

Saturday August 30th 2008

Warwickshire Firefighters Charity Game

Alcester 5 Redditch 27

Alcester continued their pre season preparations with a game of four quarters of twenty minutes against near neighbours, Redditch, which was also the inaugural playing of the Warwickshire Firefighters Charity Trophy. All proceeds from the various events from the afternoon went towards the fire fighters charity. Both sides took the opportunity to utilize all players in their squads at each quarter break, which most of the participants were grateful for in the energy sapping, humid conditions.

Before the game, Alcester were presented with their new playing kit by sponsors EIC, for which the club are extremely grateful.

In front of a large crowd, supporting this most worthwhile of causes, the visitors gained the early upper hand, and ran in the first score, but their less experienced hosts fought back towards the end of the first quarter. It was through two of the experienced veteran players that Alcester's leveller was created. No 8 Nick O'Connor took a quick tap penalty deep in Redditch territory and set the ruck from which scrum half Lewis Hatton found another stalwart, lock Andy Flynn on the burst who set another ruck within five yards of the visitors line from which Alcester's man of the match Mica Pieri powered over.

The second quarter belonged to the visitors who ran in two further tries without reply, before the third quarter finished scoreless as both defences cancelled each other out.

The visitors ran out clear winners in the final quarter scoring two more tries, to continue their recent domination over the Kings Coughton men and to underline their move to the higher level in the league structure, that the red and blacks vacated at the end of last season.

The home side were pleased too with their showing against strong opposition. Whilst there are still several players to return from holiday, work and cricket season commitments, this season is a young and new look Alcester side following several retirements and leavers from last season's squad. Pleasingly, most of the new additions to the squad have come from products of the thriving junior section, which have helped to bring the average age of the side down considerably.

Alcester continue their preparations for league action, which starts on September 20th in North Warwickshire at Atherstone, with a further pre season friendly against opposition still to be confirmed from the fixture pool.

There is still time for new players to join the preparations for the imminent season. Interested parties of all ages and standards can come to training on Thursday evening from 7pm at Kings Coughton or contact the club on 01789 760461.