

Saturday 22nd December 2007

Alcester 0 Brackley 54

A depleted Alcester side slumped to a heavy defeat against strong opponents who operate at level 8 in the national structure, one level above the King's Coughton men. This was a first meeting of the two sides, following a match up in fixture pool from earlier in the week.

With 26 players available, Alcester used the opportunity to ensure everyone got at least a half of a rugby, with only four players playing for the full eighty minutes.

The damage to the score line was done in the first half, when a mainly second XV Alcester side had no answer to the quick recycling and offloading game of their visitors, which saw the men from Northamptonshire run in seven tries.

Alcester bolstered their ranks in the second half, particularly up front, where they enjoyed much the better of the tight exchanges without ever really threatening the Brackley line. Despite being on the back foot for much of the second period, the visitors ran in the only try of the half to go past the 50 points mark, after their no 8 was afforded the freedom of King's Coughton to ghost through unchallenged from just inside the home half.

The main positive to come from the afternoon for Alcester was the additional game time that several of the recent returnees from the red and blacks injury list enjoyed.

Alcester will be hoping for a more even match up from the fixture pool this weekend, before they return to league action on 5th January when Upton on Severn are the visitors to King's Coughton, where Alcester are hoping to avenge a narrow 7-0 defeat in Worcestershire last month.