

# League Match Reports

All these reports are from our 2011/12 season. The latest match appears first.

## Llandrindod Wells 5 - Caerau Ely 15

This was a highly competitive and very entertaining match with a lot at stake for Cardiff's Caerau Ely. A win would make promotion to Division 4 more certain and a winner's bonus point would improve the odds. For Llandrindod, this was their last home match this season and a home win was their main objective.

Not that this looked at all certain with Caerau Ely starting like a rocket, Colin Fulthorpe scoring in the first three minutes as Llandrindod struggled to get their act together. This problem persisted for the next ten minutes or so, with Llandrindod being dominated in the scrums and it was only rugged defence that kept Caerau Ely away from the tryline. Much improved since their entry in to this League three years ago, Llandrindod's bone-crunching tackling this season has been both positive and highly effective and in this match stopped many Caerau Ely moves in their tracks.

It took a while, but Llandrindod started to get the measure of their guests and the second quarter saw a number of mauls close to the Caerau Ely line, from one of which prop Richard Watkins squeezed his bulk through the mass to touch down. This try, like the previous one, was not converted, both sides having place kicking problems this week.

An even scoreline at half-time after the difficult first quarter of an hour was probably more than Llandrindod would have hoped for, but this really was as good as it got for the hosts as Caerau Ely piled on the pressure but, again, Llandrindod's defence proved strong. Especially notable was the sight of a Caerau Ely wing tearing down the touchline, with Llandrindod No 8 Geraint Evans cutting him off after an oblique sprint, and bundling him in to touch.

Realistically though it was inevitable that Llandrindod's defence, as good as it had been, was going to be breached this half and tries came before the whistle from Ian McKee and Jon Lovell, though to be truthful at least one of these was created for Caerau Ely by poor Llandrindod clearance kicking.

Llandrindod last League match this season is a mid-week away fixture against Ynysowen, on Wednesday 2 May, kick-off **7.00 pm**.

## Cardiff Saracens 43 -Llandrindod Wells 7

Llandrindod were unable to complete a home and away double against Saracens mainly because there was one player that made the real difference this game between the sides. He was the Saracens scrum-half Owen Jones who scored three tries and made at least two more. Apart from him, the two sides were fairly evenly matched and Llandrindod finished the game piled up over the Saracens try line after a useful, but ultimately futile, period of dominance.

It was all Saracens for the first quarter. They were faster on the break and with Jones bamboozling the defence with sniping runs and lateral kicking, Llandrindod conceded two converted tries before they were able to get the measure of their opponents and exert pressure of their own. A Llandrindod try never looked likely though until skipper and centre Jac Holden intercepted a sloppy Saracens pass on the halfway line and completely outpaced the defence to score under the posts, Mathew Williams converting. Great Llandrindod tackling kept Saracens out of the 25, and the visitors ended the first half 14-7 down, a not insurmountable hill to climb.

In the second half, Saracens scored five more tries, this despite good Llandrindod defence and more opportunities to get on to the front foot. A rearrangement of the pack gave Llandrindod the edge in the scrums but, again, it was the skill of Saracens Owen Jones, playing probably a couple of Leagues below his ability level, that made the difference, either scoring or influential in their five tries.

Besides Jones' three tries, Liam Hopkins and Raymond Hall scored a brace apiece for Saracens, with Matt Davey kicking four conversions.

This week Llandrindod play their last home game of the season against Caerau Ely, with their final match probably being played the following Wednesday, 25 April, away against Ynysowen, kick off 7.30 pm. (Not confirmed by WRU at the time of writing this report).

## Glyncoch 99-Llandrindod Wells 14

It was Llandrindod's turn this week to travel light of players but regardless of this, there is no doubt that Glyncoch, unbeaten in both League and Cup, are more than a notch above the rest of this League at the moment. Running in 17 tries, 7 converted, they overwhelmed Llandrindod, scoring 3 tries in the first 10 minutes.

Not that they had it all their own way. To their considerable credit, Llandrindod never stopped competing and certainly had moments of their own. In the first half, and immediately after Glyncoch's opening 10 minute try blitz, a degree of possession saw them progress to the Glyncoch line and Dave Ramp lee used his considerable power to force his way over the line for a try. Jac Holden converting from close to the touchline. Llandrindod's second try came well in to the second half when things had calmed down somewhat. Centre Dan Ruell, after two demolition runs, managed to bamboozle the Glyncoch defence to score, Holden again converting with a slightly easier kick.

This week, Llandrindod travel to Cardiff Saracens in the League.

## Llandrindod Wells 19 -Wick 13

Travelling with no subs and Wick could be forgiven for treading lightly in this match. Not so as they started explosively

putting Llandrindod, who usually start rather sleepily, to the sword. Wick could easily have scored from the kick-off as one of the flankers caught the ball and was only brought down feet from the Llandrindod line. On the back foot for the next 10 minutes and Llandrindod could easily have conceded points when the same Wick player was brought down close to the line.

This really was as good as it was going to get for the visitors. At last getting a measure of control in their own half, Llandrindod started to hold and then dominate Wick especially up front with the Wick pack clearly having a torrid time of it. It was in the backs that Wick looked the most dangerous and it took good defensive work to keep them out. Generally though, the first half was a lovely spectacle of running rugby with both sides determined to move the ball around.

Darting runs from the Llandrindod scrum-half Dale Wilson made metres of space in the Wick half and the result of one of these breaks was a push-over try by Dave Ramplee. Wick countered with a penalty from Dan Powell, but another try for Llandrindod, this time initiated by stand-off Matthew Williams whose kick and chase, and then subsequent scrums, saw hooker Paul Middleton go over under the posts with Williams converting giving Llandrindod a 12-3 advantage at the break.

The second half was a more turgid affair. Numerous injury stops, mainly to Wick players, slowed the game down but Wick stuck to their task and narrowed the scoreline with a Powell penalty. Still Llandrindod kept up the pressure, this time by the backs with centre Dan Ruell making a number of surging runs and tying up much of the Wick back line in defence. It was centre Matthew Jenkins who scored Llandrindod's final try after a typical Dale Wilson break, conversion by Jac Holden.

The final quarter was one of Wick attacks with Llandrindod wing Bon Williams, and hooker Middleton, resolute as always. The inevitable came though as Wick broke through with a nice try from Kieran David, converted by Powell. At the conversion, the referee called 'time' and Wick had gained a loser's bonus point.

This week, Llandrindod travel to Glyncoch in the League where they have a tough task against a side unbeaten this season.

### **Llandrindod Wells 0 - Ynysowen 23**

Llandrindod did not have much of a look-in against Ynysowen last weekend. On the offensive from the start and using their fast backs to good effect, the visitors scored the first of their three tries within 10 minutes of the whistle after overcoming desperate Llandrindod defence. Llandrindod's defence continued to hold for the rest of this half despite conceding two penalties, and they did have moments of their own in the Ynysowen half.

This was a highly competitive game and the referee was kept busy maintaining order amongst the two sets of forwards, and also being forced to have words with the Clubs' vocal supporters. Despite the tension though, the game was played in a good spirit and was well worth braving the wind and cold to watch.

The second half was much like the first, with Llandrindod still defending against slick ball handling, though taking their chances to attack in the loose through their forwards when given half an opportunity. Ynysowen's first score in this half came from a lineout close to the Llandrindod line, and their second, which was converted, was the result of more good handling, this time by the Ynysowen forwards.

Ryan Williams scored two tries for Ynysowen, with Gavin Wathen also picking up a try. Gavin Richards kicked two penalties and a conversion. Llandrindod have no game until 24 March due to the Internationals. On that day, they travel to Cefn Forest in the League.

### **Llandrindod Wells 22 - CIACS 7**

When Llandrindod won away at CIACS a couple of weeks ago, it was a bright and breezy match, packed with flowing rugby and good moves. This return game was anything but that. Littered with handling and tactical mistakes by both sides, it was a dour, tense affair on a slightly heavy pitch but with a strong breeze blowing.

The first half produced no score and nothing really of note. CIACS had the territorial advantage for most of this half despite Llandrindod being dominant in the scrums and breakdowns and winning some of the lineouts against the head. It was only towards the end of this half that Llandrindod managed to gain some semblance of real possession and territory but were not rewarded with any points.

Llandrindod continued where they left off after the break and scored the first points in the game with a pushover try grounded by prop Richard Watkins and converted by Mathew Williams. Watkins also scored the second try which, being another try by a prop, is perhaps a reflection of what sort of match this was.

This second try woke CIACS up and, using their backs to good effect, put centre Jack Davies over for a self-converted try and only an unconverted try behind their hosts. A penalty from Llandrindod Williams meant that CIACS had to score twice to go ahead but this match was finally put to bed in the dying minutes with another Llandrindod try, this time from wing Paul Griffiths.

In between all this excitement Llandrindod could have gained a 4th try bonus point but for the potential scorer to run over the dead ball line! It was that sort of a game.

This week Llandrindod travel to Cambrian Welfare in the League with an early kick-off of 1.30 pm due to the England-Wales International at 4.00 pm.

(For information, CIACS stands for Cardiff Internationals Sport Club. They are based near the docks)

### **CIACS 12 - Llandrindod Wells 35**

Despite the final scoreline, this was no stroll for Llandrindod in the Cardiff afternoon sunshine. CIACS are a sprightly side, well capable of causing headaches with their adventurous backs, and there were periods in the third quarter of the match when Llandrindod were in danger of conceding the lead.

The visitors started off at a fair gallop. Forwards Jamie Watkins, Geraint Evans and David Ramplee all making their mark early on but it was Gary Pritchard who scored first for Llandrindod when, after a Llandrindod penalty kick at goal went wide, he had the presence of mind to be following up and grab the ball before the bemused defenders could get to it, and touch down, Mathew Williams converting.

Llandrindod second try was interesting too. A passing movement involving backs and an unlikely pairing of the two Llandrindod props, Lee James and Richard Watkins, gave James the space to power his way over the line.

CIACS first try came towards the end of this half when Gareth Rossiter touched down in the corner. No conversion but the balance was restored just before the whistle with a David Williams try for Llandrindod giving the visitors a comfortable 12 point cushion at the break.

The way the match had gone previously, and the points cushion, probably lured Llandrindod in to a period of complacency. The CIACS restart after the break was wide and only just went the distance but it bemused Llandrindod who conceded ground rapidly and a series of mauls in the Llandrindod 25, resulted in a CIACS try under the posts by Aled Edwards, conversion by Mathew Craft.

For the next fifteen minutes it was all CIACS as Llandrindod struggled to regain control. Eventually, though, CIACS ran out of steam, and a couple of searing runs by Llandrindod centre Dan Ruell softened up the CIACS defence enough so that when a clearance kick was sliced Tom Kendrick had only two men to beat to the line and score. Williams converting. Two penalties in succession against CIACS increased Llandrindod's lead and their final try came from Williams, following another failed clearance by CIACS.

Llandrindod, who are now in the top half of the League table, have no match this weekend due to the internationals. The following Saturday, 11 February, they travel to Cambrian Welfare in the League.

### **Llandrindod Wells 14 - Llanrumney 12**

At one stage it looked as though this match was done and dusted in Llandrindod's favour but a late surge by Llanrumney so nearly snatched the prize away with two tries.

Bettering their visitors in both the scrum and the lineout, Llandrindod spent long periods of the first half in Llanrumney territory and any attacks that Llanrumney were able to make were negated by determined Llandrindod tackling, an area of their game that has seen some considerable improvement this season.

Try as both sides did, no-one managed to put points on the board in this half. Not that it was boring rugby. Committed is perhaps an apt description with maybe a shade too much enthusiasm as Llanrumney picked up two yellow cards before the half-time whistle.

A try from Llandrindod's lock Jason Prichard, conversion by David Davies, broke the stalemate but with the home side still dominant, their cause were not helped as they were reduced to 14 men with a double yellow, and thus a red card, for one of their props for dangerous play.

Llanrumney were still on the back foot though despite having a numerical advantage, and persistent off-side during mauls close to their line earned Llandrindod a penalty try, converted by Davies.

Llanrumney, probably too late, at last woke up to the possibility of defeat, and changing their tactics moved the ball out wider and it was a Llandrindod defensive error that allowed Llanrumney's wing, Craig Smith, to scamper over for a try in the corner.

More frantic, last-minute play from Llanrumney gave them a Barry Williams try in front of the posts, conversion by Chris Carmody, but it was by then too late for anything else as the referee blew for time shortly afterwards.

This week, Llandrindod travel to Cardiff to meet CIACS in the League.

### **Aberbargoed 17 - Llandrindod Wells 10**

Llandrindod started this match at pace, bewildering a sleepy opposition in the first ten minutes, and scoring their only try of the match when Geraint Evans touched down after a period of loose play, Mathew Williams converting.

This, unfortunately, was a good as it got for the visitors as, from the re-start, a mis-judged Llandrindod clearance kick gave Aberbargoed possession, and a clear run to the posts only to be brought down just short, though good offensive work by the Aberbargoed forwards pushed them over for a try by Niall Todd, conversion from Alwyn Davies.

Llandrindod still managed to gain territory, though an infringement cost them a penalty, kicked by Davies. Right on half-time Llandrindod evened the scoreline with a penalty of their own, kicked this time by Paul Harris.

Though mainly dominant in the forwards in the second half, Llandrindod's backs were unable to capitalise and further random and mis-aimed kicking cost them dear, giving away hard won territory and causing all sorts of frantic defensive moves to counter Aberbargoed's powerful backs. One of these kicks led to Aberbargoed's second try, by Erwin Edwards, conversion again by Davies.

Not content with running out winners on points, Aberbargoed also were ahead of Llandrindod 3-1 in the Yellow Card competition in a match littered with penalties, and some dangerous play.

This week, Llandrindod host Llanrumney in the League.

### **Crickhowell 16 - Llandrindod Wells 8**

This was a dour match, dominated by forward play, with Llandrindod playing against a much improved Crickhowell and, due to the intensity of the Crickhowell forward play, unable to create real structure to their game.

Llandrindod's Joe Bradley was the first to score with a penalty kick early in the half, but very soon afterwards a blistering run by Crickhowell wing Steve Morris saw him touch down but the angle was too great for a successful conversion.

Llandrindod were still on the defensive when Crickhowell increased their lead with an Adam Howells penalty.

Llandrindod had more possession in the second half, thanks to stirring work by the forwards, with Geraint Evans causing Crickhowell no end of problems with his driving runs. The home side increased their lead with another Howells penalty but the game was still Llandrindod's for the taking if they could have gained some real advantage from the possession they were winning.

The match really swung away from Llandrindod when Crickhowell forward Kenny Birch touched down following a loose maul. Not converted. Llandrindod's try came in an improbable fashion. The referee was going to call time at the next breakdown when substitute winger Bon Williams, who had only been on the pitch a few minutes, gathered the ball just inside the Crickhowell half, beat one man, handed off the next and scored in the corner. Again, no conversion. Llandrindod now have no match until 7th January when they host CIACS in the League.

### **Llandrindod Wells 15 - Aberbargoed 3**

Despite their lowly League position Aberbargoed played with considerable commitment and no little skill to confine a rampaging Llandrindod to only a 5 point lead at half time, before succumbing to their hosts two tries to nil by the whistle. Llandrindod started at pace. Camped in Aberbargoed's half for most of the first 40 minutes, they launched attack after attack but to no avail as the defence held firm despite conceding a number of penalties and losing their structure up front. Indeed, so powerful was Llandrindod's scrumaging that on numerous occasions throughout the match Aberbargoed conceded much ground as Llandrindod's rolling maul rumbled forward, though never quite getting to the line.

The impasse was broken late in to the half when skipper and wing Jack Holden gathered the ball on the 25 and beat the Aberbargoed defence to touch down in the corner, the angle being too great for Joe Bradley to convert.

The amount of work that the Aberbargoed forwards had been called upon to do in the first half resulted in the second half being played with uncontested scrums as a one or more of the Aberbargoed veterans were unable to take part in contested scrums. This changed the nature of the game because it nullified Llandrindod's considerable dominance up front. The end result was more pressure on the Llandrindod half as the visitor's backs began to make a considerable impression though not actually scoring apart from a well taken penalty by their hooker Owen Edwards to reduce the deficit to 2 points.

With Llandrindod still dominant in the loose a maul close to the Aberbargoed line gave Dave Williams the opportunity to break free and score Llandrindod's second try, Bradley converting. The remainder of the game saw Llandrindod on the offensive but there was no further score giving Llandrindod the game and welcome points, pushing them up to 8th in the League though with up to 2 matches in hand.

The week, Llandrindod travel to Crickhowell in the League. Crickhowell will be keen to avenge their 41-8 loss to Llandrindod in their first match in this League.

### **Caerau Ely 14-Llandrindod Wells 10**

Two 'sucker-punch' Caerau Ely converted tries in the first 10 minutes and the match seemed all over for Llandrindod. Picking themselves up by their bootstraps, and drawing on every ounce of commitment they could muster, this rapidly maturing Llandrindod side then proceeded for the next 70 minutes to hold Caerau Ely, often dominate them, and certainly outscore them by 10 points to 0. The end result was a scare for the second place League title hopefuls, and another match where Llandrindod, using their heads as well as their bodies, were able to build on their recent run of good results after such a poor start to the season. Also, they gained an invaluable loser's bonus point.

It was Caerau Ely's outside centre, Gareth Thomas, built like an over-sized prop but with a surprising turn of speed who bludgeoned his way over the line in front of the posts, Liam Carey having an easy conversion. Later in the match, Thomas' threat was neutered by Llandrindod using the simple expedient of a three man tackle. Caerau Ely's next try came a few minutes later when a back movement sliced through the Llandrindod defence for wing Simon Bullen to score, Carey having a more difficult kick this time.

By now Llandrindod were starting to get the hang of this game and with more possession, spent periods in the Caerau Ely half who, eventually, conceded a penalty, Mathew Williams kicking a difficult goal in a blustery wind.

The second half was noteworthy for the total commitment by both sides, a Llandrindod converted try, and a try that never was. With the visitors building up the pressure from the restart, a Caerau Ely mislaid pass enabled Llandrindod centre Dan Ruell to intercept on the halfway line and outspurt the defence to touch down under the posts. Williams converting. The try that never was involved skipper and wing Jac Holden. Gathering a pass from scrum half Dale Wilson, he had skipped and high-stepped his way past bemused Caerau Ely defenders and was well on his way to the line when the referee blew for a slight forward pass.

The final 10 minutes of this match were frenetic as Caerau Ely used all their power to try to overcome the Llandrindod defence. Tremendous work with bodies being put on the line and Llandrindod tackling everyone in red who had the ball kept Caerau Ely out and it was a blessed relief to all on the pitch when the referee blew for time.

This week Llandrindod have no match because of the International. Next week, they host bottom club Aberbargoed in the League.

### **Llandrindod Wells 9 - Cardiff Saracens 3**

This was a surprising win for Llandrindod having lost their last three encounters with Saracens. That they won was due in part to their dogged determination not to crumple under the considerable pressure Saracens imposed as well as their tighter discipline, lack of discipline by Saracens being a significant reason for them giving the match to Llandrindod.

Two yellow cards for the visitors and one for Llandrindod, plus numerous penalties, are evidence of this.

Having said that, this was a dour and tense affair despite the lovely November weather and a medium to firm pitch. No score at all in the first half, and only 12 points in the second bear witness to the tension of the match.

Saracens were all over Llandrindod in the first quarter, being almost permanently in their half before the hosts managed to get a grip on the situation, making forays to the Saracens line, and often outplaying them in the scrums, with at least two turnovers, though their lineouts continued to show the fragility that has marked most of their play this season. Both sides had an opportunity to put points on the board but with Saracens Martin Gurr missing three kickable penalties, and Llandrindod's David Davies missing one, a 0-0 draw in this half was perhaps a fair reflection of the first 40 minutes.

The second half saw a lot more activity. Gurr opened the scoring with a penalty early on in the half but great Llandrindod forward play drove Saracens from the Llandrindod half, before they gave away a penalty, kicked by Davies and then another penalty a minute later again kicked by Davies.

Frantic play by both sides, strewn with errors, failed to break the stalemate of penalties before Saracens yet again transgressed in a kickable position with Davies doing the honours. Saracens now needed a converted try to win, but this looked unlikely and Llandrindod were on the attack when the referee's whistle went for time.

This week, Llandrindod travel to second placed Caerau Ely in the League.

### **Llandrindod Wells 0 - Glyncoch 46**

With Glyncoch outright League leaders, unbeaten so far and destined for promotion to Division 5, the final result of this match was never really in doubt. Not that the scoreline was any adverse reflection on Llandrindod's commitment; they defended doggedly throughout the 80 minutes, never giving up, and showing great perseverance in the face of Glyncoch's dominance up front, and the slick handling of their back line.

Glyncoch's full back, Sean Baggs, imposed his own brand of rugby on the proceedings, scoring three tries, and kicking four conversions and a penalty. Other scorers for Glyncoch were tries from Lloyd Allan, Gareth Wade, Raymond Wilson and Gerald Edwards.

This week Llandrindod have another home fixture in the League, this time against Cardiff Saracens. At least they now seem to be able to put together a series of weekly matches without the unwanted postponements that have caused such disruption so far.

### **Wick 0 - Llandrindod Wells 8**

Llandrindod's approach to this match was a revelation compared with the shambles of their 0-13 home defeat last week against Cefn Forest. They adopted a much stronger cooperative and coordinated attitude to the match, working as a team against a strong Wick side whose results this season have been very reasonable.

Surprisingly for the game of rugby, this week no less than four out of the six League matches this week contained a team who did not bother the scorer. In the instance of this game, it was Llandrindod's considerable dominance in the forwards, in the loose, the set pieces and the lineouts, coupled with the ability to stifle Wick's dangerous looking backs, that gave them a surprising away win.

The way that Llandrindod's scores were made was also a minor revelation. Stand-off Matt Williams kicked a fine 50 metre penalty, albeit in front of the posts and with a strong following wind, while scrum-half Joe Bradley's lateral run through a bemused Wick defence to touch down in the corner was a real delight.

Llandrindod started the match with the benefit of a gusty wind down pitch, and made full use of this natural ally to pin Wick down in their own half for much of this period, thanks to intelligent kicking from full-back Jonathan Duggan, amongst others, to frustrate Wick, leading to Williams' penalty. There was no further score this half though both sides had their chances.

In the second half, Llandrindod had to contend with the wind but their hosts were not as able to take advantage of it with two penalty attempts going wide. By the last ten minutes, Llandrindod's forwards were starting to fade a bit and Wick took advantage of this even though they were now a man short due to injuries. Their best chance of a score came in the dying minutes of the match when a long passing movement looked certain to result in a try but the wing spilled the ball, knocked on, and the final whistle went much to Llandrindod's delight.

This weekend is Cup weekend and Llandrindod have no match. Their next game is on Saturday 12th November when they host League leaders, Glyncoch.

### **Llandrindod Wells 0 - Cefn Forest 13**

Against a side that travelled with only 15 men, and had no props, resulting in uncontested scrums, Llandrindod could reasonably be expected to win the match comfortably. This was not the case though. Cefn Forest players looked sharper and keener than a sleepy Llandrindod who, for the first half of the match, were still waiting for the alarm clock to go off. The net result of all the activity in the first half was a 0-0 draw.

The stalemate was broken in the second half with Cefn firstly kicking two easy penalties from the boot of Aled Roberts and then scoring the only try of the match when Sean Roach ran through four non-tackling Llandrindod players.

Conversion by Roberts. By this time Llandrindod were awake and more positive but far too late to make any difference and of course with Cefn being in the ascendancy for so long, it was difficult to break the mould.

There was a few positives for Llandrindod. The running of centre Dan Ruell caused Cefn no end of problems, as did the boot of welcome returner to rugby, Kevin Percy, to make metres, sometimes not always well directed, to bring Llandrindod back in to the Cefn half, only for Llandrindod to lose the initiative yet again. Finally, new wing Ben Moreton made a real impact in both defence and attack before he was sent to hospital with suspected concussion. Llandrindod will need to pull their socks up for their next match, away this week against Wick, another newcomer to this League. At least they seem to be getting in to the swing of things with two consecutive matches without League teams asking for postponements for one reason or another.

### **Llandrindod Wells 13- Cambrian Welfare 15**

Llandrindod could, and indeed should, have won this match, only to succumb to a sucker punch in the dying minute of the game when Cambrian score a final try to take the points and the honours. Before then it was a topsy-turvey game with Llandrindod dominant for the first half, and Cambrian coming back hard in the second.

Cambrian were under pressure from the kick-off with Llandrindod mounting a sustained assault on their line from the whistle. They were rewarded with a penalty neatly kicked by stand-off Mathew Williams though Cambrian reduced the deficit followed this with a try by Gavin Ashford ten minutes in to the half after a break-through on the wing. A further Williams penalty gave Llandrindod the lead to be followed by him in quick succession with a try after a nice handling movement through the backs. 13-5 it remained for the rest of this half with Llandrindod pressing hard as wing Joe Bradley made good metres, and Cambrian countered with attacks of their own.

The second half saw Cambrian coming together to good effect. Frantic play in the centre of the pitch built up pressure on both defences with Llandrindod's crumbling first as Cambrian's centre Craig Chadzoy crossed for an unconverted try. With only 2 points between the sides, there was all to play for in the final quarter of the game, In what seems like an interminable final five minutes, Cambrian launched an all-out assault and Llandrindod made one their few mistakes on the day when, instead of keeping the ball in hand to run out time, they kicked from defence only for Cambrian to launch their backs, aided by their flankers, to give Chris Winnett a try in the corner.

This week, Llandrindod host Dolgellau in the first round of the Swalec Shield. Kick-off 2.30 pm.

### **Llanrumney 34- Llandrindod Wells 10**

An inexperienced Llandrindod returned to action after a three week lay off and looked rusty against a more polished Llanrumney side. A minutes silenced was held prior to kick off in memory of Llandrindod 'legend' Des Lewis who died last week, but Llandrindod were slow out of the blocks and soon found themselves behind to an early converted try, Matt Williams reduced the lead with a well struck penalty before a dubious refereeing decision gave the home side a scrum five metres out which they capitalized on to go over for another converted try.

This sparked Llandrindod into life and after a series of breaks by Dale Wilson and Tom Underhill, Dave Ramplee powered over for a try converted by Matt Williams. The game was now there for the taking for Llandrindod but a lapse in concentration led to a Llanrumney try on the stroke of half time to give the hosts a bit of breathing space. The second half was a similar story with Llandrindod taking the game to Llanrumney and came close to scoring with Ramplee being hauled down just short after a barnstorming run, when another attack broke down a speculative clearance kick from Llanrumney bounced wickedly past the Llandrindod full back resulting in a try for the chasing winger which effectively broke Llandod's resistance.

Llanrumney added a further try and despite Llandrindod ending the game on the attack with Lee James and Geraint Evans to the fore they couldn't breach the stubborn defence to gain a consolation try.

This week Llandrindod will look to get back on track with a home game against Cambrian Welfare (2.30pm kick off).

### **Llandrindod Wells 41- Crickhowell 8**

Well rested after their summer break, Llandrindod came out of the blocks at the referee's whistle like an express, overwhelming a somewhat pedestrian Crickhowell in a blitzkrieg of attacking rugby and running up 4 tries in the first half, the initial one in the opening phase of the game. Indeed Llandrindod were so dominant in this half that a further hatful of tries would have been scored had they not been spoilt by poor handling.

Not that Crickhowell did not try to stage some form of recovery. In the first half it was nigh on impossible but in the second, with Llandrindod easing off a bit, the visitors put together some nice moves and were rewarded with their only try, from Meurig Baggust. There was another nice touch from Crickhowell later in the game when, after an injury in the forwards, they seemed to turn down an opportunity to ask for non-contested scrums, despite being on the defensive most of the time in the set pieces.

Flanker Geraint Evans opened Llandrindod's account in the first half, with stand-off Matt Williams converting. Crickhowell's Adam Howells, with a penalty, reduced Llandrindod's advantage but that was really as good as it got for them in this half. Despite some good tactical kicking from Crickhowell's No 10, they were really under the cosh and Llandrindod scored tries from wing Tom Underhill, Matt Williams from a chip ahead, and were then awarded a penalty try after too many Crickhowell infringements. Williams converted two of the tries.

In the second half Crickhowell came to life a bit more after Baggust's try, but again Llandrindod despite easing off were able to score three more times, from Richard Watkins, scrum half Dale Wilson and lock Jamie Watkins.

This week, Llandrindod travel to another of the League's newcomers, C.I.A.C, based in Bute, Cardiff.