

Friday December 26th 2008

Alcester RFC Annual Boxing Day Game

Chairman's XV 14 President's XV 12

Alcester's traditional Boxing Day inter club game was its usual tight affair, with chairman Steve Lunn's XV fighting back in the second half to claim the trophy. The game featured its usual collection of current, former and guest players and both President Steve Faulkner and the chairman, played in this game, which was settled in the end it by the conversion of Lunn's try that won the game for his side.

With the slope in the first half the President's side in the home red and black colours gained the early initiative, and they took a deserved lead through centre Ollie Braley, after he broke tackles to score. Tom Heneghan converted, before he scored a try of his own after powering through unchallenged to the line from 30 yards out.

The Chairman's side wearing Alcester's change strip of yellow and black had to defend resolutely to prevent falling further behind, and their cause was not helped by two sin binnings before the break. Club member and society official Stuart Thorpe finally losing patience with Steve O'Connor and the chairman himself, after most of the 30 players on show took their turn in offering him unwanted advice throughout the half.

At half time, several of the veteran players retired to the bar after their traditional half time refreshment of a glass of port, and they were replaced by some of the usual late arrivals for whom the 12pm start came too early after the excesses of the Christmas day before. The chairman's side profited from the numerous half time changes, and with the slope in their favour in the second half they dominated the game as the reds had done in the first half.

Jim Watson reduced the deficit for the chairman's side with a try under the posts that James Randall converted, before the chairman took centre stage, bulldozing his way over from a short range tap penalty, assisted in the final few steps to the line by the weight of his pack behind him. Randall again converted.

1st XV pack leader Phil Birks who skippered the Presidents side, presented the trophy after the game to the Chairman's side skipper, Pete Goddard the club 2nd XV captain, before both teams and the healthy Boxing Day gathering of spectators tucked in to the traditional post match meal of fish fingers. A great day had by all!

The more serious business of league action returns on 10th January with the 1st XV visiting Wellesbourne. Before then both the 1st and 2nd XV are in action on 3rd January, with both sides at home.

New players wanted

Alcester are hoping to build on their encouraging start to the first half of the season in the New Year, and are looking for new players of all ages, experiences and abilities to add to their 1st XV, 2nd XV and veterans squads. Interested players can turn up on Thursday training evenings from 7pm, or can contact the club on 01789 764061 for more information.