

# League Match Reports

All these reports are from our 2010/11 season in League Division 6 (Central). The latest match appears first.

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## **Llandrindod Wells 12 - Clwb Rygbi 95**

Llandrindod's end of season match turned out to be a master class from Clwb Rygbi in running rugby, slick passing and overall total dominance. In so doing, Clwb Rygbi won the League at a gallop and are hopeful of movement up to Division 5, which arguably would be a fair measure of their overall capability.

Bemused like a rabbit in headlights in the first half, when Clwb Rygbi had the benefit of a strong breeze and the slope, Llandrindod conceded try after try and it was only in the second half that they were able to put up some real resistance and spend time in their opponent's half. Llandrindod's tries came from centre Matthew Jenkins and wing Bon Williams, conversion by Tom Bradley, before the referee drew this unequal contest to a close leaving Llandrindod with the considerable task of planning for next season.

## **Llandrindod Wells 23 - Cardiff Saracens 32**

This was a much better effort by Llandrindod. Led by the steady boot of Danny Davies, aided by some exciting running from the Llandrindod backs, and two good tries, one in each half, brought Llandrindod close to the Saracens' score.

Davies kicked three penalties and two conversions. Llandrindod's first try came from a textbook move at a line-out five metres from the Saracens line. Neil James gathered from the throw-in and a short scamper to touch down. Davies converting from wide out.

Llandrindod's second try was an interception deep in Llandrindod territory when centre & skipper Jac Holden had a seventy-five metre dash to the line to touch down leaving the Saracens defence in his wake. Saracens, for their part, gained a bonus point with four tries, three converted, and two penalties.

This week, Llandrindod entertain League leaders Clwb Rygbi for their last match of this season.

## **Glyncoch 79 Llandrindod Wells 5**

This was a 12 try thrashing of a severely understrength, but always competitive, Llandrindod outfit whose only score was a nice interception try from centre Joe Bradley.

Thankfully, Llandrindod have no match this weekend but next Saturday 23 April, they host Cardiff Saracens in their penultimate League game this season.

## **Llandrindod Wells 27 Llanrumney 44**

In a free flowing encounter that was closer than the score line suggests, Llanrumney's exciting backs won the day over Llandrindod's superior forwards. The game started at a furious pace with Haydn O'Reilly putting the hosts ahead with a penalty before Llanrumney scored an unconverted try with the first foray into opposition territory after a turnover.

Llandrindod responded with a try from prop Dave Williams, converted by O'Reilly before two break

away tries in quick succession put Llanrumney into a 20-10 lead. Llandrindod pulled an unconverted try back through Damon Weller on the stroke of half time to bring a breathless first half to an end with the visitors leading 20-15.

Llandrindod hit back straight after half time with flanker Gareth Kinsey burrowing over after the Llandrindod pack had driven a scrum over their opposition counterparts. With the conversion supplied by O'Reilly Llandrindod were back into a 22-20 lead. Unfortunately for the hosts they couldn't hold on to it and Llanrumney replied almost straight away with an unconverted try from the outside centre. Llandrindod responded well applying pressure which resulted in Llanrumney having two players sent to the sin bin, and when the Llandrindod pack took yet another ball against the head number 8 Geraint Evans picked up and crashed over putting Llandrindod into a 27-25 lead.

Then came the turning point of the game with Llandrindod now seemingly in the driving seat a seemingly aimless Llanrumney clearance kicked bounced wickidly past the Llandrindod full back the Llanrumney outside half won the foot race to touch down and put Llanrumney back ahead with quarter of an hour to go.

The rest of the game saw Llandrindod on top looking for that elusive winning try until with two minutes to go and with the home side on the attack the Llanrumney left winger made an interception to storm a way for a try to seal the game. Just to add salt to Llandrindod's wounds Llanrumney added another try in injury time to give the scoreline an unflattering look from the perspective of the home side.

Special mention must be paid to the Llandrindod pack and front row Dave Williams, Lee James and Richard Watkins who made a mess of their oppositions scrum, with the second row of Jamie Watkins and Dave Smith working tirelessly along with the backrow who all got on the scoresheet. Dale Wilson was also a livewire at scrum half. With more organisation in the backline Llandrindod should start to get the results the forwards efforts deserve.

This week, Llandrindod travel to Glyncoch for their final away match this season.

### **Llandrindod Wells 11- Glyncoch 30**

Llandrindod lost their short winning streak in a match that was a bit like the proverbial 'Curate's egg'. Only good in parts. The good parts were very good indeed, particularly the incredible running of the Glyncoch's full-back Shaun Jones, probably playing in a league or two below his potential, and the work of the Llandrindod forwards especially in the second half when, Llandrindod being reduced to 13 men, they spent a large portion of the half camped in Glyncoch territory.

The poor parts were very significant. Over officious refereeing, with a propensity to conduct master-classes for the forwards, and an inability to properly pace out 5 metres, together with showing red cards to two frustrated but verbal Llandrindod players, really did spoil what was otherwise an interesting and competitive match.

The match started in a fast and furious fashion with first honours going to Glyncoch when Shaun Jones scored the first of his two tries with a marvellous jinking 60 metre run as he ghosted through the Llandrindod defence. A penalty apiece for both sides by Danny Davies and Jones respectively was followed by the second Jones try as yet again he reduced the Llandrindod defence to shreds. Self-converted. Another Llandrindod penalty reduced the deficit before Glyncoch wrapped up the half with a Hugh Burgess try.

Glyncoch opened the second half with a penalty by Lee Goddard after the two Llandrindod players were dismissed but with Llandrindod so dominant up front a further home side score was inevitable and this came from Jamie Watkins following a series of mauls on the Glyncoch line. A farcical situation occurred on the restart with two Llandrindod players both calling for the ball, colliding, and with the ball bouncing free, Glyncoch's Rhys Jones gleefully gathered and sprinted to touch down. Goddard converting

Llandrindod have no match this weekend. Next Saturday, 2 April, Llandrindod host Llanrumney in the League.

### **Aberavon Naval 12 - Llandrindod Wells 20**

Llandrindod had their third win in a row, this time away against a powerful Naval side. Indeed, if Naval had a place kicker Llandrindod would have been severely punished for their numerous infringements and probably would have lost the match.

It all looked so different when the teams first lined up. Llandrindod, younger and fitter looking against a Naval outfit whose years showed on some of their players. However, what Naval lacked in youth and speed they more than made up with what is probably best described as Trade Craft as they dominated a strangely lacklustre Llandrindod for long periods of the match, especially in the first half even though Llandrindod led by thirteen points at the break.

That Llandrindod had this lead was due to centre Danny Davies's try after 30 minutes from a back movement, his conversion and then two kicked penalties. Apart from that many chances went begging and with the Naval stand-off using his long clearance kicks to good effect, Llandrindod never really looked like dominating in any phase of the game. Up front, they struggled against a powerful pack though the breaks from both Llandrindod flankers negated some of Naval's forward advantages.

In the backs, tremendous defensive tackling from both wings, and some incisive play from Jonathan Duggan who as full back was often under real pressure, kept Naval at bay.

In the second half, Naval was again allowed to dominate and the first score in the half came from their left wing who ended a good movement to touch down out wide, converted impressively by Naval for their one and only success at goal. An interception by Llandrindod skipper Jac Holden allowed him to stretch his legs and touch down under the post, conversion by Davies and Llandrindod looked home and dry.

Naval never looked beaten and when their full back went over for Naval's second try, Llandrindod was only a converted try and a bit in front, not enough for comfort. With Naval starting to tire at last, Llandrindod had enough gas still in their tank to mount a series of attacks that used up time for the rest of the game.

Llandrindod have no match this weekend due to the Internationals. Next week, 19 March, they host Glyncoch in the League. Also, a friendly this weekend against an Irish touring team before the Wales v Ireland match has been cancelled. We hope that this match can be rearranged next season

### **Llandrindod Wells 27 - Pontrhydyfen 5**

This was no romp in the park like last week. Instead, Pontrhydyfen proved to be more doughty and stubborn opponents, especially in the second half when generally they had the better of the game. Llandrindod spent most of the first 40 minutes in Pontrhydyfen territory, with Danny Davies opening the scoring with a drop goal. More pressure saw scrum-half Dale Wilson increase Llandrindod's lead with a trademark try, conversion by Davies.

Still creating pressure, full back Jonathan Duggan ran through the defence to touch down and centre and skipper Jac Holden completed the scoring in this half with a touch down after kicking the ball ahead, conversion again by Davies.

A twenty-two point advantage seemed to act like a brake on Llandrindod's ambitions in the second half, allowing Pontrhydyfen to reverse their role from the first half, spending long periods on the offensive. A rare Llandrindod foray in to the Pontrhydyfen half saw flanker Tom Hughes score Llandrindod's last try, with the visitors finally troubling the scorers with a good try right in the corner from wing Archie Davies. This week Llandrindod have game due to the Internationals. The following Saturday, they travel to

Aberavon Naval in the League.

### **Llandrindod Wells 56 - Aberavon Naval 0**

Llandrindod threw off the gloom of a season dominated by away matches and some heavy defeats to indulge themselves, at home, in a try-fest against a below par Aberavon Naval side.

Two things stand out in the somewhat one-sided game. Firstly, the Llandrindod pack dealt very effectively with their bulkier opposite numbers many of whom were blown by the second half. Secondly, the linking up of all the backs was a joy to behold as were their many forays deep in to Naval territory, putting the Naval defence under severe pressure and, towards the end of the match, leading to a situation of scoring almost at will.

The downside to all of this was their place kicking. Some of the attempts were laughable to say the least of it and a conversion rate of only 30% was well below what could reasonably been expected.

Llandrindod scorers were: Dan Ruell (2 tries), Gavin Jones (2), Lee James, Dale Jones, Dale Wilson, Paul Griffiths, Ollie Barnstable and skipper Jac Holden. Holden converted one try as did Barnstable and Jeremy Snape.

This week Llandrindod have another home game, this time against Pontrhydyfen. Kick off back to the usual time of 2.30 pm.

### **Cambrian Welfare 40 - Llandrindod Wells 0**

It took Cambrian only twenty five minutes to score five converted tries but the rest of the match to score their final try, as Llandrindod tightened their defences, and produced some dogged and determined rugby to deny their hosts a more substantial score.

This was not perfect rugby by any means. Both sides littered the pudding-like pitch with numerous errors, caused partly by the strong wind and the rain. Perhaps the highlight of this match was the place kicking of the Cambrian outside-half who converted all five of his side's tries in the first half in the teeth of a gale, and from a variety of locations.

This week, and given the weather, Llandrindod have a home League game against Aberavon Naval, rearranged from earlier in the season when Aberavon could not travel. Kick-off is 2.00pm to allow for the International at 5.00pm.

### **Ynysowen 29 - Llandrindod Wells 0**

It is a pity that a match in which both sides deserved praise, Ynysowen for their incisive running resulting in five tries and Llandrindod for their dogged display and never-say-die attitude, was spoilt by some totally inept, and often myopic, refereeing.

Most of the first half belonged to Ynysowen, whose strengthened back division over-ran their opponents who generally were off the pace throughout. Ynysowen did not have it all their own way during this half though and Llandrindod's best period came when they were awarded a penalty some seven metres out from the Ynysowen line. The referee allowed advantage to see if Llandrindod could roll the opposition over for a try. When this loose play eventually broke down, with Ynysowen gaining possession, the referee 'forgot' about the penalty in favour of the visitors and allowed play to proceed. A similar situation also occurred when Ynysowen were attacking the Llandrindod line.

As a match, the second half was much closer fought. Ynysowen only scored one further try and Llandrindod, led by some really tenacious forward play, were able to press Ynysowen hard to their line and were unfortunate, at the whistle, not to have scored.

This week, Llandrindod have their first home game for over 3 months when they entertain Clwb Rygbi in the League.

## **Caerau Ely 40 - Llandrindod Wells 0**

Llandrindod started 2011 with yet another away game having not played at home since the first week of October.

An early converted try gave Ely an early lead before a key turning point in the game 15 minutes in when makeshift Llandrindod Hooker Phil Harris went off injured after a series of scrums. With no replacement for this position Llandrindod couldn't use their substitute and had to play the rest of the game with uncontested scrums and just 14 men.

This seemed to lift the home side who scored a further 4 converted tries to lead 35-0 at half time. The second half saw a dogged Llandrindod display with the 2 man back row Geraint Evans and Lee James working like Trojans. In fact most of the play in the second half was played in the Ely half and Llandrindod full back, Haydn O'Reilly, had a try ruled out for a forward pass.

Ely did add a further late try but by now Llandrindod were down to 13 men after an injury to another player.

Next week Llandrindod travel yet again, this time to Ynysowen in Merthyr, their supposed "local derby".

## **Llanrumney 17-Llandrindod Wells 12**

There was an unusual feeling to this match, probably brought on by the use of non-competitive scrums throughout the game. This was the result of Llandrindod losing three props before the game, one each to injury, illness and overseas travel.

The net effect of non-competitive scrums was that the game took on a lighter, faster edge with a lot of movement, some cracking tries, and a general feeling of goodwill throughout, helped by the referee who adopted a light touch.

Llandrindod took the game by the scruff of the neck from the start, camping in the Llanrumney half for most of the first quarter before their hosts started to get the measure the game scoring two tries in the process. The first one, slightly lucky, being a charge down from a Llandrindod clearance kick, and the second from a loose maul close to the Llandrindod line.

Ten points adrift at the start of the second half did not faze Llandrindod in the slightest, who picked up the pace immediately. Though by now Llanrumney had realised that the way to close Llandrindod down was to use their power and weight advantage in the loose mauls, it was this factor that led to Llandrindod's first try when Paul Griffiths picked up a ball from Llanrumney loose play to run through their defence and score. Hayden O'Reilly converting. A nice touch to this try was a congratulatory tap on Griffiths's shoulder from the Llanrumney defending winger.

Llandrindod's second try was as good. Wing and skipper Jac Holden had a 60 metre run after the interception of a Llanrumney pass. This was really it for Llandrindod because their slender two point lead was wiped out with a Llanrumney converted try towards the end of the match.

Llandrindod have no League game this weekend due to the Internationals though they are playing a friendly home game against Newtown this Friday evening. Their next League game is a home match against Glyncoch on 4 December.

## **Pontrhydyfen 39-Llandrindod Wells 19**

Llandrindod took a patched up team to the Neath Valley's, and ruffled a few feathers before tiring to leave with nothing. An entertaining first half saw Llandod take a 16-15 interval lead thanks to a smartly taken Dan Ruell try, and a conversion 2 penalties and a sublime drop goal from Danny Davies. In a

sea-saw half the home side scored 2 tries one through their impressive burly inside centre a conversion and a penalty. Llandrindod, currently suffering from a host of injuries and unavailabilities, called upon the services of 54 year old prop Kev 'Morris Dancing' Stephens to anchor the scrum against a big home pack. Kev alongside his two adopted grandsons and front row colleagues, Joel Bayliss and Matt Ball did themselves proud in a tough afternoons work. There was fake tan a plenty in the second row where Jamie Watkins and Jos Tomlin grafted hard, whilst the back row of Lee James, Geraint Evans and Danny Davies all carrying injuries, couldn't have done anymore for the cause. The second half like the first began as a ding dong affair with Pont going over in the corner to give the home side a 20-16 lead, a concerted period of Llandod pressure saw a home side player given a yellow card and Danny Davies scoring another drop goal to cut the lead to a single point with twenty minutes to go. Unfortunately for Llandod they unsurprisingly tired and the home side ran in three tries in the last quarter including one with the last play to give the scorecard a flattering look from the home sides perspective. This was a dogged effort from the depleted Llandod squad with half backs Joe Bradley and Justin Lewis busy. Coach Ian Ward playing in the centre alongside nephew Jonny Davies, commented. 'The last couple of weeks have been a tough ask with us having to take an injury ridden squad to opposite sides of Wales, but we'll sort it all out with a game of touch at training on Thursday.'

### **Llandrindod Wells 18- Cambrian Welfare 22**

Llandrindod are now playing the best rugby they have played for many a long year, but there is still something missing. After two close home losses this season, the answer seems to be that they are not yet able, once ahead, to close the opposition down. In this highly experienced League, give the other side an inch, and they will take a mile.

In this match, Llandrindod were twelve points to nil ahead before a Cambrian Welfare try late in the first half. After that, the visitors gained encouragement and early scores in the second half really sealed the game for them.

It was all Llandrindod for most of the first half as they attacked through their backs. A lovely George Jenkins dummy and an offload to wing and skipper Jac Holden saw him touch down, Danny Davis coverting. Llandrindod were still in attacking mode and a scrum in the Cambrian Welfare half saw the ball go out wide to wing Joe Bradley for him to score.

Still on the offensive, a Llandrindod attack saw an attempted chip over the defence charged down by Cambrian Welfare and the subsequent back movement gave the visitors their first score of the match when their new signing, 18 year old Gareth Long, touched down.

The second half was rather different. Another Long try for Cambrian Welfare, self-converted, put the scores level and Llandrindod were on the back foot, but defending strongly. A Cambrian Welfare penalty in front of the posts put them ahead though Davies hit back with a penalty of his own for llandrindod to level the scores again.

Though Llandrindod continued to attack it was Cambrian Welfare who scored next when centre Gavin Ashford scored, conversion by Christian Ashford. Still attacking, Llandrindod were awarded a penalty inside the Cambrian Welfare half but quite wide. It was a brave decision to give the ball to Davis to attempt a kick at goal as a kick for touch could have resulted in a try. Davis though, coolly and without fuss, slotted the ball over to give Llandrindod the chance of a loser's bonus point.

This was how the match ended despite frantic Llandrindod attacks and desperate defence in like measure. This week Llandrindod travel to Flint for the first round of the Swalec Bowl.

### **Clwb Rygbi 48 - Llandrindod Wells 22**

With a total of ten tries, some exhilarating running, a good pitch and a beautiful day, this was a cracker

of a rugby match, with Clwb Rybi coming out on top against a Llandrindod side struggling due to a long injury list.

The hosts made their intentions clear from the start. Using their skilful backs they cut Llandrindod's defences to shreds though up front Llandrindod certainly had the edge with their forwards literally putting their bodies on the line for much of the match. Clwb Rybi's first of their tries came shortly after a frenetic start and though Danny Davis put Llandrindod on the scoresheet with a penalty, the visitors conceded two more tries in this half and a penalty to trail 22-3 at the break.

Not that Clwb Rybi had it all to themselves in the backs. Llandrindod wings Jac Holden and Dan Ruell led a breakout to take play just to the Clwb Rybi line before a pass went astray, and a scrum to the hosts and then the half time whistle.

Llandrindod were able to take advantage of the slight slope and the breeze in the second half and an early foray in to Clwb Rybi territory saw hooker Phil Morgan break through the defence to touch down. From a penalty, Richard Watkins used his strength to power over with Joe Bradley converting. A third and final Llandrindod try came from Tom Underhill who was at the end of a long passing movement, conversion again from Joe Bradley.

In between this good news for Llandrindod, and their backs were indeed playing very well indeed with some slick passing and good running, Clwb Rybi touched down four more times to complete a satisfactory afternoon's work for them.

As for Llandrindod, they have a home match this weekend against Cambrian Welfare in the League.

### **Llandrindod wells 17- Ynysowen 24**

Shorn of three key forwards, Llandrindod came up against a well organised side who were in the ascendancy for most of the game though lagging behind in the scoreline.

Llandrindod started brightly enough with prop Lee James going over from a loose lineout tap, with Danny Davies converting from wide out. The visitors stormed back from the re-start and with Llandrindod falling back, their captain and centre Gavin Wathen going over for a self-converted try. Llandrindod then enjoyed their best period in the match with first Mathew Jenkins and then Tom Bradley making telling breaks in the centre with the latter scoring a clean cut try under the posts, conversion by Davies.

A penalty from Davies kept the pressure up on the visitors but a poor return kick from the restart allowed Ynysowen wing Mike Jones to run an excellent try though a poor defence.

With key injuries early in the second half, Llandrindod saw the game slip away from them. Continued loss of lineout ball on their own put-in, and a number of penalties given away, together with the sin-binning of scrum-half Dale Wilson, allowed the visitors to maintain position and pressure. An unconverted try by Ynysowen's Graham Morgan drew the scores level and a final try by Alan Thomas, converted by Wathen, gave the game to Ynysowen at the final whistle.

### **Llandrindod Wells 18 - Caerau Ely 5**

Llandrindod Wells recovered from a disappointing opening day reverse at Cardiff Saracens with a commanding 19 man performance to dispense of a confident Cardiff based outfit on a high from their own emphatic opening day win. The first quarter was fairly equal although Ely opened the scoring with a good follow up to his own chip saw outside half Duane Illes score out wide. This seemed to kick start Llandod into action and after a couple of near misses Danny Davies playing at number 8 took advantage of a quick tap penalty on the 22m line to side step his way over the line for a try he converted himself to make it 7-5. This was quickly followed by another Davies penalty and Llandod were in the ascendancy at half time with a 10 - 5 lead intact. The second half started with a bang, with good urgency from the home

pack resulting in the combative Matthew Jenkins collecting a smart chip from namesake George to cross out wide. This gave Llandod a lead to defend which they did stubbornly. Injuries to key players Lee James, Duncan Lawrence, Matthew Fletcher and Dave Smith meant Llandrindod had used all of their subs with half an hour to go, but when the impressive substitute centre Jamie Woolaston drove the ball deep into the Ely 22 to earn a penalty easily converted by Davies the writing was on the Ely wall. This was an impressive showing from all players involve and highlighted the need for a strong bench, coaches Ian Ward and Justin Lewis will be hoping for a similar performance this Saturday (18th September) when they host Ynysowen at Lant Avenue.

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### **Cardiff Saracens 34 - Llandrindod Wells 8**

Llandrindod's 2010/11 campaign in the League got off to a poor start as they were substantially outplayedÂ by an improved Saracens squad. Six tries, two converted, were their reward for their hard running backs whilst Llandrindod could only manage a single try and a penalty. Having said that, Saracens' score would have been substantially greater had their kicker been able to slot over numerous penalty kicks and convert four of the tries. As for Llandrindod, travelling with a depleted squad never really does anyone any favours, and their weaknesses were shown up with a large number of minor and not so minor injuries resulting in them using up both of their reserves and one of their coaches.

Saracens dominated the first twenty minutes before Llandrindod could start to compete properly and were rewarded with a rare penalty, kicked successfully by Danny Davis. Overall though Saracens were far too strong for Llandrindod in this half, scoring four tries, only one converted, to go in to the second half with a healthy 22-3 lead.

The second half was marginally better for the visitors. With their pack starting to dominate in the set pieces, though not in the loose, they were able to launch a number of forays in to the Saracen half, but could not prevent leaking two further tries, one converted, before putting a semblance of respectability on the score with a good back move, ending with new signing George Jenkins touching down.

Saracen's tries were scored by Rob Scrimshaw, Lloyd Nelson, Nathan Angel(2), Dennis Yearwood and Stuart Barley, with Scrimshaw kicking both conversions.

This weekend, Llandrindod start a sequence of two home games, the first one being a League match against Cardiff-based outfit Caerau Ely.

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