

Wednesday 26th December 2007

Alcester RFC Annual Boxing Day Match

Alcester Chairman's XV 5 Alcester President's XV 0

The fourth playing of the “new” format Boxing Day match saw the usual tight affair and a narrow win for the Chairman's XV in front of a healthy Boxing Day crowd at King's Coughton. Former Alcester player and long standing club member Steve Burgess was referee for the day, and he controlled the game superbly, helping make a flowing and keenly fought match.

1st XV lock forwards Dave Marriott and Andy Flynn were opposing captains for the day, with Marriott's Chairman's side playing in red claiming the bragging rights against the President's side in the club's change strip of yellow and black.

Both captains held a pre match selection meeting and did a good job of making fairly even sides, with a healthy mix of current 1st and 2nd XV players, former players, guest players, junior coaches and colts on both teams.

Playing down the slope and with the wind in the first half, the Chairman's side enjoyed the better of the territory but were made to work for their possession by a committed President's pack where former Alcester front row stars and now Leamington 3rds regulars Ian Oliver and Andy John, ably supported by hooker Dickie Moore held the upper hand in the tight. The reds came closest to scoring, however when skipper Marriott lost control of the ball as he dived for the line, thanks mainly to a superb tackle by one of the younger President's men Steve O'Connor, who picked on someone literally twice his size!

The second half saw the President's side enjoy the elements, but despite looking dangerous when they managed to get the ball to their main attacking threats, namely the runs of full back Tim Rees and scrum half Robbie Parker, the Chairman's defence remained on top.

The game was settled by the only score of the game. Fijian flanker Mica Pieri who scored twice in last year's drawn game, powered through several attempted tackles to dive over. Fly half Matt Gwynn was just wide with the conversion attempt.

The Presidents side enjoyed their best spell of the game in the closing stages but their opponents held firm to claim a deserved win.