

**Thursday 30th April 2009**

**Annual End of Season Charity Match**

**Alcester XV 10 City Link XV 22**

The final action of the senior season at Kings Coughton, saw the second playing of the now annual charity game against City Link, and once again it was the “visitors” that claimed the spoils with a deserved win. The match was played in the true spirit of the game and at a fair pace, with some great tackling and entertaining end to end play, in front of a good crowd which also included former England International Dusty Hare.

Both teams used the squad system to roll players on and off throughout the match, and once again the England legend Dean Richards MBE honoured the City Link team on the field, and this year was joined by former Barbarian and Gloucester man Andy Deacon playing in the front row for Alcester. The City Link team, consisting of colleagues from the around the country, was captained by the Head of Value Added Services, Andrew Harden-Sweetnam, and also included the company's Managing Director Petar Cvetkovic. Amongst the Alcester players were coach Steve Lea in the front row.

City Link scored four tries to Alcester's brace from 2<sup>nd</sup> XV player of the year Jamie Bowen. The visitors' scorers were Tom Stokes who converted his own try, Matt Brooks, Simon Baillie and Gareth Strangwood. Matt Brooks was named man of the match for his solo effort try, where he showed great strength and determination to force his way past several Alcester defenders.

Overall the game raised just under £2k for the Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund, chosen in memory of Denise Barr, one of City Link's Colleagues who sadly died from the disease last year.