

## **ALCESTER RFC MATCH REPORTS**

**Saturday 19th September**

**Warley 21 Alcester 20**

Alcester completed their preparations for the league campaign that begins next week, with a disappointing defeat in the Black Country against the opponents they beat in the Midlands Six West Play Off at the end of last season, to gain promotion.

Although only seven of the side that won the big game in April featured in today's team, this was a game they could and should have won, with ultimately the defensive mistakes and the missed kicks at goal costing them dear.

The visitors showing seven changes from the side that lost at Harborne last week, started well and after a period of pressure deep inside home territory, they took the lead when a strong scrum allowed the ball to be sent wide left quickly at pace and full back Tom Burgess made the extra man to score in the corner.

Warley struck back when a defensive lapse by Alcester culminated in a gift of a try for the home side under the posts, allowing an easy conversion. The hosts extended their lead with a penalty kick converted via an upright, before the visitors hit back through scrum half Robbie Parker, fulfilling his promise within ten minutes to pay back his side following the earlier rare defensive lapse.

The scores were level at half time despite the visitors enjoying much the better of things, and they missed four "gettable" kicks in the first half, which their normally reliable boots would have converted at least two of.

The Kings Coughton men wearing their changed yellow strip, started badly in the second half, allowing the home side's best player, their fly half, to waltz through their defence from the restart, almost untouched, before he chipped ahead deep into Alcester territory. Warley recycled possession well and scored within a minute of the break.

Alcester club captain Scott Carmichael, on as a second half substitute to make his first appearance of the season following an injury sustained in pre season training, almost added to his side's score, dropping the ball in the act of touching down over the line following close attention from two Warley defenders. It didn't take long for Alcester's talisman to make an impact, however, closing down the Warley defence at pace near their home line, forcing a dropped ball mistake which allowed Sean Sudworth to pounce on the loose ball over the line. Fly half Andy Smith converted to give his side a 17-15 lead.

There was a penalty exchange in the closing quarter, which crucially Warley won by two to one, to finish ahead.

Alcester will hope to bolster their new young side with some returning experience who were previously unavailable, ahead of the visit of Coventry Side, Stoke Old Boys for the first Midlands Four West fixture. Kick off at Kings Coughton is 3pm.

Alcester 2nds opened their home account for the season with a hard fought draw against the men from Stourport. The home side trailed 10-3 at the break, with their points coming from debutant fly half Dave Bullard via a well struck drop goal.

In the second half the home side took command. Bullard capped a fine display with his side's first try before wing Rupert Daffern doubled their try account which was converted by Darren Gwillyam.

Alcester skipper Pete Goddard singled out the performance of veteran scrum half Paul Taylor as the one worthy of the man of the match accolade.

The seconds are also in league action next week, with Atherstone being the visitors to Kings Coughton for a Warwickshire Second XV League game.

### **Alcester Jubilee Dinner**

Alcester hold one of their many special events of their Golden Jubilee season on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October, in the form of a jubilee dinner at the Greig Hall in Alcester. Former England international prop forward Jeff Probyn will be the main speaker for the evening, supported by another England international and current Worcester Warriors captain, Pat Sanderson.

Tickets which are very reasonably priced at £25 are available from Courtney Wells on 01789 763992 or [Courtney@psw.co.uk](mailto:Courtney@psw.co.uk) Alternatively contact the clubhouse itself on 01789 764061 Admittance to the evening will be strictly by ticket only and a limited number are available on a first come, first served basis.