

ALCESTER RFC MATCH REPORTS

Saturday 2nd February

Alcester 19 Birmingham Medics 48

The mayhem that is the annual visit of the Medics to King's Coughton was true to form, both off the field in the bar and on the pitch where the usual script was followed of the hosts staying in touch for 60 minutes before ultimately falling well short.

An Alcester side showing three debutantes and the usual plethora of changes, took time to settle, by which time they trailed by 7 points following the opening try of the game by the students.

Slowly the hosts started to get into the game and they levelled the scores soon after. The pack drove on from clean ball taken at the front of the line out, and when they were halted only metres from the line, scrum half Robbie Parker darted towards the line, only to be hauled down just short. He recycled the ball well and one of the debutantes, centre Damien Webb just managed to stretch out far enough to touch down after crashing through a tackle. Tom Burgess converted well from wide out.

The visitors regained the ascendancy and scored three more tries before the break to lead 24-7, as the home pack struggled to stamp the authority on the game that they usually do in these encounters, particularly at the scrum.

Playing down the slope in the second half, the red and blacks started well and their forwards became much more of a threat, especially in open play where they elected to drive straight at the heart of the student defence. After a series of drives, Webb doubled his tally with another determined run, before he completed his hat trick with a copy book score, which Burgess again converted, to bring his side within five points of their opponents.

Unfortunately for Alcester that was as close as they got, and the younger and fitter legs of their visitors ran in another four tries in the final quarter of the game to run out clear winners.

Alcester are able to welcome back several players for next week's return to league action and the crunch relegation battle at Harbury.