

League Division 6 (Central). Season 2013/14

Llandrindod Wells 51 - Old Tylerians 0

It is to Old Tylerians considerable credit that, though in this match as in other matches this season, they were on the wrong end of a high score against them, they never gave up competing, and this resulted in an enjoyable match to watch despite the wet conditions. Llandrindod opened the scoring with a Stephen Boore breakaway try in the first three minutes. Jac Holden superbly converted this try, the first of his five conversions, most of which were taken out wide, and highly improbable given the acute angles and the conditions.

Two tries followed in fairly quick succession, from skipper Geraint Evans and Jason Pritchard, the latter after a Kevin Percy break, both converted by Holden. Percy then got his name on the scoresheet with a drop goal, his second this week, before Holden touched down for a converted try. 29-0 at half time and there was still as lot for both sides to play for though by now Llandrindod had achieved their first objective which was a try bonus point.

The second half was somewhat like the first but with Old Tylerians still competing and with their full-back creating some confusion with his scything runs down the wing. Hooker Aled Price was the first to put his name on the scoreboard with a converted try quickly following this up with another one, not converted this time, bringing his total to eight tries this season so far, then Kevin Percy touched down further extending the lead. The last quarter of this match was very scrappy, but in the dying minutes of the game Boore scored his second try with a 50 metre run through the Old Tylerians defence to touch down under the posts, conversion again by Holden.

Llandrindod have no match this weekend. Next Saturday they travel to Markham for their final League game of this season.

Rhayader 5 -Llandrindod Wells 30

Rhayader and Llandrindod met for the third time this season and played out an entertaining game in front of a large crowd in near perfect, albeit rather windy, conditions. After Rhayader missed an early penalty, Llandrindod took control with Steve Boore touching down after a strong drive from Gareth Kinsey. Brother Matt Boore then kept the scoreboard ticking over with two penalties to take the away team into a 11 nil lead going into the break with each team down to 14 men following yellow cards for Terry John Hutchinson and Jonathan Duggan for technical offences.

To the credit of both teams the game opened up in the second half, Rhayader's halfbacks Tom Powell and Paul Griffiths tried to speed the game up with sniping runs before Llandrindod got their second try of the game after a sublime offload by prop Richard Watkins put Dan Ruell in under the posts, try converted by Boore.

With the bonus point try in sight Llandrindod upped the tempo with forwards Gethin Price, Dan Oakley and man of the match Jeremy Snook making inroads with ball in hand This was complemented by some silky skills by Kevin Percy now playing fly half who helped give Llandrindod field position which enabled replacement flanker Tom Hughes to tap and go and score under the posts for another converted try.

Rhayader then responded with a well worked try of their own when James Luty and Paul Griffiths put Jordon Davies in for a try in the corner. Llandrindod then scored the all important bonus point try when after strong running by skipper Geraint Evans and good link play by outstanding flanker Neil James allowed hooker Aled Price to jink and step his way over the line for a well deserved try.

Next Saturday Llandrindod entertain Old Tylerians in their last home game of the season still holding on to 2nd spot with two games left to play.

Llandrindod Wells 0 -Crickhowell 0

It is unusual, though not unknown, for a rugby match in the modern era to end up with a blank scoresheet but this one did, mainly thanks to the stout defences of both sides who started the match as they meant to go on, at a frenetic pace. Not that both teams did not have their scoring chances. Crickhowell's lack of an effective kicker, plus the wind, resulted in three kickable penalties going astray, Llandrindod were sure that Dave Ramplee had touched down securely, whilst in the dying seconds of the game, Crickhowell unsuccessfully claimed a penalty for obstruction when players from both teams were chasing a loose ball the the Llandrindod try area.

Llandrindod seem to have shaken off their previous habit of starting a match at a leisurely pace. This time, led from the front by skipper Geraint Evans and ably supported by Richard Watkins and the inevitable Dan Oakley, they burst in to the Crickhowell half from the start, and this is where they stay for the best part of 35 minutes, often in the opposition's 25. Foray after foray, scrum after scrum, were repulsed by Crickhowell's defence until, nearly at half time, the visitor's were able to penetrate in to the Llandrindod half with a good

drive enabling them to unleash their dangerous looking backs who were matched man for man by backs Mathew & Stephen Boore and Neil James.

The second half was in effect the reverse of the first, except that Llandrindod managed more moments of penetration than Crickhowell did in the first half. Notably, during one of Llandrindod's early forays in this half, Mathew Boore sold a classic dummy, and in took three men to bring down his slight but determined frame deep in the Crickhowell half. Still, neither side could not make the decisive break through that would have made this game really meaningful and after Boore's previous break Llandrindod were disappointed when, stealing a lineout from Crickhowell, the try attempt by Ramplee was disallowed.

With Dan Oakley's repeated pick up and drives Crickhowell were never far away from conceding territory but when they were on the attack Llandrindod's defence verged on the desperate. With Crickhowell failing with two kickable penalties it was left at the end for the referee to determine the outcome of this match when he had to judge on Crickhowell's claim for obstruction in the Llandrindod try area in the 79th minute of the match.

After this game the second place position in the League, behind unbeaten Tredegar Ironsides, is still Llandrindod's but they have the same match points as Crickhowell and have played one more game. This week Llandrindod travel to neighbours Rhayader in the League.

Aberbeeg 7 - Llandrindod Wells 19

This was a much improved Aberbeeg outfit to the one which travelled to Llandrindod in their first encounter this season. Llandrindod certainly were the better side in the first half, with the tone being set with the back row Tom Hughes, Jonathan Lewis and Geraint Evans linking well allowing centres Steve Boore and Gareth Kinsey to make good ground, with also useful contributions from young wingers Gareth Oakley and Tyler Evans. Llandrindod scored a try from full-back Jonathan Duggan and two penalties were kicked by Mathew Boore.

In the second half, the mature and experienced heads of the Aberbeeg players came to the fore and a try from Simon Evans, with a good conversion from Kirk Gadsby, evened things up somewhat but not before a second Llandrindod try, this time from skipper Geraint Evans. By the end, Llandrindod had used all their subs as they fought to stem the Aberbeeg tide and there was much relief all round when the referee blew for time.

There is no match this weekend, but on 22 March Llandrindod entertain Crickhowell at home in the League. This should be a decisive game for both teams. Llandrindod have just crept ahead of Crickhowell to second place in the League and they will be hoping to emulate their win away against the Breconshire outfit earlier in the season.

Trinant 12 - Llandrindod Wells 20

This was not a game for the purists. Having uncontested scrums throughout, due to the tragic murder of the Trinant hooker a couple of weeks previously, the match really never gained any shape, with neither side able to perform as they would have liked or, indeed, trained for. With Llandrindod, a sign of what times may have been like was their total dominance in the loose mauls as they drove their hosts back time and time again. Another sign of how disjointed this game was came from an examination of the penalty count. Just after half time the referee awarded a 'team penalty' against Trinant when their penalty count reach over fifteen against Llandrindod's six. The problems with the match did though belie how well both sides coped in the circumstances. For Trinant, their scrum-half was a live-wire capable of disrupting the best of defences while for Llandrindod flanker Dan Oakley, who not only made the visitor's first try with a lovely break and offload, and himself scored in dying moments of the game, but made metres of space with his ball retention and runs throughout the game.

Llandrindod's first score came some ten minutes into the game with a Jac Holden penalty. Then came the visitor's first try. A loose maul, a pickup and dummy by Oakley then a feed to stand-off Mathew Boore to touch down under the posts and a simple Holden conversion. A further Llandrindod try came from Holden when the wing used his long legs & reach to squeeze in to the corner for an unconverted try. Right on the half-time whistle, it was Trinant's turn to score when a series of Llandrindod defensive errors gave Andrew Peters a touch-down out wide for an unconverted try.

The second half was markedly different though still as disjointed as before. Trinant's backs began to exert their influence on the game led by their scrum half and, in the absence of contested scrums, it took all of Llandrindod's defensive abilities to keep the home side out. Eventually, and after a long passing movement, Trinant's backs beat a stretched Llandrindod defence to score with Sam Creel touching down, converted by Jamie Lyons. With only three points between the sides, the final ten minutes of this match were not ones for the nervous. Llandrindod managed to keep on the offensive, thanks to Kevin Percy's clearance kicks, and Joe Bradley's battling runs down the touch line, but it was Oakley who finally breached the Trinant last line of defence with a squeezed touchdown for an unconverted try and the referee's whistle.

This week Llandrindod travel to Aberbeeg in the League.

Llandrindod Wells 22 - Hollybush 5

After a layoff due to the weather and the Internationals both sides were keen to stretch their muscles and this helped to produce an exciting, tense and sometimes fractious game, with Llandrindod having a point to prove after their close loss away against Hollybush earlier in the season.

Certainly, in the first half, with the benefit of the slope but not the wind, they were the better side, dominating in the scrums and the rolling mauls, and for the most part hardly in their own half. Their reward came after twenty minutes when Dan Oakley and Tom Hughes linked well together with the resulting Llandrindod scrum allowed skipper Gerant Evans to touch down, conversion by Mathew Boore. These players had already given Hollybush great problems. Oakley and Hughes with their penetrating carries, and Boore with his fleet of foot and exciting changes of pace. Llandrindod stretched their lead with a try from centre Neil James, again converted by Boore but this was the end of Llandrindod dominance in this half as Hollybush came to life with some good forward play resulting in an unconverted Martin Ackerman try in the corner.

The second half was notable not only because it was Hollybush who made a lot of the running but also for the sprinkling of yellow cards against the visitors with even the Hollybush skipper being sent for a rest for expressing dissent.

A Llandrindod penalty kicked by Mathew Boore stretched the home side's lead but not before full-back Kevin Percy had to use all his footballing skills to keep the Llandrindod line intact including a massive 80 metre clearance kick, with the wind, which curved like a banana in-field to land deep in Hollybush territory, only to be tapped tamely in to touch by their defence. The resulting Llandrindod lineout led, eventually, to a Llandrindod scrum on the Hollybush 5 metre line, a pick up by Geraint Evans and a touch down for Llandrindod's third and final try.

Though Hollybush continued to press Llandrindod in their own half, it was too late for any addition to the score with the only other happening of note being an unseemly brawl in the dying moments of the game, regrettably encouraged by a section of the crowd.

This week Llandrindod travel to Trinant in the League.

Llandrindod Wells 5 - Tredegar Ironsides 12

Played in atrocious weather conditions, this was a forward dominated cauldron of a match with Llandrindod emerging from the heat & fire with an enhanced self-belief as they held, and matched, Tredegar Ironsides, formerly of Division 3 and unbeaten in the League this season, for three-quarters of the game.

It was, though, Tredegar who started with more intent than the home side. A Tredegar offensive lineout within the first ten minutes, a loose maul close to the Llandrindod line and Jason James was over the line for Tredegar's first try. More Tredegar assaults close to the Llandrindod resulted in numerous penalties against the defenders with, eventually, the award of a penalty try, converted by Ryan Hill.

The first half petered out in the rain and the mud with Llandrindod gaining some ground but it was in the second half that this game really came to life, matched by the welcoming sight of some blue sky. A Llandrindod move in the Tredegar half gave them an offensive lineout close to the Tredegar line, a maul and a quick pass to Llandrindod's Tom Hughes, always a thorn in Tredegar's flesh, who touched down.

Faced by a reduced lead, with only a converted try between the sides, Tredegar took matters seriously, and spent many long minutes camped in the Llandrindod 25 and launching numerous drives to the Llandrindod line, only to be held up time and time again as the defence put their bodies, literally, between the ball and the in-goal grass. It seemed inevitable that Tredegar would score but Llandrindod were too determined for Tredegar with, eventually, their stout defence prevailing. By now the Tredegar pack seemed to have shot their bolt and were visibly tiring which allowed Llandrindod to break free of the shackles. However, before they could take advantage of this the referee blew for time on a highly entertaining, and very tense, game. Because of the Internationals, Llandrindod now have no League game until 15 February when they travel to Markham. There is, though, an away match against Newtown this Friday, 31 January, for a 'Development XV'

The Tredegar game was also the occasion of Llandrindod's annual 'Sponsor's Day' when the Club takes the opportunity to thank all their Sponsors for their continued support, even in these difficult economic times. We

are very grateful for all they do for us. Thank you.

Llandrindod Wells 34 - Tref y Clawdd 0

Both sides took full opportunity of this match to brush away the cobwebs from the holiday period in a game that, despite all the recent rain, was played on a good surface showing little sign of cutting up.

Llandrindod opened the scoring with a Jac Holden penalty kick after a period of stubborn Tref y Clawdd defence. The restart gave the visitors some territorial advantage but were unable to capitalise with two failed penalty kicks. A very scrappy period of play ensued with Llandrindod only having a slight edge. Eventually the game opened out and a surprise back movement saw centre Kevin Percy at the end of a line with twenty metres to touch down which he did with aplomb. Holden converting from out wide.

The final score in this half was a 'Spike' Boore try when the centre waltzed and barged his through the middle of the Tref y Clawdd defence to touch down, Holden converting again to give Llandrindod a seventeen point lead at half time. At the restart it was Tref y Clawdd's turn to create pressure but to no avail and the scoreline moved again when Boore repeated his dance in almost identical circumstances but was brought down just on the line but not before he had passed to Tom Hughes to do the honours for his first try of the match.

After that it was all Llandrindod with Same Davies squeezing over for a try, conversion again by Holden, and finally Tom Hughes' second try, not converted this time though.

This week Llandrindod visit Rhayader for the first round of the Mid Wales Cup.

Old Tylerians 5 - Llandrindod Wells 21

The was a decidedly physical match with numerous stoppages for injuries, some minor and a couple more serious with a suspected broken ankle for Llandrindod's Danny Davies, and an Old Tylerians wing seemingly knocked unconscious.

What Old Tylerians lacked in youth they more than made up with their years of experience and street-wise play and this disrupted Llandrindod's attempts to play a flowing game on a good surface. Not that the visitors helped themselves as numerous handling errors and misplaced passes lost built-up momentum and potential scoring opportunities.

Llandrindod opened the scoring within ten minutes with the first of two tries from prop Richard Watkins, conversion by Davies. Old Tylerians countered shortly afterwards with a try in the corner by wing Morgan Griffiths, and then in a decidedly scrappy remainder of this half tended to have the better of Llandrindod but with neither side looking like scoring, the half ended with a slender Llandrindod lead.

The tables were turned after the break and it was Llandrindod's turn to try to convert a degree of domination in to points but poor ball control led to many scoring opportunities going begging. A maul five metres from the Old Tylerians line led to Watkins' second try as he squeezed to ball out of a pile of bodies to touch down, carefully watched by the referee. Davies converting again.

In a finale with lots of effort by both sides but with little structure, Llandrindod put the game beyond Old Tylerians' reach with a Jason Pritchard try, converted by Jac Holden, Davies having by now departed the fray.

Llandrindod have no League match until after New Year when they host Tref y Clawdd on 4 January. There is however, a 'development' game this weekend when a Newtown XV visit Llandrindod.

Llandrindod Wells 13 - Rhayader 3

As a spectacle of rugby this match was dire. Against a makeshift Rhayader squad in which even their wingers were really forwards, Llandrindod struggled to cope with the derby game pressure, and a Rhayader side that belied their basement position in the League. Not that the pitch helped at all. With a hard frost during the night which had disappeared by the afternoon, the surface was decidedly sticky but this did affect both teams.

With the visitors playing a decidedly physical game, Llandrindod's handling and discipline left a lot to be desired. In the first ten minutes, they conceded no less than seven penalties! It took a while for the home side to even get close to the Rhayader line but when they did a penalty in their favour, kicked by Danny Davies, put them on the scoreboard. Eventually they were able to break free with a fine run down the wing by Joe Bradley to touch down in the corner, giving Davies a difficult kick which he converted.

Llandrindod were still struggling towards the end of this half, and a transgression in front of their posts gave Rhayader's Paul Griffiths an easy kick. The restart for the second half did not produce much change.

Rhayader pressing first, and camped in Llandrindod's half for long periods. There was one surreal moment of pure farce. After numerous Rhayader scrums close to the Llandrindod line, and after entreaties from a vociferous section of the crowd, the referee signalled a full penalty in Llandrindod's favour for an incorrect Rhayader feed in to the scrum. Davies cleared the Llandrindod lines and made touch some 30 metres out. However, Llandrindod were not allowed to take the throw in as the referee said that the kick had been a 'free

kick'. It was that sort of a game.

After this episode, Llandrindod were able to make some ground especially after Llandrindod skipper Geraint Evans, obviously frustrated by the turn of events, forced his way through the Rhayader line in a 40 metre surge. The resulting play was all in the Rhayader half, and Llandrindod made the game safe with a Davies penalty kick and, to everyone's relief, the referee blew for time.

This week, Llandrindod will be able to paddle in the sea when they visit Aberaeron for a friendly before the Wales-Australia International. Kick-off in Aberaeron 2.00 pm.

Crickhowell 10 - Llandrindod Wells 16

Llandrindod finally put to rest the bogey that had been Crickhowell over the past few matches with a fine win played in only modest conditions and indicates that this season's Llandrindod squad are starting to come of age as a dynamic outfit now capable of taking on the more problematic matches. Not that Crickhowell played badly because they didn't. A well drilled, skilful outfit they came up against a side with slightly younger legs and arguably more self-belief.

This was very evident in the first half. Playing up a not-inconsiderable slope Llandrindod took the game to Crickhowell in no uncertain fashion. Crickhowell kicked off the match but within seconds Llandrindod were in their half and pressing hard, with scrum-half Dale Wilson and centre Stephen Boore always causing opponents problems. Their reward was a penalty kicked by Danny Davies. With a gusty side wind neither side could really trust the boot but further Llandrindod aggression gave Davies another crack at goal which he took with open arms.

Crickhowell managed to stem the Llandrindod advance and a penalty in their favour, kicked by Adam Howells, reduced the deficit to three points. More Crickhowell gains followed but a stupendous clearing kick from Davies in his own 25 went out on the full within 10 metres of the Crickhowell line, with certainly no help from the wind. A defensive lineout by Crickhowell gained only modest ground and Llandrindod wing, Jac Holden, in a very narrow corridor between the touch-line and the defence, outpaced them and then had enough time to keep running and touch down behind the posts for an unconverted try.

A modest cushion of eight points at half-time should have been just enough for Llandrindod bearing in mind how they were playing. For this half though it was Crickhowell's turn to make much of the running but not before Llandrindod had added to their score with a Joe Bradley try in the corner following a period of broken play. A try very similar to Holden's as the winger outpaced two lines of defence.

By now Llandrindod were under real pressure and were starting to tire. Crickhowell used all their skill to pin the visitors in to their own half by keeping the ball in the forwards and were rewarded when Alan Taylor went over in the corner with a classy conversion by Howells despite the wind. With only a converted try between them and victory Crickhowell launched a desperate series of attacks but were then hampered by losing a man to a yellow card. In the end though this did not make much difference as Llandrindod were also down to 14 men.

With quite a bit of extra time due to injuries the match seems to go on for ever, but eventually a penalty for Llandrindod was kicked out by Davies and the referee called time on a really exciting match.

Due to the Autumn Internationals Llandrindod now have no match until Saturday 23 November when they entertain local rivals Rhayader in the League.

Llandrindod Wells RFC 51 v Trinant RFC 5 – 19/10/13

After a disappointing narrow loss away to Hollybush last weekend, Llandrindod were looking to bounce back against a seasoned Trinant side that came up to Mid Wales with a large crowd. What resulted was a 9 try romp and a performance that will live long in the memory of the Llandrindod faithful. From the off Llandrindod's pack were dominant in both the loose and at scrum time with the front row of Dai Harris, Aled Price and Josh Hammond having outstanding games taking a number of Trinant scrums against the head. The first try came from a scrum on the Trinant 5 yard line, with the Llandod pack driving their opponents backwards and the ball being grounded by number 8 and captain Geraint Evans, converted by Danny Davies. Llandod continued their dominance of the first half with two tries from second row Gareth Kinsey, one converted by Danny Davies and a further score from flanker Jonathan Lewis, securing a bonus point before half time. Llandod seemed to take their foot off the gas towards the end of the half and series of strong runs from the Trinant forwards resulted in a try in the corner for number 8 Pete Shears. This was to be the last score of the half, with Llandod going in with a healthy 24-5 lead.

Wanting to make amends for the poor finish to the first half, Llandod started the second half with purpose and with the first real attack of the half scored in the corner through full back Danny Davies following a slick passing move from the back division. The next score came from Aled Price and was a try that every front row forward dreams about but rarely sees! Receiving the ball 15 metres out with the full back to beat, the hooker threw an audacious side step to leave the Trinant 15 grasping at thin air to go over for his second try of the season. The seventh try came from centre Stephen Boore who was a constant thorn in the

opposition's side with his rampaging runs and crunching tackles and was duly awarded man of the match at the final whistle. The next scorer for Llandod was newly signed winger Elliot Parker, who showed his potential throughout the game and scored following a neat kick and chase. The final try of the game came from substitute and club stalwart Jonathon Duggan who benefitted from a mix up in the Trinant defence to scamper over. Try converted by Danny Davies to take the final points tally over the 50 mark. Final score 51-5. This performance is an amalgamation of commitment and hard work in training and Llandod are finally showing their potential in this league and hopefully will continue to do so in the up and coming games. Llandod have a week off this week, with the next game being away to Crickhowell on November 2nd.

Hollybush 20 - Llandrindod Wells 17

It says a lot for the depth of this season's Llandrindod squad that, shorn as they were this week of half of their regular players, they could field a team that was more than competent to match Hollybush on their home ground.

Hollybush started at pace and it was not long before they put their first score on the board, a nicely taken drop goal. With the home side relying on booming kicks to gain ground, it took a while for Llandrindod to settle down, and even the score with a Tom Bradley penalty. More Hollybush pressure led to a converted try to open up the lead and a further converted try, following a Llandrindod defensive error, gave Llandrindod a more difficult job than it really need have been.

By now Hollybush were starting to visibly wilt against Llandrindod's younger legs and the visitors ended the first half on the offensive. More pressure in the first few minutes of the second half gave Llandrindod two penalties in quick succession, kicked by Danny Davies, against another penalty for Hollybush. 20-9 and the game was still either side's to win.

The final quarter of the game was played at a frantic pace. Another Davies penalty narrowed the scores to 8 points, and with Hollybush still continuing to tire, Llandrindod spend a while camped in their 25. Finally, when Gareth Kinsey saw a gap open up in the Hollybush forwards during a sloppy defensive lineout, he managed to grab the ball and force his way 10 metres to the line for an unconverted try.

This was the last score of the match. The final 5 minutes were as frenetic as the rest of this half but Llandrindod could not score and went down to a very narrow defeat.

This week Llandrindod are at home to Trinant in the League.

Llandrindod Wells 14 - Markham 10

Llandrindod were marginally the better side than their former Division 5 visitors, though Markham's cause was not helped by their continuing ill-discipline, which eventually ended their hopes for a tight away win.

It was all Markham in the first 20 minutes, with Llandrindod on the back foot for much of the time through a break-out via wing Bon Williams gave some small relief. Solid defence by the home side, with scrum half Dale Wilson and skipper Geraint Evans in the thick of things kept a clean sheet for Llandrindod until eventually Markham ran out of steam.

With Markham having shot their bolt as it were, though only temporarily, it was Llandrindod's chance to attack, and a long passing movement, ending with a 30 metre solo run past three defenders and a touch down by ever-improving winger Bon Williams gave Llandrindod the lead though only for a few minutes. On the defensive yet again, Llandrindod's errors let to Markham's try out wide by Mathew Burroughs, well converted by Shaun Davies.

Llandrindod now had a degree of control in the scrums, despite Markham's physically bigger pack, and the home side were able to manage the territory though a penalty kick from Markham's Davies gave them a five point lead in to the second half. This half started with Llandrindod on the attack, fierce encounters giving them a grip on the game though some penalty kick chances went begging. A yellow card against a Markham player and a subsequent successful penalty kick from Llandrindod's Danny Davies reduced the deficit to two points.

With the Llandrindod scrum-half Dale Wilson like a terrier at the heels of the Markham backs, Llandrindod were able to retain the advantage though early decisions to go for territory and a line out on penalty awards, rather than take the kick, were hotly disputed by sections of the crowd. Eventually, with Markham losing their self-control despite being in the lead, two kicked penalties very late in this half from Danny Davies sealed the match for Llandrindod.

This week Llandrindod travel to Division 3 club Llandaff in the first round of the SWALEC Bowl competition. Kick off 2.30.

Tredegar Ironsides RFC 32 v 7 Llandrindod Wells RFC - 21/09/13

Llandod started this game brightly with some powerful runs into Tredegar territory, but soon the home team, with a much bigger and extremely physical pack, began to gain the upper hand. Only some brilliant tackling, especially from the centre partnership of brothers Matt and Steven Boore prevented Tredegar from crossing

the whitewash. Two penalties from outside half Ryan Hill put the home team into a 6-0 lead halfway through the first half. The Llandod line was finally breached when number 8 Richard Harris picked up from a 5 yard scrum and powered his way over for the first score, converted by Hill. Soon after Tredegar scored their second try courtesy of a searing run from winger Matty Dai who outpaced the covering defence to go in under the posts, converted again by Hill. Llandod then began to claw their way back into the game with some strong carries from number 8 Dan Oakley, hooker Aled Price and second row George Wozencraft, the later playing his first competitive game for the club. Llandod finished the half the stronger of the two teams but failed to get any points on the scoreboard. 20 – 0 to Tredegar.

Llandod were dealt a blow with sparkling centre Matt Boore not coming out for the second half due to injury. The second half began as the first had finished with Llandod on the attack with man of the match Dale Wilson causing havoc with his sniping runs and quickly taken penalties. Were it not for the last pass going to hand, winger Luke Evans would have had an easy run in but as it was Llandod were still unable to register their first score of the game. They were duly punished following a similar fumble on the Tredegar line. The home team scooped up the ball, spun it across their backline to winger Dai who opened his legs to run fully 70 metres for his second try of the game, converted by Hill. The game then became a bit scrappy resulting in yellow cards for a member of each team following a scuffle. This seemed to galvanise Llandod and they proceeded to pound the Tredegar line looking for a breakthrough and following another yellow card to the home team, the resulting lineout was fumbled over their own line by Tredegar and touched down by the outstanding Jonathon Lewis, try converted by stand in captain Jac Holden. The final 20 minutes was a stop start affair with the physicality of the game taking its toll on both teams. With Tredegar back up to a full complement of players they finally got a bonus point try after a neat lineout move resulting in flanker Lewis Jones getting the touchdown with the last play of the game. Final score 32-7. Llandod can take huge positives from this game despite the loss and will only learn from playing a team of this calibre. Next Saturday's game is at home to Hollybush.

Llandrindod Wells 21 - Aberbeeg 12

Two wins in the first two games of the season puts Llandrindod second in the League but tougher times are just around the corner. This week they play Tredegar Ironsides away, who are also unbeaten so far. Ironsides played in Division 3 last season before problems overcame them.

On the evidence of two matches, Llandrindod certainly look a more balanced side this season. Close season signings have made a difference to their play. The two brothers Mathew & Steve Boore have a considerable impact, especially Steve Boore, a human firework whose explosive breaks in the centre catch the opposition on the back foot. Also, Aled Price as hooker gives accuracy in the line-out and compliments the work of his props.

This game was really uncharted territory for both sides, the sides not having played each other before. Aberbeeg are a mature, organised and skilful outfit who do not deserve to be taken lightly. The fact that Llandrindod won in the end by the margin nine points was due to a fluke fumble right in the dying seconds of the game.

Aberbeeg were certainly up for the challenge from the first whistle. A lively attack brought them to a maul in the Llandrindod 25 metre area, but a break by Mathew Boore drove them back and in a fast moving period, Llandrindod were awarded a penalty, kicked by Jac Holden. Great defensive, and offensive, kicking from the ever improving Danny Davies took Llandrindod in to the visitor's territory again, to be awarded another penalty, again kicked by Holden. By this time, Aberbeeg were down to 14 men, having a player yellow carded. The final minutes of this half were spent in the Aberbeeg half but Llandrindod could not break through.

It was Llandrindod's turn this half to start with a bang. A good defensive linout and a long driving maul resulted in a 40 metre sprint by Holden only to be brought down and into touch close to the Aberbeeg line. A Llandrindod lineout a minute or so later saw a long passing movement, completed by new signing winger Martin Davies who touched down to stretch Llandrindod's lead.

This was really as good as it was going to get for the home side for a while. A defensive error after the restart gave Aberbeeg their first score, a try by Mathew Bradley, converted by Kurt Cadly. By now it was Llandrindod's turn to be down to 14 men, and after a fairly even period of play Aberbeeg scored their second try, by Gavin Hillier, not converted. This gave Aberbeeg a 1 point lead in to the dying moments of the match. Another Holden penalty reversed the lead in Llandrindod's favour but the final score was a moment of pure farce. The restart after the Holden penalty, with the referee intending to blow his whistle for the end of the game at the next breakdown, saw Aberbeeg fumble the take and the ball to be gathered by Mathew Boore who started the 50 metres to the Aberbeeg line at a run, then at a trot finally walking over the try line as both teams and the referee were rooted behind the halfway line, wondering what was going on and uncertain what to do. After some persuasion from the crowd, Boore touched down under the posts, Holden converted and the referee blew his whistle for time.

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Moving to a new Division, in this case 6 (East), can often be a step into the unknown but in this case with both sides being new to this Division, at least they had the benefit of some knowledge of each other, coming as they both did from 6 (Central), and being rugby neighbours over many years.

In this match, Llandrindod had a decisive win away from home and on the difficult Tref y Clawdd pitch, a result very unlike most of their encounters here in the past. The fact that Llandrindod did it with only 14 men for three-quarters of the game possibly points to interesting times this season. Not that such a result was evident by the end of the first half. Though Llandrindod were all over their hosts in the first ten minutes, failure to take the points when offered through numerous Tref y Clawdd penalties gave the local team great heart and for much of this half it was Llandrindod who were on the defensive, and two Tref y Clawdd penalties from the boot of Glen Penlinton took the hosts into a well deserved lead.

Such was the tension at this stage that the referee had to send a player from each side into the sin bin but a repetition of bad behaviour when the Llandrindod player returned led to another yellow card, and thus an automatic red, for him. From then on Llandrindod were a player short, and in the forwards where much of the work on this pitch has to take place. Whether or not Tref y Clawdd took their foot off the gas at this stage is unclear, but until the final whistle it was the visitors who made most of the running starting with two penalties from Jac Holden, equalising the scores by half-time.

By the end of the match, Llandrindod had run Tref y Clawdd ragged, scoring four tries (one a penalty try), Holden converting three of them. The incisive running of Holden, scrum half Dale Wilson and No 7 Jason Pritchard, cut holes in the defence that they had problems countering. On the occasion of the penalty try, Holden had run diagonally across the pitch after a passing movement ending up close to the corner flag and the Tref y Clawdd line, but the net result of the offences that took place after this gave Llandrindod the penalty try.

The first proper try came from Aled Price after a rolling maul took the forwards close to the Tref y Clawdd line and allowed Price space and time to scamper over. The second, from another maul close to the Tref y Clawdd line, was by prop David Harris. Then came the penalty try with the fourth and final try from the Llandrindod No 4, new signing Mike Cameron, who showed his potential in the way he forced his way over the line despite the Tref y Clawdd defence.

This Saturday Llandrindod host Aberbeeg, from Blaenau Gwent, in the League.