

Harborne 2nd XV 95 Alcester 2nd XV 0

On the evidence of this afternoon Harborne are set for an excellent season, with their strength in depth playing a crucial part in energy sapping conditions of the late summer sunshine. The home side were able to bring on plenty of reinforcements, whilst the visitors travelled with only eleven players after having the frustration of late cry offs and no shows, which left the 1st XV with no replacements and the 2nd XV depleted throughout the afternoon.

Try as they might, the visitors could not quell the wave after wave of home attack and were well beaten. They had some brief moments of their own in attack in both halves, but were not able to cross the line.

Whilst there is no return fixture scheduled for the two sides this season, Harborne are often opponents that the "pool" offers up on free weekends, and it will be interesting to see if they are able to field the same line up in both teams, when the University of Birmingham Medical Students start playing their fixtures for the season. If they can, Harborne are in for a very good season, whilst Alcester know they will get stronger and regroup from this minor set back.

Alcester skipper Pete Goddard was full of praise for his brave eleven, particularly Brian Wade who had only the night before celebrated his 30th birthday and only had regained the use of his legs and the power of speech an hour or so before kick off!