

ALCESTER RFC MATCH REPORTS

Saturday 9th February

Midlands Division Five West (South)

Harbury 46 Alcester 9

Alcester's season of woe plunged to new depths with a comprehensive defeat against their relegation rivals, a result that sees them swap places with their opponents, and slip in to the bottom two of the table.

Already decimated with injuries from recent weeks, they were further depleted by injury and work commitment cry offs from the selected side, and the experiment of playing players out of position to cover gaps in the team, just did not work.

Alcester started well enough, but mistakes and poor tackling cost them two tries, although they had registered their own scores thanks to two well struck Andy Smith penalties after Harbury had failed to release the ball at a ruck situation.

The home side were reduced to fourteen men, when their eventual match winner, fly half Ricky Alford was sin binned for retaliating to Alcester open side's James Woodhams late tackle. Alford can count himself lucky to receive only a yellow card after flicking his boot into the face of the Alcester flanker, following a typical 7's challenge on a fly half. Woodhams later was to receive hospital treatment for a dislocated jaw.

Harbury continued their domination whilst Alford was absent, and they added a further score just as he returned, allowing him to kick the extras to leave his side 17-9 ahead at the break, following Alcester's Smith's third successful penalty of the afternoon.

The visitors bolstered their pack in the second half and had the better of things in the tight up front, but the home back row dominated the breakdown situation and added the extra bodies in attack to leave their side deserved and clear winners in the end.

Alcester hope to get their side settled early in the week before the visit of third placed Kerseley to Kings Coughton for a 2.15pm kick off next Saturday.