

## **ALCESTER RFC MATCH REPORT**

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September**

**The "Decca" Simons Memorial Game**

**Alcester Yellows 15 Alcester Jubilee Reds 0**

The memorial game for Alcester's Decca Simons and other recently departed friends, went the way of the yellow side captained by club life member, Simon Barugh.

An even first half saw the only score come from Rup Daffern for the yellows. The jubilee reds dominated long periods of the second half, particularly up front, but the finishing scores were applied twice by the yellows, first by second half substitute Martin Gurr, who ran a magnificent line to score under the posts and then by second team skipper Pete Goddard who crashed over from short range following a maul formed from a line out won by his side.

Before the game Decca's family unveiled a bench in his honour alongside the 1<sup>st</sup> team pitch, a stage he had graced so often in Alcester colours. Decca's son Jack Simons played lock forward for the red side in this match.

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September**

**Alcester Colts 69 Tamworth Colts 0**

**Alcester XV 15 Warwickshire Presidents XV 50**

In front of a sizeable King's Coughton crowd of invited guests, who had come to enjoy the drinks reception and pig roast hosted by Alcester as part of their Golden Jubilee celebrations, the home side slipped to a predictable defeat against a side littered with players from several levels above them. Wearing their new yellow jubilee change strip, the Kings Coughton men ripped up the form book in the first half, however, and dominated proceedings for the majority of the half, leading 15-7 at the break, thanks to an Andy Smith drop goal and four excellent strikes from the boot of centre Max Biltcliffe. The county men showed their class to run in a superb team try when Alcester were twelve points in front, but the half belonged to the home side for whom back row trio of skipper Phil Birks, Mika Pieri and Jim Watson were in magnificent form as a unit, winning the break down battle against their opponents, and forcing most of the penalty opportunities that came their way, which allowed Biltcliffe to keep the scoreboard ticking over.

Both sides made changes at half time and early in the second half, and the superior fitness of the Warwickshire side now playing down the slope and with the wind at their backs, really came to the fore, where they scored 43 unanswered points, with four tries coming from Rugby St Andrews wing, Lee Hersey.

Alcester took great heart from a good showing against strong opponents, particularly in the first half, and will be looking to build on their development when they visit Harborne next Saturday (3pm kick off) to continue their preparations for the league campaign which starts later in the month.