

ALCESTER RFC MATCH REPORTS

Saturday 5th April

Coventrians 10 Alcester 6

An under strength Alcester side slipped to defeat against a side still with a good chance of clinching promotion from Midlands Six in their final game of the season.

Alcester arrived late after waiting for a no show player and were caught cold by a pumped up home side who scored what turned out to be the only try of the game in the opening exchanges.

Slowly the visitors got into the game and narrowed the gap in the score line with two Tom Burgess penalties. They also felt they should have been awarded a try when flanker Mica Pieri touched the post carrying the ball whilst fighting his way to the line against a determined defence. The referee disagreed and unfortunately for the visitors this is the closest they came to scoring in a somewhat disjointed performance, where their usually competitive pack, were outmuscled in the scrum by the competitive home eight.

The half ended with a typical turn in the British Spring weather, which went from mild sunshine into a violent hail storm for a few minutes, which made the surprisingly firm surface fairly greasy in the second period and contributed further to what was already a scrappy game.

The visitors chose to rest no 8 Phil Birks in the second half, but his replacement Andy Spires continued the domination of the line out that Birks had enjoyed in the first half. Alcester didn't really make the most of this possession however as the home side had the only chances to add to their score, through two penalty kicks, the first of which was converted to leave the Coventry men deserved winners.

Teenage open side flanker, Rory Thompson, was the pick of the Alcester players, after only being called into the side at the last minute to replace the player that didn't turn up.

Alcester will return to full strength ahead of the return to league action for next week's trip to Coventry where they visit one of the division's form sides, Pinley, needing to win to have any chance of avoiding relegation. Alcester learned this week that last week's no show by basement boys Tenbury Wells is being classed as a postponement by the league, and the game will need to be played on April 19th at Kings Coughton.