

ALCESTER RFC MATCH REPORTS

Saturday 17th October 2009

Midlands Division Four West (South)

Coventry Welsh 9 Alcester 5

Alcester narrowly slipped to a first league defeat of the season against the wily campaigners from the Holbrooks area of Coventry, who now lead the early season table, level on points with Evesham. While obviously being disappointed in defeat, the Kings Coughton men have taken great heart from the fact that they now know they are capable of matching the better sides in this league and on another day they could have been leaving with a third straight league win, despite not being at their best.

Welsh went in front inside two minutes with a well struck drop goal from their fly half, before the very even nature of the game over the next half an hour restricted many clear cut scoring chances, with most of the play between the side's twenty two metre lines and well contested break downs preventing any real continuity of possession for either side.

Just after the half hour mark, the visitors had their first chance of the afternoon, but Max Biltcliffe's long range penalty attempt fell just short of the posts.

Alcester continued to enjoy their best spell of the game so far in the closing stages, and when flanker Ed Hartley turned over possession inside the Welsh half, the Alcester backs were able to launch their first move in any real space, which allowed full back Tom Burgess to join the line at pace and score out wide. With the failed conversion attempt came the half time whistle, with Alcester having a narrow 5-3 lead.

The second half continued in the same even and competitive vein, and the home side regained the lead thanks to a penalty from their fly half after Alcester had been penalised for a high tackle.

Alcester had their two best opportunities of the half in the middle part of the second period. First no. 8 Meka Pieri set off an a trademark powerful run to the wide right of the field, feeding scrum half Robbie Parker in support, who looked as though he was in for his side's second try, before being hauled down literally inches from the line. Welsh were able to defend the Alcester phases that followed, but the visitors moved play left and were awarded a short range penalty near to the touchline which they elected to run through their forwards. Again Welsh were able to thwart the visitors attack allowing the danger to be cleared.

There were no further clear try scoring chances for either side as the closing stages approached, and then with four minutes on the clock the home fly half attempted a repeat of his early drop goal, only to drag the kick wide of the left upright. Unfortunately for Alcester they were unable to get their hands on the ball in the final few minutes as Welsh gathered the restart, and proceeded to slow pick and drive their way up field from the base of rucks for the remainder of the game, until Alcester

conceded a penalty in their attempts to win the ball back, which was within the kickers range, allowing him to seal the win with the final kick of the game.

Alcester take a break from league action, when they host another Coventry side, Coventrians in the National Junior Vase. Kick off at King's Coughton is 3pm.