

ALCESTER RFC MATCH REPORTS

Saturday 26th December 2009

Annual Boxing Day Match

Chairman's XV 19 President's XV 5

The action at King's Coughton ended for 2009 on a high note, with another competitive and well attended Boxing Day fixture, which for the second year running went the way of Chairman Steve Lunn's side.

Both Lunn and the Alcester President Steve Faulkner, played the entire game, opposite each other in the front row of the scrum, with the remainder of both sides made up of current players, former members returning home for Christmas to visit family and friends and some guest players.

Despite being still icy in some patches of the field, the pitch had thawed enough in the main to be a decent playing surface and with the benefit of slope in the first half, the Chairman's side wearing the club's change kit of yellow and black, took the early upper hand in the game.

They had to wait until mid way through the half for their superiority to pay dividends, when full back Jamie Randall made the extra man in attack and scored on the overlap from the right wing. Randall converted his own try.

The contest remained a fairly even one, but still the men in yellow looked more likely to score and they doubled their lead after lock Stuart Fletcher was hauled down just short of the line, following a determined charge deep inside the President's side territory. Former Alcester 1st XV flanker James Daffern, now playing regularly for a side near his university in Yorkshire, was quick to react and burrowed over from the base of a ruck that had formed. Randall again converted to leave his side with a healthy 14-0 lead at the break.

After the traditional half time refreshment of a glass of port, the action resumed in a similar pattern to that of the first half, although the men in red were enjoying more of the territory by playing the slope at their back, well. They reduced the deficit through fly half Andy Smith, after club turnover specialist Meka Pieri pinched the ball from a ruck in his own half and set off down field on a run which saw the ball find its way to Smith in support.

The Chairman's men regained the ascendancy and right wing Martin Gurr, capped a fine performance with a well taken try of his own in the corner after another good run. Both sides had chances to add to the score, most notably when Andy Flynn lost the ball in a tackle by Pieri, as the Chairman's side lock forward crossed the line.

In the end Lunn and his side retained the trophy that was presented back to him in the bar after the game. The presentation was followed by the traditional post match meal of fish fingers, which rounded off another excellent Boxing Day at King's Coughton.

League action returns earlier than expected for Alcester, when they visit Rugby Welsh on 2nd January to play the game that fell victim to the weather on the Saturday before Christmas. Kick off at Welsh's Alwyn Road ground is 2.15pm.