

## **ALCESTER RFC MATCH REPORTS**

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

**Midlands Division Four West (South)**

**Alcester 14 Pinley 5**

Alcester made a welcome return to winning ways with victory over the men from Wyken Croft, in a bruising battle which fixtures between these two sides often are.

The visitors were held up in traffic at Longbridge Island on the A46 and arrived late, which meant the kick off was put back half an hour and the Coventry side had little preparation time. Nevertheless it was they that gained the early advantage playing up the slope and after their fly half had sent a penalty attempt wide in the first few minutes, he more than made amends by bouncing two Alcester would be tacklers on his way to the try line.

Alcester fought back and enjoyed the territorial advantage for most of the half, and they took the lead midway through it when the back line ran a speedy and incisive move from the back of a solid scrum deep inside Pinley territory. Skipper Scott Carmichael took the ball on the crash in the inside centre position to break a tackle and power over. Wing Max Biltcliffe converted.

The home side were unable to add to their lead in the remainder of the half, despite spending most of it in Pinley territory.

In the second half Alcester were able to keep the visitors in their own territory for most of the opening exchanges, and they increased their lead thanks to a brilliant finish from outside centre Andy Smith who powered his way to the line on a jinking run which took him past several defenders from just inside the Pinley half.

The rest of the game remained keenly fought in the dying light, and this spilled over to a number of feisty confrontations in the closing stages, particularly between the two packs, which culminated in Alcester no 8 Mika Pieri being yellow carded in the closing stages. From the resulting penalty near the home line, the Pinley no 8 crashed over, but he was adjudged to have been held up by the referee and moments later he signalled the end of the game allowing Alcester to claim a deserved win.

Alcester's final league action of the year comes in the shape of a visit to Rugby Welsh who pipped them to the league title in last year's promotion winning campaign. Kick off is 2.15pm.