

League match reports 2013/14

Llandrindod Wells 17 - Tongwynlais 9

Llandrindod won this game with tries from Dan Oakley, Aled Price & Sam Powell. Danny Davies kicking a conversion. All Tongwynlais' scores were penalties and were kicked by Gavin Blake. This was a thoroughly unpleasant and somewhat chaotic 'end of season' match played in perfect conditions but littered with penalties, silly errors and yellow cards like pollen in the Spring. At least both sides now have the Summer break to refresh their batteries. This result changed nothing so far as Llandrindod are concerned and we now await a decision from the WRU in Cardiff as to which League we will be promoted.
ps apologies for the brevity of this report.

Llandrindod Wells 0 - Ynysowen 52

Ynysowen were far too strong for Llandrindod, who were given a lesson in running rugby by a side who have conceded only two tries all season, one of which was against Llandrindod at home earlier in the year. Indeed, Ynysowen have been playing a level of rugby far higher than that of the other teams in this League and this is evidenced by their scores and their long run in the SWALEC Bowl competition. Perhaps the Welsh Rugby Union should consider their wisdom of 'relegating' Ynysowen from the former Division 5 to this one because it does appear to have unbalanced the League.

Whatever the decision, for this match Ynysowen pulled out all the stops, aided in the first half by Llandrindod's unusually poor defence, handling and kicking. Five tries were run in by the visitors in the first half, two in the first few minutes as Ynysowen blitzed their way to the Llandrindod line. It was only in the second half, when Llandrindod were 33 points down, that the home side could stabilize matters and be much more positive. Penetrating through to the Ynysowen 5 metre line, they were driven back to halfway and then conceded two quick tries before attacking again with some good handling, but the coup de grace came with a final Ynysowen try to bring the match to a conclusion.

The net result if this match is that Ynysowen go to the top of the League, with Llandrindod second, and this situation cannot change as most matches have been played, apart from Ynysowen's who are now playing twice a week to try to catch up. Both Ynysowen and Llandrindod will be promoted but to where is uncertain at this stage. Ynysowen's try scorers were: Mathew Evans, Richard Addis (2), Neville Davis, Darren Hughes (2), Ned William and Jame Caviel. Gavin Richards kicked 6 conversions.

Llandrindod have no match this weekend. Next Saturday, 9 May, they play their final game, against Tongwynlais in the League.

Cathays 14 - Llandrindod Wells 26

Despite having a couple of key players missing due to work commitments, Llandrindod managed to beat a lively and competitive Cathays outfit by almost the same score as that of their encounter at Llandrindod. The game was notable for another reason. Five of the six tries were scored underneath the posts giving the place kickers an easy afternoon regardless of the blustery conditions.

Cathays drew first blood with a converted try from a lineout within the first five minutes of the game. Llandrindod answered in like kind with a try of their own by acting skipper Stephen Boore who powered his way through the Cathays defence. Conversion by Jac Holden. With the wind giving neither side any real advantage, and the scores even, a form of stalemate developed though Cathays did have an advantage in territory and it was up to Dan Oakley to lead the visitors out deep defence, with the powerful assistance of Josh Hammond and Jason Pritchard. On the attack again, a Llandrindod scrum five metres out from the Cathays line gave Oakley an easy run-in for the days only unconverted try, giving the visitors a slender five point lead. Llandrindod's third and final try in this first half was an interception by centre Dan Ruell of a lazy Cathays pass on the halfway line,

and an easy run to the line, and a Holden conversion.

The second half opened with Dan Oakley continuing his harrying of the opposition but a high defensive kick by Cathays, indeterminate play in the Llandrindod half and then a Cathays breakout for their second converted try. With only five points between the sides things were getting interesting and with Cathays showing no signs of tiring the Llandrindod defence had a lot to do and full back Tyler Evans and the rest of the backs had to work hard to stem the tide as the last line of defence. Fortunately for the visitors, Cathays started to concede penalties though over-eagerness which relieved matters somewhat.

The coup-de-grace for Cathays came when they were within five metres of scoring in the Llandrindod corner. A dropped pass was gathered up by Llandrindod hooker Aled Price who then proceeded to sprint some 70 metres past a completely bemused defence, and then pass the ball to Boore who had managed to keep up with him, and for the centre to have a clear run to touch down under the posts. Holden converting.

This week, Llandrindod host Ynysowen in the League. Ynysowen are some five matches adrift of Llandrindod but have won all those they have played. In the meantime Llandrindod remain where they have been all season which is at the top of the table having so far won 13 out of the 16 matches they have played. Their minimum second place, depending on what Ynysowen do, guarantees them promotion, though to where is uncertain at this stage.

Llandrindod Wells 33 - Sully Sports 10

Llandrindod took full advantage of home advantage to inflict a substantial defeat on a strong Sully Sports team and to repay the compliments of earlier in the season when they lost at Sully. Not that this was a walkover for the home side as the Sully forwards, making up in girth what they lacked in mobility, tended to dominate the set pieces against a somewhat lighter pack. In the loose though it was a different matter on occasions as Llandrindod were allowed to run riot particularly in the opening quarter.

Three quick Llandrindod scores came before Sully could get going. Tries from backs James Smedley, Dan Ruell and Stephen Boore, with two conversions by Jac Holden put 19 points on the board without any response. This though was not long coming. A Sully penalty from Dai Harris opened their account and then shortly afterwards John Blake touched down for the visitors after considerable forward pressure on the Llandrindod line. Harris converting to end the first half with Llandrindod having a score and a bit points cushion.

After the break it was all Llandrindod. Camped as they were for the most part in the Sully half, further scores looked inevitable but good Sully defence kept these down to a modest level.

Llandrindod's first try in this half came from flanker Dan Oakley with a run after a series of mauls, Holden converting. Indeterminate exchanges in the Sully half were then followed by a Dave Ramplee try, who gathered the ball in the Sully half and sprinted his very considerable bulk some 30 metres past a defence who seemed mesmerised at what was bearing down on them but who, to their very considerable credit, bravely attempted to tackle. Holden converting again. The rest of this match was somewhat bad tempered and with Llandrindod down a man due to a yellow card, any kicks in to the Llandrindod half were swiftly replied with interest by Holden continuing Llandrindod's territorial dominance.

This week, Llandrindod have no game. Next week, Saturday 18 April, Llandrindod travel to Cathays for their final away fixture of the season.

Ferndale 24 - Llandrindod Wells 17

Llandrindod travelled to the Rhondda looking to blow out the cobwebs following the 6 Nations break and an inexperienced team put in a decent showing before coming up just short but returned home with a losing bonus point!

Persistent rain had made the surface very slippery and the scoring was opened by a penalty from Llandrindod hooker and stand in kicker Aled Price. Ferndale replied with an individual try from

their ever dangerous scrum half which was converted and followed not long after with an unconverted try by the outside centre.

This spurred the visitors into life and led by skipper for the day Steve Boore and number 8 Dan Oakley territory was gained with a 5m scrum awarded. Llandrindod's young front row of Sam Powell, Aled Price and Kyle Stevens supported by Lee James and Jamie Price and the back row, marched their counterparts backwards towards their own line resulting in the referee awarding a penalty try which was converted by Price. This was followed by an interception try on the stroke of half time scored by Jordan Phillips who ran 80 metres to score under the posts, Aled Price converting again to put Llandrindod 17-12 at half time.

In the second half Ferndale had the advantage of the strong wind. They spent the first 20 minutes of the half camped in Llandrindod territory as the wind meant the visitors couldn't clear their lines. Impressive defence especially by flankers Jason Pritchard and Jonny Davies and centres Steve Boore and Andrew Hunter kept Ferndale at bay until an unconverted try from their Flanker brought the teams level. Back came Llandrindod and after a couple of impressive rolling mauls in the Ferndale 22 a try looked likely when a pass was intercepted by the Ferndale full back who ran the length of the pitch and despite being pursued by winger Martin Davies scored under the posts for the winning try.

This was a brave effort by a Llandrindod team shorn of most of their farming contingent due to lambing commitments, but they still sit top of the league ahead of next's Saturday's home game against Sully Sports, a potential promotion decider.

(Report written by Jonathan Duggan)

CIAC 10 -Llandrindod Wells 33

This was a much improved CIAC (Cardiff International Athletic Club) who hosted Llandrindod in Cardiff from the team who travelled to Llandrindod earlier in the season and there were periods during this match when the CIAC forwards were more than a handful for Llandrindod. Playing with the breeze and the slight slope in their favour CIAC took an early lead with a penalty that the visitors matched soon after with a penalty of their own courtesy of Danny Davies and then a knocked down CIAC pass was intercepted by Llandrindod's Dan Oakley who sprinted and touched down in front of the posts, Davies converting. A further Davies penalty increased Llandrindod's lead but by now they were finding the CIAC pack a problem but managed to maintain this lead until half time.

The start of the second half was messy to say the least of it. Numerous penalties and not a lot of structure though Llandrindod's next try was the result of a break by Davies, who literally waltzed his way around a bemused opposition, a pass to hooker Aled Davies who sprinted to the line for a try, and a Davies conversion. With the huge frame of Llandrindod's David Ramplee making almost unstoppable sorties in to the CIAC half, their next try was not long in coming. The sight of a very large man bearing down on you at speed would be enough to concern anyone but to their credit the CIAC defence did it's job and stopped one of Ramplee's forays just short of the line but a nice pass to wing Jac Holden gave Llandrindod their third try, not converted this time.

Llandrindod's fourth and final try was Price's second, this time from a pushover & touch down. The final score of the match was for CIAC. A fast back movement and their wing was over the try line before he was bundled in to touch by what was judged to be a high tackle giving the referee little option but to award a penalty try, converted, at which point he called time on the proceedings.

This Wednesday, Llandrindod host Llanidloes in the quarter final of the Mid Wales Cup. Kick-off 7.30 pm.

Llandrindod Wells 12 - Cardiff Saracens 10

Llandrindod were somewhat fortunate to force a win against an efficient Saracens side, with two tries, one scored by Danny Davies and the second a penalty try, Llandrindod's fifth of the season so far. The first half was decidedly scrappy though with both sides giving away too many penalties and with home side taking a while to adjust to the threat posed by Saracens. Indeed had it not been for

Davies' booming clearing kicks Llandrindod would have been in real trouble. As it was, they managed to hold the visitors until late in the first half when a good passing movement by the Saracens backs outflanked the Llandrindod defence with wing Jim Carroll touching down for an unconverted try.

Saracens second try was the result of a loose maul and a pushover early in the second half, with Gareth Lloyd scoring in the corner, giving the visitors a ten point lead to defend. By now Llandrindod were fully awake to what was happening and the danger of a possible home loss and their forwards started to dominate with loose play close to the Saracens line allowing Davies to touch down for an unconverted try to reduce the deficit to five points. For the rest of this half, about twenty minutes, Llandrindod confined Saracens mainly to their own 25 and a succession of scrums, lineouts and loose mauls kept the play in that quarter despite Llandrindod giving more penalties away. By now though Saracens were starting to lose their cool, and two players to successive yellow cards. At the end of a tremendous period of unrelenting pressure on their line by the Llandrindod forwards, the visitors gave away a penalty try, with Davies easily converting, upon which the referee blew for time giving Llandrindod a shaky, but eventually deserved, win. This week Llandrindod travel to Cardiff to play CIAC in the League.

Llanrumney 12 v Llandrindod Wells 43

Llandrindod were on the front foot from the start of this game. A Llandrindod kick-off, a line out, a degree of disorganisation on the part of Llanrumney's defence and a touch down by Dan Oakley, the first of his hat-trick, under the posts giving Danny Davies an easy conversion. Despite a powerful Llanrumney scrum in the Llandrindod 25, a lazy pass off the base of the scrum was easily intercepted by Llandrindod wing Jac Holden who outpaced the Llanrumney defence with a 70 metre sprint to touch down, and a Davies conversion again from under the posts. Shortly afterwards, Oakley scored his second try, straight in front again, from a pick up following a loose maul. Davies converting. Despite such a chaotic start for the home side, they were a competitive outfit and obtained some relief with a converted try but Llandrindod ended the first half with yet another Oakley try, with Davies doing the honours again. 7-28 at the break and bonus point for Llandrindod for the four tries.

Llandrindod were on the hunt again for further tries and a loose maul straight from kick-off enabled Llandrindod skipper Geraint Evans to score, this time unconverted. Indecisive play followed after Llanrumney appeared to get their second wind but a breakout from deep defence led by Geraint Evans and Dan Oakley gave hooker Aled Price the chance to stretch his legs and touch down, and then centre Joe Bradley finished off Llandrindod's work for the day with their last try. Just before the final whistle, the hosts scored their second try and the referee called time on the proceedings. This weekend Llandrindod have no match. On 21 February, Llandrindod host Cardiff Saracens in the League.

Whitchurch 14 v Llandrindod Wells 32

Despite the fact that Whitchurch are languishing at the bottom of the league table, this was a surprisingly spirited and competitive outfit that took the field against the league leaders and there were periods in the second half when Llandrindod had to concede advantage resulting in the hosts scoring two converted tries.

Llandrindod kicked-off deep in to the Whitchurch half, causing a degree of confusion amongst the defenders and a possible quick score. This was not to be but a loose maul close to the Whitchurch line, a drive and a squeeze and Dan Oakley was over for the first of Llandrindod's six tries. Despite their dominance in the loose, Llandrindod's set-pieces saw the scrum being pushed back and a hint of danger for the visitors. Further loose play gave the Llandrindod backs a chance to stretch their legs, and full back Jac Holden came in to the line and was uncatchable in a 40 metre sprint to the corner for another unconverted try. Llandrindod ended the first half with hooker Aled Price, gathering a pass from Danny Davies, ran some 25 metres to touch down for the visitor's third try. The tables were turned from the start of the second half as Whitchurch, fed up with being on the

back foot most of the time, suddenly came to life and for some fifteen minutes pressed Llandrindod hard, resulting in the first of their two tries with Joe Kendall touching down under the posts, giving James Lawrence an easy conversion. Llandrindod rallied after this shock and Neil James scored two unconverted tries in quick succession both at the end of a rolling maul. The same tactic gave Llandrindod their final try, this time from Price, converted by Davies. The match ended with Whitchurch using a rolling maul of their own, and a touch down by Gareth Hobbs, converted by Chris Morris.

This week Llandrindod have no scheduled match.

Martin Harvey
for Llandrindod Wells RFC

Ynysowen 20 v Llandrindod Wells 7

This was not a comfortable afternoon for Llandrindod. Playing at Ynysowen's new club HQ, on a good surface, the visitors struggled to impose any sort of order on this match. A good Ynysowen pack contained Llandrindod whilst a somewhat narrow pitch did not allow the Llandrindod backs very much space. The opening half was also notable for the number of penalties awarded against both sides, from one of which Ynysowen opened their scoring with a penalty kicked by Gavin Richards. Despite good Llandrindod defence over a long period, Ynysowen's Mathew Evans eventually touched down, Richards converting, increasing the host's lead to ten points. They stretched this lead with another try, this one from Lewis Hughes, conversion again by Richards, before the whistle for half time.

Without much encouragement from the elements, Llandrindod had a better second half and were rewarded with a penalty try that followed a rolling maul in to the Ynysowen try area, and subsequent Ynysowen transgressions. Incidentally, this brings the number of penalty tries awarded to Llandrindod this season to three, and indicates the pressure that Llandrindod is able to exert in their opponents' danger areas. Further Llandrindod efforts to reduce the points gap between the sides, and hopefully give Llandrindod a loser's bonus point came to nothing, and a Richards penalty saw Ynysowen home and dry.

This week Llandrindod host Llanidloes in the next round of the Mid Wales Cup. Kick-off 2.00 pm.

Llandrindod Wells 27- Cathays 14

Both sides used this match as a means of shaking off their Christmas lethargy and long lay-offs, five weeks in Cathays' case. In truth though, this was not a classic. A sticky pitch and slippery ball made for a game in which, in part, was a battle against the conditions. It did also produce some good rugby from both sides. Llandrindod's ever-dominant rolling maul was key to at least three of their five tries, whilst the running and handling of the Cathays backs gave their hosts a real scare with two quick converted tries in the second half leaving Llandrindod vulnerable to another converted try, and defeat.

Llandrindod opened the scoring. Wing Jordan Phillips kicked the ball ahead deep in to the Cathays half, and his considerable speed beat his opposite number to touch down as the ball rolled in to the Cathays try area. Under pressure from the restart, Llandrindod's Danny Davies was instrumental in beating back assaults in to the Llandrindod half by making considerable metres with his clearance kicks. Eventually, the tide turned and a pushover try touched down by hooker Aled Price extended Llandrindod's lead. More pressure on the Cathays line could have resulted in a score but the hosts were kept out.

In the second half, Cathays were repulsed early on by the expedient of a 20 metre rolling maul, which Llandrindod are starting to turn in to an art form. Regardless of their performances in the set-pieces, this is an aspect of Llandrindod's game plan that they have been perfecting and, like a Greek phalanx, it rumbles on. Llandrindod's third try came from directly from a rolling maul with Andrew Duggan scoring and their fourth almost immediately afterwards with a pushover try, Price touching

down again.

This gave Llandrindod a healthy twenty point lead, but they did not count on the Cathays backs suddenly coming to life, with two running tries almost under the posts, both scored in five minutes by Kyle Holder, with Alex Davies converting, putting Llandrindod in considerable danger of losing the lead to another converted try. By now though, Cathays seemed to have shot their bolt and Llandrindod resumed their dominance and their final rolling maul took them to the Cathays line in the corner but persistent Cathays infringements resulted in a penalty try, conversion by Danny Davies, and the referee's whistle for time.

Next week, Llandrindod travel to Ynysowen in the League. Ynysowen have not played as many games this season as Llandrindod but they are unbeaten so far.

Sully 17 -Llandrindod Wells 10

This match saw Llandrindod lose their 100% unbeaten record this season against a competent and well-drilled Sully outfit. The visitors were on the back foot from the start, conceding a converted penalty try and an unconverted try within the first quarter of the match. Then, in a reversal of events, Llandrindod started to get the measure of their opponents and kept them on the back foot for much of rest of this half. Their first try came from a rolling maul and then a pushover with hooker Aled Price squeezing a touchdown. Their second try was almost a mirror image of the first though on the other side of the pitch. Again, a maul, a pushover and a Price try. Both these scores were remarkable given the sheer bulk and maturity of the Sully forwards. Neither tries were converted. After the break, Sully continued on the offensive, but great Llandrindod defence kept them out despite losing a man through a yellow card for a disputable offence, though Sully were lucky to get away during this match with an arguable spear tackle, and also a neck-high tackle, both offences meriting only a penalty. In the end, Llandrindod's defence gave way with Sully scoring a trying from a rolling maul. After that, Llandrindod pulled out all the stops for an equalising try but could not breach a solid Sully defence, and Sully narrowed Llandrindod's lead at the top of the League. This week, Llandrindod travel to Oakdale in the third round of the Swalec Bowl. Kick-off 2.00 pm. Oakdale play in Division 3 East A which, depending on how the new WRU leagues are viewed, is 3 Leagues above Llandrindod.

Llandrindod 80- Ferndale 7

Buoyed up by the thought that this game could give Llandrindod a record breaking eight straight wins in a row, and by the large crowd that this team are now starting to attract, Llandrindod tore in to Ferndale from the kick-off. A loose maul in their 5 metre area, a push for the line, and a pass to centre Dan Ruell gave Llandrindod the first of their 12 tries, all in the space of a couple of minutes. Danny Davies converting from a difficult angle. Immediately on the attack from the restart, Llandrindod were in the Ferndale half where Dan Oakley gathered the ball, sprinted some 40 metres and touched down for an unconverted try. Still the pace did not slacken and some fierce tackling showed how committed both sides were. With the ball then going loose skipper and No8 Geraint Evans gathered, made a 50 metre break, and passed to Ruell for his second try, conversion again by Davies. 19-0 in the space of little more than ten minutes.

At the restart, it was that man Oakley who danced his way through a bemused defence to touch down under the posts, giving Davies an easy conversion. Long runs to score seemed to have been the order of the day in this match and now it was centre Stephen Boore's turn to stretch his legs with a 50 metre run and a touch down under the posts. Davies, never tiring of kicking conversions, slotted the ball through for the fourth of his eventual ten successful kicks. The next try was another one by Oakley who reprised his previous effort, conversion by Davies. The final try in this half was by wing Tyler Evans who, despite all the excitement elsewhere, got his hands on the ball and used his long stride to bypass the defence and touch down. 47-0 at the break.

To a certain extent, the second half was really a repeat of the first though Ferndale to their credit never stopped competing. A pushover try from Geraint Evans, a try from Boare from a pass by Andrew Duggan who made the break, one from Tom Hughes, a touch down by hooker Aled Price,

and another try from Boore, this time made by skipper Geraint Evans after his solo 70 metre run. Davies converting all but one of these tries. After that things started to get a shade messy. Two yellow cards against Llandrindod gave Ferndale some advantage which they took with open hands, Alex Foster touching down under the posts, conversion by Dai Price. Then the final whistle and a rest from League matches until December due to the Internationals.

Sometime this month Llandrindod are due to travel to COBRA in Llanfair Caereinion for the first round of the Radnor Cup which will be a repeat of last season's Cup Final encounter won by Llandrindod. After that Llandrindod have two very difficult away matches. Firstly against Sully Sports who are second placed in the League, and then a third round Swalec Bowl tie against Oakdale, near Blackwood, who play in Division 3 East A, which will arguably be their biggest test of the season so far.

Tongwynlais 13 - Llandrindod 35

Llandrindod cemented their position and three point lead at the top of the Division with this, their sixth win out of six matches, arguably their best start to a season for many a long year. This was not a match for the purists though. A rough, tough encounter with a couple of unsavoury incidents, far too many penalties given away by both sides, including a penalty try against Tongwynlais but thankfully, as in last week's match, no cards.

Both teams started at a considerable pace and some fierce tackling. Llandrindod put the first points on the board with a Danny Davies penalty but immediately from the Tongwynlais restart, the unexpected happened. A fumbled take by Llandrindod from the restart, the ball bounced behind the defender to be gleefully gathered up by Tongwynlais's centre, and arguably their best player on the field, Wayne Slocombe, who had but a short run to touch down for a try converted by Adam Osman. Llandrindod dominated proceedings after the restart, and a loose maul close to the Tongwynlais line saw Jason Pritchard touch down with Jac Holden converting the try. Loose play shortly afterwards gave Llandrindod hooker Aled Price the opportunity to squeeze over to touch down following another maul.

By now, Tongwynlais were starting to lose their cool and answering back to the referee cost them hard won metres into the Llandrindod half with Danny Davies clearing any danger with his booming kicks. Another loose maul close to the Tongwynlais allowed Andrew Duggan to use his height and reach to touch down and the half ended with Tongwynlais conceding a penalty try for numerous defensive infringements, Holden kicking an easy conversion straight in front of the posts and Llandrindod went in to the break with a 20 point lead.

The start of second half was dire, both sides conceding too many penalties and the general standard of play was very scrappy. Too much haste and not enough speed. Also, Tongwynlais's big, experienced pack was visibly starting to tire, though to their credit they kept going right to the final whistle. Desperate Llandrindod defence kept the hosts out and Llandrindod forays resulted in a Llandrindod penalty kicked by Davies to increase their lead and really make the game safe.

Tongwynlais though were still not down and out, and a clean catch from a Llandrindod clearance was gathered by Tongwynlais's Carl Enoch to touch down in the corner. The game was almost over when wing Llandrindod's right wing, Gareth Oakley, at the end of a classic back passing sequence, used his pace and long reach to squeeze an unconverted try in the corner.

This week Llandrindod host Cwmcarn United in the second round of the SWALEC Bowl competition.

Llandrindod 48 - CIAC 0

The scoreline in this game does not accurately reflect the competitive edge that CIAC (Cardiff International Athletic Club) brought to the proceedings. With Llandrindod well on top in the first quarter, CIAC came back strongly in the second quarter and could have scored. The third quarter was somewhat indeterminate but in the final 30 minutes, Llandrindod were well on top. The match was also notable for the fact that there were no Cards of either colour given by the referee, who

managed the match with aplomb and good humour.

Usually somewhat sleepy at the start of a game, on this occasion Llandrindod started like a rocket with Dan Oakley gathering from the kick-off and with the help of the forwards driving CIAC back and to their 5 metre area. The visitor's defence held but eventually conceded a penalty close to their line. A Llandrindod line-out resulted in a maul and a squeezed try by Llandrindod hooker Aled Price. From the restart, Llandrindod backs started to get in to the action and a good passing sequence drove CIAC back to their line again and a try from centre Stephen Boore. This was followed in short order when Oakley ran 50 metres through the CIAC defence to score an unconverted try.

Numerous penalties against both sides throughout this match disrupted proceedings somewhat and the first half ended with CIAC severely testing the Llandrindod defence but unable to put points on the board.

The second half opened with an early try by Llandrindod's new signing and wing Jordan Phillips who had some 40 metres to run to touch down with Jac Holden now finding his range and converting. A drive by Danny Davies, playing in the second row, put CIAC on the back foot and eventually their defence folded and conceded a push-over try by prop Josh Hammond, conversion by Holden. Llandrindod were fast in to the attack again but were held by dogged CIAC defence despite great Llandrindod handling in the 10 metre area. Then came what was arguably the surprise of the match. Hooker Aled Price gathered the ball and sprinted some 40 metres through a bemused CIAC defence to give Tyler Evans a try. Price also had the distinction later in this game of giving the ball a hefty boot metres up the pitch to clear a CIAC attack. By now CIAC were mostly on the back foot and the game ended with a second try by Jordan Phillips and a second for Stephen Boore. Holden converting Phillips try and the earlier one by Evans.

Next weekend Llandrindod travel to the Cardiff area to play Tongwynlais in the League.

Cardiff Saracens RFC 12 Llandrindod Wells RFC 20

On a lovely sunny day in the capital Llandrindod took on old rivals Cardiff Saracens in what was to be a fast paced, if at times scrappy game, with the visitors eventually coming out on top twenty points to twelve.

Llandrindod started the game well gaining good territory and the majority of possession but were unable to make this count as the Saracens opened the scoring with a breakaway try under the posts, which was converted to give them a 7-0 lead. This seemed to be the wakeup call that Llandrindod needed and from the resulting kickoff they regained possession deep in the Saracens half and mounted a series of attacks on the host's line. After some big carries from the visiting pack, Llandrindod finally got on the scoreboard with flanker Danny Davies, playing out of position from his usual role as fly half, crashing over out wide. The try was brilliantly converted by fullback Jac Holden, seven all. The next points were again from the boot of Holden with a well taken penalty after a Saracens infringement in front of the posts.

A sour moment from the first half saw loose head Darren Davies having to leave the field with a calf injury, being replaced by veteran prop Stuart Lee James, making his long awaited return after two seasons in the wilderness.

Llandrindod took control for the remainder of the first half with man of the match and centre Stephen Boore driving the away team forward with numerous bursts of power and pace and after replacing the sin binned captain and number 8 Geraint Evans at the back of the scrum, Boore then proceeded to pick up from an attacking drive to power over for the games third try. This time Holden was unable to convert, half time score: Saracens 7 Llandrindod 15.

The second half began a lot like the first ended with Llandrindod on the attack with surging runs from Boore, Davies and tight head Josh Hammond leading the way. With the Llandrindod scrum on the front foot, the visitors took every opportunity to tie the home team up at the set piece and it was from one of these attacking scrums that Llandrindod's third try came with captain Geraint Evans touching down after the Dod's scrum drove the hosts back over their own try line. Conversion missed, Llandrindod up to twenty points.

This was to complete the scoring for Llandrindod on the day and the remaining twenty minutes of the game became an untidy affair with the Saracens backs making significant yards due to some dubious tackling from the tiring Dod defence. The host gained their second try of the game out wide after some slack play from Llandrindod, conversion missed to leave the final score at: Cardiff Saracens 12 Llandrindod Wells 20.

This was a great result for a depleted Llandrindod side but they'll have to improve in certain areas if they want to challenge for top honours come the end of the season. Special mention must be paid to the Llandrindod supporting faithful who again made the long trip to cheer on the boys, it's much appreciated!

Next Saturday sees Llandrindod entertain another Cardiff side when they welcome CIACS to the Lant, 2.30pm kick off, hope to see you all there!

Llandrindod 16 - Llanrumney 13

This was by far Llandrindod's sternest test this season and though they did not exactly come through it with flying colours, they displayed a considerable degree of determination and no little skill to record a win against this highly competent Cardiff outfit. They also managed to keep their cool throughout when everyone else on the pitch seemed to be losing theirs, with Llanrumney being given no less than five yellow cards against Llandrindod's single one. Indeed, Llanrumney can consider themselves fortunate in not conceding a penalty try for persistent infringements close to their line in the first half.

Llanrumney started the match at considerable pace and it was a while before Llandrindod could stir themselves sufficiently to respond. Giving away too many penalties during this early period of the match saw the hosts go behind with a successful penalty kick by Neil Donahue but at last Llandrindod started to get the measure of the game and pressure in Llanrumney's half resulted in a try by Llandrindod's Tom Hughes after a series of mauls close to the Llanrumney line, initiated by Josh Hammond who was a problem to Llanrumney all through the match. Conversion from out wide by an unflappable Jac Holden. It was during this second quarter of the game that Llanrumney started to lose players to yellow cards and sometimes it was difficult to see how many men they actually had on the pitch! The first half eventually ended fairly tamely with Llandrindod in the lead 7-3 at the whistle but unable to take full advantage of Llanrumney's reduced numbers.

The second half started badly for Llandrindod. Loose play after a scrum and a subsequent defensive error gifted Llanrumney a try by Ian John, conversion by Donahue who, like his opposite number Holden, was adept at long kicks from difficult angles. Another Llanrumney penalty stretched their lead but two penalty kicks by Holden drew the scores level at 13 all. Llandrindod were now on top thanks to a series of driving runs by centre Stephen Boore who was proving very difficult to stop and the Llandrindod forwards who managed to stay the pace better than their opposition. Finally, on the 73rd minute of the match, Llanrumney conceded a penalty in front of the posts but some 45 metres out, and Holden kicked what proved to be the final score of the match.

Llandrindod have no match this weekend. Next weekend they travel to Cardiff Saracens in the League

Wick 0 - Llandrindod 70

This Wick side was a shadow of their former selves but, to their great credit, they never gave up and provided a competitive edge throughout the game. Non-competitive scrums because Wick did not have a proper front row provided them with some good attacking chances and nullified somewhat Llandrindod's power up-front. However, this did not stop the visitors running in 12 tries, with 5 being converted. Llandrindod's try scorers were three from full back Paul Griffiths, and a brace each from second row Dan Oakley, hooker Aled Price and wing Martin Davies, with centre Stephen Boore, No 8 and skipper Geraint Evans, and stand-off Danny Davies each contributing a try. Davies, somewhat off-target this week from his usual pin-point accuracy, kicked five conversions. This win propels Llandrindod to the top of the League.

On Saturday Llandrindod host Llanrumney in the League in what will inevitably prove to be a stern

test for Llandrindod.

Llandrindod 32 - Whitchurch 13

Llandrindod opened their season's campaign with an efficient win against Cardiff side Whitchurch in a match that saw some good play in the first half, but with the second half giving the crowd little to cheer about. Llandrindod should have scored during the opening salvos but were pulled up short of the Whitchurch line and then it was the visitor's turn to attack and it took all of Llandrindod's defensive skills to keep them out. Eventually Llandrindod conceded a penalty in front of the posts to give Whitchurch's Gareth Davies an easy kick. Then it was Llandrindod's turn to gain a penalty, again in front of the posts, with Danny Davies slotting the ball over.

By now Llandrindod's forwards were well on top of their opponent's pack and a scum close to the Whitchurch line gave the hosts a push-over try touched down by skipper Geraint Evans. Loose play close to the Whitchurch line after the restart and Llandrindod forward Josh Hammond had the opportunity to power his way through to touch down out wide. No conversion. A Whitchurch penalty evened the scores up somewhat, but another good push by the forwards gave centre Stephen Boore the opportunity to touch down, conversion by Davies. A further try late in this half really sealed the match for Llandrindod as hooker Aled Price, last season's top scorer, continued in the same try-scoring vein with the first of two tries, conversion again by Davies.

Compared to the first half, the second half was dire. Fractious behaviour by both sides led to a sprinkling of yellow cards though Whitchurch started brightly enough and at pace but what appeared to be a serious injury to full back Jonathan Duggan led to the match being temporarily halted for fifteen minutes. Duggan had gone for a loose ball and a Whitchurch player accidentally collided with him leaving him apparently senseless and immobile on the grass. To the great credit of all, the players stopped activity immediately, Duggan received treatment on the pitch and eventually was able to walk off with assistance.

Some time after the restart, and for reasons unknown, a brawl ensued that sucked in a number of players. The end result was, once the referee had established control, yellow cards for two Llandrindod and one Whitchurch players. The loss of the two Llandrindod players, both forwards, did not give Whitchurch any great advantage and dominant Llandrindod forward play saw Price go over for his second try. This signalled the last few minutes of the game and with Whitchurch never giving up, Llandrindod conceded a try scored by Cameron Licence, Davies converting.

The week Llandrindod travel to Wick in the League.