

## **Warwickshire Second Team League Division Four**

### **Alcester 2<sup>nd</sup> XV 21 Newbold 25**

With the first team out of action, Alcester's second string took centre stage and just failed to gain revenge for their earlier season defeat against the same opponents in the east of the county.

The home side started well and went ahead inside the opening fifteen minutes thanks to wing Mike Badoud's try, which rounded off a good break by open side flanker Jim Watson. Jamie Randall converted the try, just before he went wide with a penalty attempt at goal.

The experienced visitors started to get in to the game but they were rocked back when Alcester doubled their lead, somewhat against the run of play, when full back Andy Smith intercepted a stray pass by the visitors backs and raced in under the posts from just inside his own half. Randall again converted.

Newbold regained the initiative and crossed for two unconverted tries to bring them back within four points, although in between times their hosts came close to a third try when Badoud just failed to gather a smart cross kick by his fly half Randall, when he had a clear run to the line. The game continued to be end to end, with the visitors just edging affairs, in the run up to half time, and the only other score was a third unconverted try for Newbold, to lead by a point at the break.

With the benefit of the slope in the second half, Newbold scored two more tries to look to take the game away from Alcester, but crucially their kicker had an off day with the boot and when replacement Alcester flanker Craig Quirke powered over for a debut try, which Randall once again converted, the home side were back within four points.

With the last play of the game, substitute JJ Gray broke free towards the line but was just snared by a tackle with the whitewash approaching. He did manage to get the ball away to his fellow substitute Jason Donovan, but the Alcester centre was not able to gather it cleanly as the pass was slightly behind him and he could not stop knocking on over the line, which meant the visitors held on to claim the win.

Skipper Pete Goddard nominated his fellow back rower, Jim Watson as his man of the match.