

Llandrindod Wells RFC- League Match Reports

Llandrindod Wells 24 - Wick 27

Llandrindod have played Wick four times in this League since Wick joined it last season and this is their first defeat against the South Walians. Wick, playing with what they described as a scratch side, did deserve their narrow victory dominating as they did, most of the time, the scrums and lineouts. The weather also played a major hand for both sides in turn. Down the slope and with the strong breeze gave each team considerable natural advantages for half the game.

Wick opened the proceedings against the breeze and the kick-off was, not for the first time this season, fumbled by Llandrindod and the subsequent Wick scrum for a knock-on resulted in mauls close to the Llandrindod line with the inevitable reward of a try by Rod Thomas to give the visitors an early lead. Despite having problems in the scrum Llandrindod managed to keep possession and a long passing movement, engineered by stand-off Danny Davies, resulted in a Llandrindod try by centre Joe Bradley. Conversion by skipper Jac Holden and a later penalty from Holden widened the score-line in Llandrindod's favour.

With Llandrindod using the conditions to their advantage frantic play by both sides gave Llandrindod space out wide for the flying wing Jac Holden to score in the corner. So close was Holden to the corner and touch that had the match been at a more senior level, the referee would have called for a TV review! As it was, the referee did not have this luxury and awarded a try, a decision disputed by the Wick officials close to the action. Despite all this excitement, Holden converted his own try with a superb kick that could not have been at a wider angle. Good handling by Llandrindod and missed Wick tackles gave Llandrindod's Tom Hughes a try, conversion again by Holden. A further try this half went begging as Holden was unmarked 10 metres out but the ball carrier moved inside and the opportunity was lost as he was smothered by the Wick defence.

A 24-5 cushion would have been sufficient for Llandrindod in many matches, but taking in to account the fact that the weather conditions and the slope were now in Wick's favour, they made good use of it. Two tries, from Josh Kemp and Shawn Woodman, one converted by Bryan McNaughton, reduced the deficit to just seven points. A further try by Kemp, conversion by McNaughton, evened the scores. Though not always on the defensive, Llandrindod were by now really struggling against a Wick side who saw the winning post around the next corner. This came in to sight with a penalty for Wick kicked by McNaughton.

Llandrindod ended the match, and their season, with repeated assaults on the Wick half but could not penetrate and score and Wick were very grateful for the referee's final whistle to record an unexpected win.

Llandrindod Wells 15 - Crickhowell 29

A winning margin that in the end slightly flattered Crickhowell was achieved by their steam-roller approach for the first third of the match as Llandrindod strove to get up to speed. The visitor's superb lineout work triggered well executed drives that culminated in tries for Alan Taylor, Matt Price and Chris Reynolds with two conversions by Adam Howells. Their fourth and final try was rounded off by Daryl Reynolds following a sweeping three-quarters move to give the visitors a deserved 24-0 lead.

Llandrindod's solid front row of Jamie Watkins, Sam Davies and Kyle Stevens allowed a powerful back five scrum push to dominate this phase of play and from penalties conceded the powerful David Ramplee forced his was over for two tries, one converted by skipper Jac Holden.

With Llandrindod well in the game by half time, but twelve points down, their dominant scrum and tigerish tackling with that of Geraint Evans, Jamie Price and Wayne Price being outstanding, half backs Jonathan Duggan and Danny Davies secured excellent field positions with accurate kicking. Good interpassing gave an odds-on scoring chance but the ball was spilled in the centre with an unopposed try line a stride away. Jac Holden clinched a penalty on the hour but it was scant reward period of domination on the opponent's 22.

Crickhowell finalised their scoring when they broke out of Llandrindod's half and a deadly run by wing Daryl Reynolds shrugged off two determined tackles to score his second try and complete the scoring. Against a strong Crickhowell side this was one of the best performances, if not the best, by Llandrindod

this season. Powerful forward play, a balanced set of backs and a good bench gave their all, with Wayne Price being quite outstanding.

Llandrindod have no game this weekend. Their next and final League game this season is the rearranged home fixture against Wick on 27 April and if Llandrindod can continue where they left off last weekend then we are in for an exciting afternoon.

Llandrindod Wells 21 - Tref y Clawdd 10

This was a typically tense derby match, with a dramatic finale. The match was so close overall that the final scoreline flatters Llandrindod and does not really reflect the effort that Tref y Clawdd put in to the game.

It could easily have been so different. Tref y Clawdd were camped within 5 metres of the Llandrindod line for at least the last 15 minutes of the match. Wave after wave of attacks by the visitors were repelled, many on the line itself and one alleged touchdown was ruled held up by the referee. Tref y Clawdd also squandered many of the penalties awarded to them for various Llandrindod infringements, for example missing a kick at goal from right in front of the posts. The referee was within an ace of awarding Tref y Clawdd a penalty try but Llandrindod held out and a huge relieving kick by the Llandrindod scrum Jonathan Duggan half right down to the Tref y Clawdd try-line resulted in a line-out, then a scrum that Llandrindod won enabling No 8 Geraint Evans to scamper the final 5 metres, and touch down under the posts, conversion by Jac Holden and the referee finally blew the whistle for end of the game.

The start of the match was quite exciting too. Tref y Clawdd started at a canter with a somewhat sleepy Llandrindod trailing behind. A penalty for Tref y Clawdd, kicked by Tom Powell, put the visitors in the lead and then the interception by George Morgan of a Llandrindod pass, a 40 metre sprint, and a touch down out wide. Powell converting to stretch the Tref y Clawdd lead.

By now Llandrindod were starting to get the measure of their opponents. Dominating most of the scrums it was their turn to attack and in the process being awarded 3 consecutive penalties, all successfully kicked by Holden, before half time to bring them to within a point of Tref y Clawdd. Continuing in the same vein in the first part of the second half, with a rejuvenated Danny Davies playing at stand-off causing Tref y Clawdd real problems and making many metres of ground with his pick-up and carries, Llandrindod scored their first try from a loose maul in the corner when Jason Pritchard managed to squeeze his way over the line.

After that it is, as they say, history and Tref y Clawdd must rue their inability to convert possession in to points. As for Llandrindod it was their never-say-die dogged defence, bodies on the line, 100% effort that, finally, paid off. Both sides though should take credit though for providing arguably one of the most tense and dramatic finishes this season.

Llandrindod are at home this weekend when they entertain Crickhowell in the League.

Cefn Fforest 25 - Llandrindod Wells 3

For pitch that looked so grassy and benign at the start of the game, it certainly chewed up quick enough so that by half time both sides were covered in mud and by the end of the match it was almost impossible to tell who was who. Indeed, there were instances towards the end of the match when even the players had problems recognising each other!

Not that this changed the result of the game much. Cefn Fforest are a few places above Llandrindod in the League but there was world of difference between this match and the 10-try feast when Llandrindod entertained Cefn Fforest at home, going down 32-44 in a pulsating contest. This return game saw rugby back to it's basics as a hard contact sport with both sides having to wrestle for every yard of territory.

It was Llandrindod who bothered the scorers first with a good Jac Holden penalty on the difficult surface but Cefn Fforest more than made amends with a try after a period of fairly even play. This though was the sum of the first half neither side able to gain much advantage, the pitch nullifying the efforts of both sets of backs.

An early Cefn Fforest try in the second half stretched their lead, and three more tries, all unconverted, later gave them the game but not before Llandrindod's heroic defence stemmed Cefn Fforest's efforts for long periods. Something had to give eventually and with little opportunity for Llandrindod to attack, the final result was inevitable.

Llandrindod have no match this weekend. Their next game is at home against Wick on 26 January

Llandrindod Wells 20- Aberbargoed 8

This was a tremendous match, capable of blowing the most stubborn of Christmas holiday cobwebs to the wind. Full of commitment, passion, a controversy or two, but played in the real spirit of the game with Llandrindod recording their second win in a row, outscoring their visitors by three tries to one.

In fact it was Llandrindod who put the first points on the board in the opening minute of the game. The take from Llandrindod's opening kick was fumbled by Aberbargoed, allowing stand-off Jonathan Duggan to sprint 30 metres to the line, then handing the ball to skipper Jac Holden to touch down. Holden converted from out wide but the conversion was disallowed by the referee because it took over 1 minute to take the kick, due it seems to a misplaced kicking tee.

Waking up from the quick set-back Aberbargoed went on the offensive winning a penalty kicked by Aaron Mathews, but Llandrindod maintained their five point lead with a penalty of their own, by Holden.

With Aberbargoed now attacking Llandrindod with purpose, the home side were under a degree of pressure but defended well and indeed scored their second try, this time from a kick-ahead by scrum-half Paul Griffiths that left the Aberbargoed defence flat-footed, Griffiths touching down for the try he made himself. The rest of this half saw Llandrindod in desperate defence scrambling back to their line in the face of determined Aberbargoed assaults but the visitors were unable to decrease the Llandrindod lead.

The start of the second half was really a continuation of what had gone before, Aberbargoed making most of the running with Llandrindod pinned to their own half. Desperate and dogged defence kept them out but eventually something had to give with Aberbargoed's Simon Lane touching down for an unconverted try. Still more defence but with Llandrindod showing more than a spark of form, the highlight of which was a rolling maul that started just inside the Aberbargoed half and proceeded in orderly fashion to their line but broke down at the end. Finally, Llandrindod made the game secure when prop Richard Watkins, during another forward led attack, forced his way over to score.

This week Llandrindod travel to Cefn Forest in the League

Wick 5 - Llandrindod Wells 9

Llandrindod ended a somewhat disappointing first half of the season with a good win away at Wick. On a sticky pitch that got muddier by the minute, both sides showed 100% commitment in a tense tussle notable for crunching tackles and a nail-biting finish.

With Llandrindod having the advantage for much of the first half, Wick's discipline slipped conceding two quick penalties to Llandrindod, both kicked by Llandrindod skipper Jac Holden to give the visitors a six point cushion. They certainly needed this when, down to 14 men due to a yellow card, Wick woke up to the situation and penetrated Llandrindod's defence to allow Jac Richardson to touch down for an unconverted try. This score was a good as it was going to get for Wick as, strangely, scoring penalties awarded to them were kicked to touch rather than to goal even though attempted kicks could well have succeeded,

A frantic period of play close to the Wick line resulted in another penalty for Llandrindod by Holden to increase their lead. This was the sum total of the scores for the rest of the match but the second half more than made up for being scoreless by the tension as Llandrindod presented a solid defensive wall against Wick. The Llandrindod hooker, Kyle Stevens, and inside centre, Sean Cosgrave were outstanding in defence, as indeed were the rest of the Llandrindod squad, and by their considerable combined efforts broke up and repelled numerous Wick attacks, even making up lost ground as flanker Geraint Evans used his skill to drive them forward.

Long periods spent in their own half took their toll on the Llandrindod players as both Jonathan Duggan, stand-off, and centre Jac Holden received knocks that looked bad at the time but fortunately, and probably due to the adrenalin running, they continued to play until the final whistle.

Llandrindod now have until 5th January when they host Aberbargoed in the League, their first home game since 20 October!

Tongwynlais 24 - Llandrindod Wells 17

This was a poor, often chaotic, display of rugby by both sides with some 20 penalties being awarded in the match.

For the first half, Llandrindod were completely dominant in the forwards winning most of the scrums and lineouts and often dominating in the loose. They were though unable to really capitalise on this and the territory they gained, by only scoring a single try, from Jason Pritchard, though being awarded a penalty try, converted by skipper Jac Holden. In between times amongst the mayhem Llandrindod fumbled a take from a kick ahead giving Tongwynlais's David Hughes a try.

In the second half, with a 7 point lead, Llandrindod lost all semblance of control for the first 15 minutes allowing Tongwynlais back into the game and an unconverted try by Adam Osborne. With the Llandrindod defence still leaking territory Tongwynlais scored again through veteran Warren Rees who converted his own try. Though the Llandrindod forwards, so dominant previously, were tiring they did manage a good effort close to the Tongwynlais line, with Jamie Price touching down for an unconverted try to level the scores.

This was not the end of the match though, and in the dying moments Llandrindod conceded a fourth try, from Osborne, again converted by Rees.

This week Llandrindod travel to Wick in the League for their last match before Christmas.

Crickhowell 45 - Llandrindod Wells 5

To a degree the scoreline flatters Crickhowell. Most of the match was much closer than the statistics indicate with the very considerable difference between the teams being the 5 tries scored by Crickhowell wing Joe Powell, whose powerful running proved too much for the Llandrindod defence.

The match was even for the first ten minutes with Llandrindod having initial territorial advantage and, when Crickhowell attacked, defending solidly, especially in the forwards. The initial stalemate was broken when Crickhowell were awarded a penalty kick duly slotted over by Adrian Howells. Llandrindod twice had an opportunity to level the scores, and perhaps take a slender lead, but two penalty kicks went astray.

Straight on the half hour, Powell scored his first try quickly followed by a second as Llandrindod's defence weakened. The rest of this half was notable only for handling errors by both sides before the players took a break with Crickhowell sitting on a fairly comfortable 13 point lead.

The second half opened with another Howells penalty for Crickhowell. Great Llandrindod defence, led by the forwards, was keeping their hosts away from the tryline but, eventually, the dam was breached with a third Powell try, this time under the posts, duly converted by Howells. Still Llandrindod kept up the pressure on Crickhowell despite the scoreline but, again, their defence was overcome with Powell touching down twice more, with Joe Tigg and Alan Taylor also scoring, this time with Llandrindod down to 14 men due to a sin-binning, Howells converting one of these tries.

The match was not yet over of course, and with Llandrindod's never-say-die approach, their considerable efforts were well rewarded by Joe Bradley touched down for an unconverted try before the final whistle.

Llandrindod have no match this week. Next weekend, they travel to Tongwynlais in the League.

Tref y Clawdd 0 - Llandrindod Wells 6

The was a slog-fest of a game, enlivened mainly because it was a local derby match but also because both sides were propping up the rest of the League table and there was a lot to play for.

Not that you would have known this from the scoreline. Neither side really looked capable of scoring a try, though in the first half Tref y Clawdd spend most of it in Llandrindod territory but could not get the ball out to their backs efficiently enough to threaten, leaving it to their forwards to make any real progress. In the second half, it was Llandrindod's turn to dominate territory which they did marginally more effectively than their hosts, but still could not touch down though in the last quarter though their forwards were able to push back a tiring Tref y Clawdd pack and allow their backs some space to work, with Dale Wilson and Jonathan Duggan linking well together.

The only chinks of light in the general dourness of this encounter were the two penalties kicked by Llandrindod's Joe Bradley, one in each half, and both well taken from quite wide angles. A try by either side, unlikely though it was for most of this game, would have enlivened the proceedings somewhat and sent the spectators home marginally more satisfied.

Llandrindod have no match this week. Next weekend, they travel to Crickhowell in the League.

Llandrindod Wells 5 - Treharris 74

Llandrindod paid the penalty yet again for fielding an understrength side against a League high-flyer, and because of illness and injury were allowed uncontested scrums from the start. Treharris were simply too good for their hosts, running in 11 tries, with 8 conversions and a penalty. Not that this seemed all that likely in the first twenty minutes. Surviving a torrent of attacks Llandrindod managed to gain some space to enter the Treharris 25. Camped close to their opponents line, Llandrindod gained five scrums and for once uncontested scrums worked to their benefit with Treharris being penalised giving Llandrindod the advantage and they scored through their scrum half Jonathan Duggan who managed to slip through the

wall of red shirts.

Treharris eventually broke down the Llandrindod defence by sheer weight of numbers scoring 4 tries in this half. By now Llandrindod were down to 14 men having lost a player through injury and, because of uncontested scrums, not being allowed a replacement. Treharris scored a further 7 tries in the second half, their unrelenting pressure breaching the Llandrindod defence time and time again. Not that the host's depleted ranks ever gave up. The work of the forwards in the loose, with David Harris leading by example, tested Treharris on many occasions but to no avail.

Llandrindod have no match this week. Next weekend, they travel to Knighton for their derby match against Tref y Clawdd and it is to be hoped the whole squad be fit and willing for selection.

Llandrindod Wells 12 - Cambrian Welfare 48

Last week it was Division 5's St Albans who put on a display of back play at Llandrindod. This week it was the turn of promotion hopefuls Cambrian Welfare to put on a dazzling show of coordinated running as they beat Llandrindod by eight tries to two.

Llandrindod's problems began from the first kick-off as a fumbled take gave Cambrian Welfare a scrum in the Llandrindod 25 leading to a fast feed to the backs and their first try. Their second try came shortly afterwards when, again, the backs created acres of space in which to operate. The average spectator could perhaps have been forgiven for going home at this stage. If they had done, they would have missed Llandrindod's fightback from these early body blows as Cambrian Welfare's defence came under considerable pressure leading to a try from flanker Tom Hughes using his considerable power and experience to touch down.

Two more tries in this half, one a pushover, put Llandrindod under more pressure but this was the sum of Cambrian Welfare's scoring in this half to lead 26-5, a not insurmountable obstacle for Llandrindod if they could hold the opposition's backs, things being more even up front. Two Cambrian Welfare tries early in the second half via their backs stretched their lead before Llandrindod were able to respond with a Jason Pritchard try, conversion by Joe Bradley.

Cambrian Welfare wrapped up the game with yet another brace of tries one immediately before the final whistle. As for Llandrindod, they have no match this weekend. Next Saturday, 20 October, they host Treharris in the League.

Cambrian Welfare scorers were: Tries by Niall Sibley (2), Jamie Wicks (2), Sam Belcher, Dane James, Steven Daniels and Zac James. Julian Huntley kicked 4 conversions.

Llandrindod Wells 32 Cefn Forest 44

This was a drama filled afternoon in which kick off was delayed until 4pm after a no-show from the referee meant the game was cancelled at 3.15pm and the post protectors taken off before a call 5 minutes later meant the game was back on despite most of the players already showered and changed and ready for their first pint.

When the game did kick off it was a free flowing affair in which both sides scored 5 tries but Cefn Forest taking the spoils by virtue of their tries being scored close to the posts resulting in all of their conversions being scored. The game started at a frantic pace with Llandrindod scoring 2 quick tries through forwards Jason Pritchard and Tom Hughes to cancel out an early Cefn Forest penalty. The tide then turned with Cefn Forest scoring three quick converted tries through their impressive backs and a Penalty to lead 30-13, this stirred Llandrindod back into action and firstly Alistair Cox with a length of the field interception try and then an opportunist effort from Jonathan Duggan from a quick tap penalty left a half time score of 30-25 to the visitors with a try bonus point already in the bag for the hosts.

The second half was a bit less frantic with the Cefn outside half using the wind to nurse the visitors into the home sides twenty two and several francas as a result of 'off the ball' incidents by the away team with the resulting yellow card for each team meaning the free flowing rugby evident in the first half was curtailed. Cefn did though add 2 further tries by their classy backs and Llandrindod replied with another try from Tom Hughes following a typical barnstorming run. This was converted by skipper Jac Holden. This was an improved showing from Llandrindod who will be looking to go one better when they travel to Wick next Saturday.

Aberbargoed 26 - Llandrindod Wells 3

Yet again Llandrindod paid the penalty for fielding an under-strength side due to player injury or inability to travel. Not that this would have been discerned in the first half. Playing against the slope and the breeze, Llandrindod defended numerous Aberbargoed attacks and made breaks of their own thanks

mainly to forward Geraint Evans but it was the home side who scored first though with an unconverted try in the corner.

Throughout this match, Llandrindod were dominant in the linouts, taking the ball against the head on numerous occasions from the Aberbargoed players, and to an extent this enabled them to survive the first half only a try down.

It was in the second half that Llandrindod started to crumble though they did open the scoring in with a Jac Holden penalty kick. Despite this, they were unable to exert any real control even though they had the advantages of the slope and breeze. Missed and dropped passes added to their problems and after a converted Aberbargoed try from a maul the game looked to have gone out of Llandrindod's reach.

Two further converted tries from Aberbargoed gave Llandrindod the coup de grâce, the final try coming from a 60 metre run after a restart.

This week Llandrindod host Cefn Fforest in the League.

Llandrindod Wells 8 - Tongwnlais 8

An under-strength Llandrindod were lucky to come away with a draw in this opening game of the new season. Shorn of a number of key players due to a wedding, and using some veteran returners, Llandrindod struggled for much of the match to get a grip on their opponents. Key passes went astray, and on three occasions seemingly inevitable tries went begging.

Not that Llandrindod's travails were all of their own making. Tongwnlais possessed a grizzled pack who made up in experience for what they lacked in youth. Llandrindod's forwards, for long one of the strongest in this League, were unable to fully get the measure of their street-wise opponents with their cause not helped by the departure of prop and skipper Richard Watkins with a knee injury.

Llandrindod opened the scoring after some 25 minutes of indeterminate play when scrum half Justin Lewis kicked a penalty after a period when Llandrindod were starting to get the hang of this game and mounting pressure of their own with breaks by Geraint Evans giving Tongwnlais a headache.

The first half petered out with no further score but it was in the second half that things started to happen. A very long restart kick almost to the Llandrindod line put the home side on the defensive immediately. Unable to clear in time Llandrindod conceded an unconverted try in the corner by Tongwnlais's wing Kevin Miles.

Despite almost getting to the Tongwnlais line, Llandrindod were surprised by their opponents who, frankly, were a shade too sharp for them and it was not long before Llandrindod conceded a kickable penalty, duly converted by Daniel Hughes. At long last, almost in the closing minutes of the match, centre Damien Weller was rewarded for his strong running and touched down to level the scores but Lewis was unable to convert this time.

This week Llandrindod travel to Aberbargoed in the League.