms. As it was the £5 weekly wage offered for six months of the year meant he had to take the Advertise job. He was an accomplished batsman and continued to play for the local club and county into his 40's.

When I began playing for Ludlow Tony was very much a role model. He was often the person who drove younger players to matches so his sage words and advice, not to mention stories remain long in the memory. In the words of Pete Brereton.

"As an 18-year-old Tony was always good company and his words very enlightening!" I can endorse that and add that he would always ensure you enjoyed yourself but got home safely."



Pictured the three Acton and Hern brothers reunited at Ludlow. Tony second from right.



Tony in 1970 back left with yours truly in front of him.

See you soon,
Andy Wright
President Ludlow Rugby Club

20th October 2025



LUDLOW RUGBY

FIXTURES 2025/26

HOME AWAY

MOSLEY 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	MOSLEY OAK APR 11		

BQSI 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 WATTS SEP 27
GREYHOUND OCT 4	CAMP HILL 3 OCT 11	BROXTYARD 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 WATTS JAN 31	GREYHOUND FEB 7	CAMP HILL 3 FEB 14	BROXTYARD 2 FEB 21
BOURNVILLE 3 MAR 7	OLD HALES 3 MAR 21		

BQSI 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

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