

**Saturday December 6th 2008**

**Midlands Division Six West (South East)**

**Warwickian 0 Alcester 52**

Alcester moved within two points of league leaders Rugby Welsh, with a comprehensive victory in their first competitive visit to the impressive new Hampton Road facilities in over a decade. In doing so they vastly improved their “for and against” tally, which could prove to be so important in the end of season promotion shake up.

In perfect rugby playing conditions Alcester had the better of the early exchanges, and nearly went ahead though prop Nathan Webber, the red and blacks tight head losing control of the ball as he barged his way through several tackles to the line. This was the first of a number of prominent contributions to the game by Webber, who enjoyed one of his best games to date in Alcester colours.

It was not long before the visitors were ahead, however, with talismanic skipper Scott Carmichael scoring the first of his hat trick of tries, before the fly half crossed the line again inside five minutes, rounding off the move of the game by the visitors to record an excellent team try. Right wing Stuart Whitehead added to the visitor’s lead with a try in the corner, before the home side enjoyed their best spell of the game and came close to scoring after being camped on the visitors line for five minutes. Alcester held out with some determined defence, and went on the offensive again, resulting in no 8 Mika Pieri’s blazing over from the back of his dominant scrum. Max Biltcliffe converted two of the first half scores to leave his side 24-0 ahead at the break.

The second half started in a similar vein with Alcester dominating possession, but they were given very little by their opponents and were made to work hard for all of their scores, which makes the visitors performance and result all the more pleasing.

Pieri scored his second with the first try of the half, before he completed his hat trick with another try resulting in a pick up and power over from the back of the scrum. Biltcliffe joined in the try scoring effort with a third Alcester score of the half, which he got up to convert as part of a 100% kicking record in the second half. Fittingly skipper Carmichael rounded off the scoring with his hat trick try to end a very pleasing afternoon for the red and blacks. Coach Steve Lea described the Alcester display as one of the best he has seen in his three seasons with the club, singling out the performances of Webber and young open side flanker Jim Watson as being worthy of special mention.

After a month on the road, Alcester now have two important home games before Christmas. Next Saturday they play host to Coventry side, Copsewood, from the division above in a Warwickshire Shield encounter. Kick off at Kings Coughton is 2pm, the earlier kick off being in case the cup tie has to go to extra time. The following week they return to league action and host another Coventry outfit Old Wheatleyans, in the final league fixture of the first half of the season.